

MAY 19, 2017



COG Chairs Meet in Lorraine

On Thursday, May 4, the chairs or their designees from the Tug Hill region's five Councils of Governments met in Lorraine to review activities and issues from the past year, and to talk about new ideas and initiatives. Roger Tibbetts (Cooperative Tug Hill Council), Tom Moran (North Shore Council of Governments), John Dunham (Salmon River Council of Governments), Wayne McIlroy (River Area Council of Governments) and John Doiron (Northern Oneida County Council of Governments) discussed items including wind farms, ambulance service, infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband) and dissolution. The group agreed that another SuperCOG meeting should be held this fall, as a way to build regional identity and exchange ideas.

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Commission Meeting

The next Tug Hill Commission meeting will be held June 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Deferiet.

Tug Hill Local Officials in Albany

On Tuesday, May 9, five local officials from the Cooperative Tug Hill Council traveled to Albany for meetings on the pending minimum maintenance road bill. Supervisors Ed Hayes (West Turin), Vince Moore (Lorraine), and Terry Thisse (Martinsburg), along with Redfield Highway Superintendent Paul Pratt and Florence Councilman Doug Leuenberger met with several Assembly members. Each local official discussed how their town is using their home rule authority to designate minimum maintenance roads, and how important state legislation is to maintain that ability.

Information packets included the commission's recently released issue paper, and a key points summary with photos, available on the Cooperative Tug Hill Council's website at <http://www.tughillcouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Minimum-Maintenance-Roads-Facts.pdf>.



Left to right: Katie Malinowski, Paul Pratt, Doug Leuenberger, Vince Moore, Angie Kimball, Ed Hayes, Phil Street, Terry Thisse.

The meetings coincided with Legislative Map Day, at which a map prepared by the commission for the Cooperative Tug Hill Council on minimum maintenance roads, was displayed.

Commissioners and Staff Tour Fort Drum

On Monday, May 8, several Tug Hill Commissioners and staff members toured Fort Drum, along with partners from Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and Lewis County Economic Development. After an hour briefing from Fort Drum Garrison staff about on the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, participants toured post, including stops at the airfield and fire department. The day was a great chance to see all of the investments that have been made on Fort Drum over the past decade and more, and to understand the needs of Fort Drum and its soldiers.

At the end of the tour, attendees were surprised by an unplanned visit with Major General Walter Piatt, who shared his thoughts about the importance of training at Fort Drum, and posed with the group for a picture. A video clip can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission/videos/1315227521878650/>.



Left to right: Larry Dolhof, Gary Herzig, Carla Fowler, Jan Bogdanowicz, Katie Malinowski, Major General Walter Piatt, Leona Chereshnoski, Roger Macejko, Jennifer Harvill, Linda Garrett, Jean Waterbury, Felicia Passino, Eric Virkler, Phil Street, and Mike Yerdon.

NYS Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grants

The NYS Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grants Program (IMG) authorizes the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to provide at least \$150 million in grants to assist municipalities in support of intermunicipal water quality infrastructure projects. IMG grants are available for both drinking water and sewage treatment works (clean water) projects that serve multiple municipalities and may include a shared water quality infrastructure project or interconnection of multiple municipal water quality infrastructure projects. EFC is currently offering \$30 million in IMG grants for clean and drinking water projects during the 2017-18 state fiscal year.

Water quality infrastructure funds will be awarded to projects at municipally-owned sewage treatment works OR municipally-owned public water systems for construction, replacement or repair of infrastructure; or compliance with environmental and public health laws and regulations related to water quality.

Each project must: include construction services; have a current and executed IMA or an equivalent cooperative agreement between at least two municipalities; have not closed on a SRF financing; and have not started construction before October 1, 2016. Grant applications are due June 23, 2017.

For more information about the IMG grant program and application contact: Mr. Dwight Brown, Division of Engineering & Program Management New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207-2997 PHONE: (518) 402-6924, NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov. For more information about this program, go to <https://www.efc.ny.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=677#>

Boonville Receives Clean Energy Community Designation

The village of Boonville in northern Oneida County has officially been designated as a Clean Energy Community by the NYS Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), recognizing its leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy locally.

The Clean Energy Communities Initiative supports local government leaders statewide to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable development projects in their communities. Gov. Cuomo's goal is to reach a clean energy standard of 50% of the state's electricity coming from renewable energy resources by 2030. In order for a village to designate as a Clean Energy Community, it must achieve 4 out of 10 high-impact energy actions identified by NYSERDA.

Boonville has officially completed 4 out of 10 of those actions. Those actions for Boonville are Clean Fleets, Unified Solar Permit, Benchmarking and Energy Code Enforcement Training. Communities that achieve at least 4 out of the 10 actions are eligible to apply for funding up to \$250,000 with no local cost share with the option of receiving up to 25% paid in advance to support additional clean energy projects.

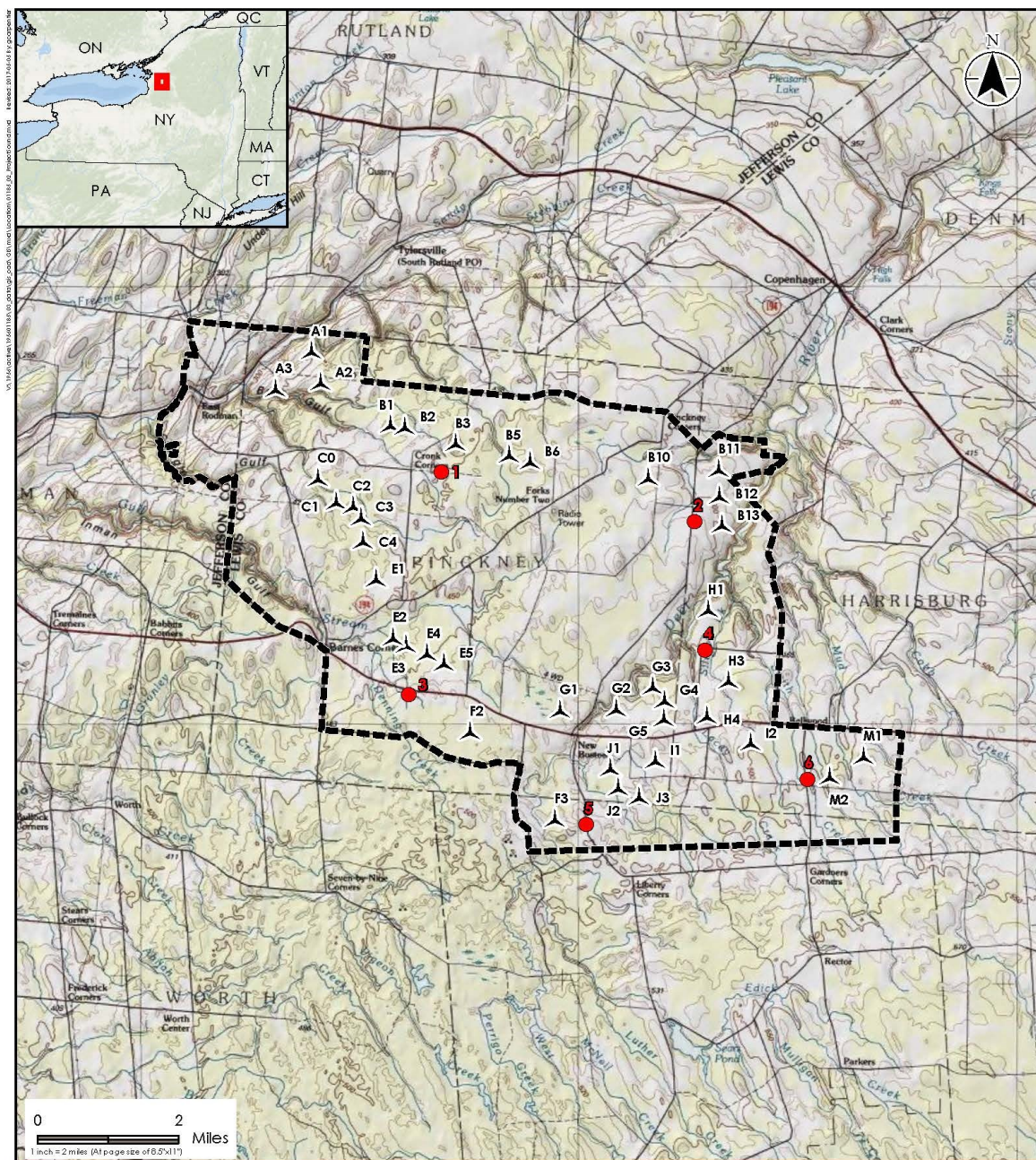
A fact sheet on the program is available: <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/-/media/Files/.../cleaner-greener-communities-fs.pdf>

Deer River Wind Farm Preliminary Scoping Statement Filed

On May 15, 2017 the Preliminary Scoping Statement for the Deer River Wind Farm was filed with the Public Service Commission. All documents related to the project (Case 16-F0267) are available at <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0267&submit=Search>.

The proposed projects is a 100-MW, 39 turbine wind farm located in the towns of Pinckney, Harrisburg and Montague in Lewis County. The proposed point of interconnection is in the Town of Rodman, Jefferson County.

Below is a map of the proposed layout.



Each of the affected municipalities has 15 days from the filing to submit a list of four names to the Public Service Commission, for candidates to be considered for the two ad-hoc members of the Siting Board. One of those members is chosen by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and one by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program Webinar May 25

The [Climate Smart Communities grant program](#) provides 50/50 matching grants to counties (and NYC boroughs), cities, towns and villages of the State of New York for eligible climate adaptation and mitigation projects. The 2017 round is now available through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#). **Applications are due on July 28, 2017.**

In 2017, \$9.5 million is available for implementation projects related to flood risk reduction, extreme event preparation, reduction of vehicle miles travelled, reduction of food waste, reduction of landfill methane leakage, and reduction of hydrofluorocarbons emissions from refrigeration and other air conditioning equipment.

In addition, \$500,000 is available for certification projects that advance adaptation, land use, transportation, and organic waste management planning, inventory and assessment actions aligned with Climate Smart Communities Certification requirements.

NYSDEC is offering a webinar on the grant program on **Thursday, May 25 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** More information is available here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html>.

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Areas Expanded

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets recently revised their quarantine regulations for Emerald Ash Borer by creating a single Restricted Zone encompassing the current EAB infestations. This Restricted Zone replaces the eight smaller Restricted Zones that spanned the state east to west.

The new zone encompasses the following Tug Hill towns:

- Oneida County: Annsville, Floyd, Lee, Trenton, Vienna
- Oswego County: Constantia, West Monroe

A workshop will be held in that area during the next few months – the date and location will be announced in an upcoming Tug Hill Times.

More information, including the definitions of Restricted Zones and regulated articles, can be found on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47761.html>

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Electronic versions appear in full color!

Reminder - Project Review Workshop Tuesday, May 23 in Constantia

Phil Street will be conducting a workshop on planning board review of site plans and subdivisions on Tuesday, May 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Constantia Town Hall, 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, good for two hours of training credit toward the annual training requirement for planning boards and zoning boards of appeals.

Preregistration is requested for this workshop, so that adequate quantities of meeting materials are available, and in the event that the workshop needs to be rescheduled. Please register by e-mail at tughill@tughill.org, or via the Commission's toll free number, 888-785-2380, with your name, e-mail address and phone number.