



May 8, 2015

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May 10, 2015



Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

CFA Available Online, Due July 31, 2015

Governor Cuomo has announced that the 2015 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) through the Regional Economic Development Councils is available. Some of the programs that Tug Hill municipalities and organizations have utilized in the past include:

NYS Council on the Arts – for the study of and presentation of the performing and fine arts; surveys and capital investments to encourage participation of the arts; to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the state; and to promote tourism by supporting arts and cultural projects.

Community Development Block Grant Program – for small communities to undertake activities that focus on community development needs such as expanding job opportunities, providing safe affordable housing, and/or addressing public infrastructure and public facilities issues. Applicants must address and resolve a specific community or economic development need within one of the following areas: (1) Public Infrastructure, (2) Public Facilities, (3) Planning, or (4) Microenterprise.

New York Main Street - provides resources to invest in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts.

OPRHP – EPF Municipal Grant Program - acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.

OPRHP - Recreational Trails Program - to develop and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use.

NYS DOS – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - program planning, feasibility, design, or marketing of specific projects, and construction projects, to advance the preparation or implementation of strategies for community and waterfront revitalization

NYS DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant - assist municipalities with a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$65,000 or less with the engineering and planning costs of CWSRF-eligible water quality projects. Grants of up to \$30,000 (with a 20% required local match) will be provided to finance activities including engineering and/or consultant fees for engineering and planning services for the production of an engineering report.

NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Project Program - open to local governments and not-for-profit corporations for projects that directly address documented water quality impairments, including wastewater treatment, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, aquatic habitat restoration, municipal separate storm sewer system projects.

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You are Invited to Join Our Team!

More than 40 teams across North America will join together to plant a quarter-million trees in one hour. This diverse group of committed people will include youth, community groups, government officials and members of the forest products industry who recognize that healthy forests are critical to our health and the sustainability of our communities.

In the U.S. alone, forests are part of a vast green infrastructure that supports 2.4 million jobs and contributes \$102 billion toward our Gross Domestic Product in the U.S. Sustainably managed forests are used for paper and timber products, for sport and recreation, for drinking water and for wildlife habitat. The residue from logging operations is used to create energy in the form of heat and power.

What: Guinness World Record Attempt:
Most Trees Planted in One Hour

Where: The planting will take place at Sand Flats State Forest, which is approximately eight miles northeast of Boonville off Moose River Road. Participants should take Route 12 to Moose River Road to Fall Brook Forest Access Road. The forest is located about one mile in on Fall Brook Forest Access Road, on the north side of the road (follow signs).



When: Wednesday, May 20, 2015. Lunch at noon; world record attempt 1-2 p.m.

PLEASE RSVP, as we need an exact count to ensure that we have appropriate equipment on hand and comply with Guinness rules regarding the number of witnesses needed. Please RSVP to Lori Whitney, lwhitney@reenergyholdings.com or (518) 810-0209.

This world record attempt is sponsored by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI®). SFI works to bring environmental, social and economic interest together to conserve healthy forests for future generations while supporting the people and communities who depend on them today. Forestland certified to the SFI Standard covers a quarter-billion acres across North America. ReEnergy’s biomass power facilities, which include three facilities in New York’s North Country (ReEnergy Lyonsdale in Lewis County, ReEnergy Black River at Fort Drum in Jefferson County and ReEnergy Chateaugay in Franklin County) are certified to the SFI standard, which verifies that the facilities’ biomass procurement programs promote land stewardship and responsible forestry practices.

www.reenergyholdings.com



(CFA Continued from page 1)

EFC Green Innovation Grant Program - improve water quality and demonstrate green stormwater infrastructure in New York through: Permeable pavement; Bioretention; Green roofs and walls; Stormwater street trees; Construction or restoration of wetlands, floodplains, or riparian buffers; Stream daylighting; Downspout disconnection; Stormwater harvesting and reuse

NYS DOS – Local Government Efficiency Program – assist local leaders identify best practices and implement actions focused on reducing municipal expenditures, limiting the growth in property taxes and increasing efficiencies in service delivery. Projects can include local government reorganization, functional or service delivery consolidation, city or county charter revisions that include functional consolidation, cooperative service agreements, and establishment of regional service delivery mechanisms.

Workshops on the CFA are being held in all REDC regions. The workshops closest to Tug Hill communities are:

- May 27, 9:00 -11:30am, Watertown, State Office Building
- June 2, 1:30 - 4:00pm, Utica, SUNY Polytechnic Institute
- June 5, 1:30 - 4:00pm, Fulton, Cayuga Community College
- June 18, 9:30-noon, Syracuse, Syracuse University

More information on the CFA application and workshops is available at <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>.

Funding Opportunities for Sewer and Water Infrastructure Seminar

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Holiday Inn, 5206 NY Route 23, Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 433-2250

For the agenda and registration form go to <http://bit.ly/1byD1Xp>

CTHC Spring Meeting Held

On Thursday April 30th the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual spring meeting at the Alpine Restaurant in Constableville. Fifteen of the sixteen CTHC Towns were present, along with several members and staff of the Tug Hill Commission and several other guests. A total of 49 people enjoyed the excellent meal and the meeting which followed.

Following approval of the previous meeting's minutes and the current financial report, the election of officers for the year was conducted. The election results have current officers Roger Tibbetts returning as Chairman; Doug Dietrich as Vice Chairman; Carla Bauer as Secretary and Ian Klingbail, Steve Bernat and Rosalie White returning as Directors. Filling the vacancy as Director left by the retirement of long-time member Merianne Shelmidine is Paulette Skinner from Boylston.

The Tug Hill Commission staff updated the council on the progress on the special areas and highway mapping projects. They also discussed the next round of NY State Consolidated Funding Applications, the proposed legislator's meeting this fall, the Governor's new broadband initiative and the proposed Tug Hill traverse hiking trail project with the attendees. The Council also received an update on an ongoing information study they have undertaken; approved an amendment to their bylaws and updated their executive committee guidelines, as well as approving the 2015 work goals.

The speaker for the evening was Rob Davies, the NYS DEC Director of Lands and Forests, who spoke about the proposed changes to the Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, which offers a property tax exemption to forest owners for enrolling in a forest management plan. Mr. Davies presented the proposed changes that are being prepared by the DEC for submission to the Governor. Council members appreciated Mr. Davies coming to speak to them and allowing them to ask questions and express concerns they have with both the existing program as well as with the new proposal. The meeting closed with supervisor topics, including a SNIRT run update. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting and provide their input.

Contact us at:

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Commission**

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Special Meeting Held in Town of Wilna; Progress Continues on Crown Cleaners

On April 22nd, the Town of Wilna held a special meeting to begin eminent domain proceedings to obtain the trailer, decayed garage and outbuilding located on public property in the Village of Herrings. Owned by the town since 2012, EPA has scheduled a building demolition, ground water remediation and removal of contaminated soil from the Crown Cleaners of Watertown Inc., Superfund Site, to begin in May 2015.

Based upon the recommendation of the town attorney, Mark Gebo, the town will have an appraiser assess the worth of the 40 year old trailer and adjacent buildings to offer a fair market value for the property owned by Ms. Arca. A public hearing is scheduled for 6:45 PM on May 11th in the town meeting room, located at 414 State Street, Carthage, NY.

Additionally, the EPA held a Media Availability session on May 6th on site to provide an opportunity for local media representatives to meet with the on-site Project Coordinator and Manager. Attendees had an opportunity to tour the work site, review project scheduling, interview project staff and provide photo ops of activities in progress.

2015 Highway School

Association of Towns of the State of New York and Cornell Local Roads Program
Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY June 1-3

For more information and to register go to

<http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/2015%20Highway.pdf>

RACOG Joint Zoning Board of Appeals Held Meeting for Area Variance Request

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) Joint Zoning Board of Appeals (JZBA), representing the towns of Champion and Wilna and villages of Carthage and West Carthage, met May 6th at 7:30 P.M. in the Town of Champion Meeting Room to hear a request for an area variance from Own Energy to locate a transmission line in the Town of Champion.

According to representatives from Own Energy, the request for an area variance for the purpose of a variance from the 1,000 feet setback from residences; acceptance of setback waivers as compliance with the setback standard; and a variance from the maximum height of utility poles. In addition, Own Energy representative, stated that there is a discrepancy between the town planning boards interpretation of the transmission line as an "Essential Facility," requiring a special permit process and Own Energy's interpretation of it as a "Public Utility" which will require a site-plan review process.

After reviewing the application, available information and following a question and answer session, the chair stated the application for an area variance was second to the need to interpret the Town of Champion zoning law to provide a clear understanding of how to proceed. Before proceeding any further, the chair of the JZBA stated the need to consult with the Town of Champion attorney to ensure the proper procedures were being followed in the process. A June 3rd meeting was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. in the Town of Champion meeting room to review the findings and determine next steps.