



**November 6, 2015**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Village of Herrings Votes for Dissolution
- NOCCOG Annual Dinner Held
- Tim Turck "GIS Champion Award" Recipient
- Workshop on Future Lake Ontario Weather Extremes
- Tug Hill Commission Available GIS Resources
- Erosion & Sediment Control Training Offered in Watertown
- Emergency Response GIS Video
- Town of Wilna Dog Control Services
- Land Use Planning Workshop

**November 11th**



# 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.

## Village of Herrings Votes for Dissolution

Based upon a 19-9 electorate vote in favor of dissolving the Village of Herrings by residents during the general election, held November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the village will apply for available funding through the Department of State to develop a dissolution study that will be used to guide the process. Funding will be used to contract for professional services to analyze the fiscal impacts of the dissolution, examine current operations and cost as well as outline alternative options/opportunities for review and consideration.

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, the Village of Herrings clerk received a petition from electors requesting to dissolve the village. According to Mayor Christal Loeffler, the clerk verified the format of the petition and that signatures were determined to be valid according to Article 17 of NYS General Municipal Law. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the village board met to review the findings of the clerk and to schedule the dissolution referendum for November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The village held a dissolution information session on November 1<sup>st</sup> to provide residents with an opportunity to hear from a representative of the Department of State, Robert Roeckle, about the process and respond to questions/concerns. Now that voters have approved the dissolution referendum, the mayor will appoint representatives from the village and town to serve on a committee to guide the development of the study.

According to state law, the village has 180 days to complete the study. Subject to a permissive referendum, a public hearing will be scheduled within 90 days after the completion of the study for public review. Based upon final comments, amendments can be made prior to the board's approval. If residents call for a referendum vote and the study is rejected, the process can then be stopped.

## NOCCOG Annual Dinner Held

Local leaders gathered at the Lake Delta Inn in Rome on October 29<sup>th</sup> for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments. About 90 local officials representing nearly all 19 participating municipalities were in attendance to hear MV500 Co-Chair Alicia Dicks present the committees proposal recently presented in Albany in a bid for a portion of Governor Cuomo's \$1.5 billion in Upstate Revitalization funds. The gathering also included an overview of NOCCOG's activities over the past year as well as the election of officers, which includes Chairman John Doiron from Ava, Vice-Chairman Arnie Talgo from Steuben, Fiscal Officer Betsy Mack from Trenton, and Directors Bob Sauer from Camden and Mark Trnchik from Annsville.

To learn more about the MV500 proposal for the Mohawk Valley region visit <http://mv500.com/mohawk-valley-leaders-launch-mv500-project-bid-to-win-1-5-billion-upstate-new-york-economic-revitalization-competition/>.

## Tim Turck “GIS Champion Award” Recipient

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the NYGeoCon put on by the NYS GIS Association in Albany, New York, Tim Turck the Superintendent for the Department of Public Works for the Village of West Carthage was awarded the “GIS Champion” award.

The GIS Champion award is designed to recognize those typically outside of the GIS profession who have been strong advocates and supporters of GIS. These are people who recognize the value of geospatial technology and have helped give voice to the value GIS provides to a wide range of programs.



Tim and the Village of West Carthage has been a part of the JIMI (Joint Infrastructure Management Initiative) project since it's beginning. He has helped out others in their use of GPS and GIS technologies for the benefit of their communities, even presenting at the local government conference in Watertown. He has strongly embraced GIS and has shown others that no matter what their background is in GIS, everyone can learn it if they put in the time and are dedicated to the effort.

Tim and the Village of West Carthage have utilized Cartegraph for their asset management, a high level accuracy GPS unit for collecting and relocating infrastructure, and he has even taught himself how to utilize a free open source GIS program called “QGIS”, which provides editing, analysis, and map making capabilities.

Tim was recently in a video called “Emerging GIS Series: Emergency Response”, which is focused on showing local governments throughout New York State how GIS can be used within their community. His quote at the end says it all about GIS. Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSCT6sGUROA> in order to see what that quote was.

Congratulations Tim on a job well done!

## Workshop on Future Lake Ontario Weather Extremes

New York Sea Grant is inviting public stakeholders in the Lake Ontario region of New York State to share their best thinking on what actions are needed through lake and watershed planning to prepare for possible future extreme climate conditions and population changes in the region at workshops on November 10, 6:30 p.m. in Watertown and November 12, 6:30 p.m. in Rochester. Approximately 2/3 of the Tug Hill region falls within the Lake Ontario watershed, and lake effect precipitation plays a big role on Tug Hill's weather.

Specific areas for discussion at the workshops will include potential actions related to water resource management, infrastructure, land use and zoning, governance, economic development related to agriculture, recreation and tourism, and ecosystem management. The workshops will consider potential recommendations to address both exceedingly wet and dry futures in the Lake Ontario region through stormwater management, riparian buffers, wetlands restoration, stream hydrology, job training, and energy considerations.

New York Sea Grant will add public input to a report that will be presented to local, state and federal agencies and stakeholder organizations to assist future planning efforts.

Seating is limited for the November 10th workshop at Cornell Cooperative Extension Jefferson County, 203 North Hamilton Street, Watertown.

The November 12th workshop in Rochester will be held at the Rochester Museum and Science Center Bausch Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester. Doors open at 6:15pm for each workshop.

Registration is recommended by calling New York Sea Grant at (315) 312-3042, [slm22@cornell.edu](mailto:slm22@cornell.edu).

# Tug Hill Commission Available GIS Resources

Do you know what GIS resources are available for your local government through the Tug Hill Commission? Did you know that the Commission's geographic information system (GIS) services are free to local governments within the Tug Hill Region? Here is a quick overview of what is available.

The Commission provides mapping services to many of our communities, most often in the form of paper maps. These are useful tools for local governments to help make informed decisions. And who doesn't like an interesting map on their wall? Yet, with the digital age now here, we find many local governments want to use GIS to help collect and update data within their community.

The Commission welcomes opportunities to help local governments build capacity within their own organizations to use GIS. That starts with providing education and training, based on the age-old adage "knowledge is power." Our goal is not to focus on one solution, since there usually is not one solution that fits everyone. We work to provide towns and villages with information on different solutions that are available and help them find the one that might work best for their local government.

For those who may not have the capacity to build a complete GIS application for their municipality, there are many alternatives available. We do offer some alternatives ourselves; here is a brief list of some of the services we can help provide.

1. Online Mapping

Towns and villages can display their data in our online map viewer, free of cost. There are other options for displaying data that may have a cost associated with them, and we have information on those as well.

2. Mobile GIS

We can work with you on a mobile solution, so you can update and collect data using a tablet or smartphone in the field. For GIS Cloud project based applications this can be a no cost solution; other options may have a cost associated with them.

3. Editing Capabilities

We are familiar with a variety of desktop GIS programs that can meet different needs. Most recently we have been working with an open source free desktop program called "QGIS". We can also provide editing capabilities to our GIS Cloud application.

More information is available on our website, <http://www.tughill.org/services/gis/>, or by contacting Mickey at (315) 785-2380 or via email at [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).

## Erosion & Sediment Control Training Offered in Watertown

The Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District is offering a NYS DEC endorsed 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. The cost is \$75 per person, non-refundable, and a Blue-Book "Lite" is provided with each registration. It will be held at the Italian-American Civic Club, 192 Bellew Avenue, Watertown, NY.

Under the NYS DEC's Stormwater Permit GP-0-10-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one trained contractor from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP, and have at least one trained contractor on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Pre-payment is required. Photo ID registration begins at 8:00 am. Arrivals after 8:45 am will not be allowed to attend. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a NYS DEC stormwater training number on a certificate and wallet card good for three (3) years.

The registration form can be found on the website at <http://www.jeffersoncountyswcd.org/images/1120154hrtraining.pdf>, or call (315) 782-2749.

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill  
Commission**

317 Washington St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the  
6th Floor of the Dulles  
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380  
Toll Free within the  
region:  
1-888-785-2380

Email:  
tughill@tughill.org  
Website:  
www.tughill.org

**Assisting communities  
and citizens for  
over 40 years.**

**Please help us  
reduce our costs  
and let us send you  
this newsletter  
electronically. Send  
an email request to  
gwen@tughill.org  
or call  
1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!**

## Emergency Response GIS Video

The NYS GIS Association was awarded a \$10,000 grant by The Fund for The City of New York to assess the GIS needs and resources for municipalities throughout NYS and identify potential strategies and solutions for the increased use of GIS. Although GIS is used extensively in many areas, there are still places in New York State that do not use GIS or could use it more effectively.

Part of the funding was used to produce a video on emergency response and how GIS can be used to help local governments in these situations. This video is a resource for all local governments within New York State. In this video you will see two local governments and a fire department from within the Tug Hill region. They are the Copenhagen Fire Department, Town of Martinsburg, and the Village of West Carthage.

You can view the video from the following sites:

YouTube for the NYS GIS Association: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSCT6sGUROA>

Tug Hill Commission Website: <http://www.tughill.org/services/gis/videos/>

## Town of Wilna Dog Control Services

On October 29<sup>th</sup> at a special meeting, members of the Town of Wilna Board approved a motion to end their contract with Jefferson County for dog control services and enter into a year-long contract with a trained dog control officer from Beaver Falls. A letter was sent to the county notifying them that when the current contract expires on December 31, 2015, the town will no longer require dog control services.

According to Paul Smith, town supervisor, the town pays Jefferson County \$23,715 annually for dog control based upon the number of dogs licensed within the whole township. However, the county dog control service does not extend into the 3-villages located within the town. "We get charged for dogs located within the villages but we're not receiving service in the villages." Following failed attempts to resolve the ongoing issue, the town decided to explore alternative options/opportunities to provide dog control services.

Having received approval from the Department of Civil Service, the town board is expected to formally approve the new position at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and seek approval of the pre-qualified hire. Contingent upon approvals, the new position will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 at an annual cost of \$14,400 plus the cost of business cards, cell phone and cell phone service.

## Land Use Planning Workshop

NYS Ag Districts and Local Zoning Regulations workshop will be held on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sturtz Theater McVean Student Center at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen St., Watertown.

Presenter Robert Somers, PH.D., Manager of the Agricultural Protection Unit of the NYS Department of Ags & Markets will cover: the interaction between NYS Ag Districts Law and local zoning regulations; local regulation of farming operations; how farmers can request a review of potentially restrictive regulations.

RSVP's are encouraged by Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> by contacting the Jefferson County Planning Department at 785-3144 or [planning@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.jefferson.ny.us) .