

## Tour of Stillwater Dam

OCTOBER 20, 2017

Several commission staff and board members joined officials from Lewis and Jefferson counties on a tour of Stillwater Dam last week. Hudson River Black River Regulating District executive director Robert Smullen provided an overview of the district's operations, and chief engineer Robert Foltan explained the way that water levels and flow are controlled by the Stillwater Dam. This relates to several Black River related projects the commission is involved with, including the Black River Blueway Trail designation and implementation, and the Black River Watershed Management Plan and continuing water quality related projects.



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## Solar Energy Seminar November 7, Watertown

The Jefferson County Department of Planning, NYS Tug Hill Commission, Farm Bureau, and Cornell Cooperative Extension are co-sponsoring a seminar on **Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.** at Jefferson Community College.

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by Friday, November 3rd. Please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/solar-energy-seminar-tickets-39021871468>, or call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email: [planning@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.jefferson.ny.us). There is no charge for this seminar.

### Invited speakers include:

- Matt Brower, NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets and Melody Westfall, Esq., Salfone Law PLLC

### Some of the issues to be addressed:

- What are the pros/cons to leasing acreage to a solar farm
- Is a farm's agricultural exemption threatened should you sign a lease
- What are the economics of solar farms
- What are environmental benefits/threats from solar farms to land
- What do municipalities need to do to prepare for solar farms
- How will solar farm impact land values



Landowners, those interested in learning more about solar farms, and municipal leaders should attend.

# Adirondack-Tug Hill Wildlife Connectivity Work Continues

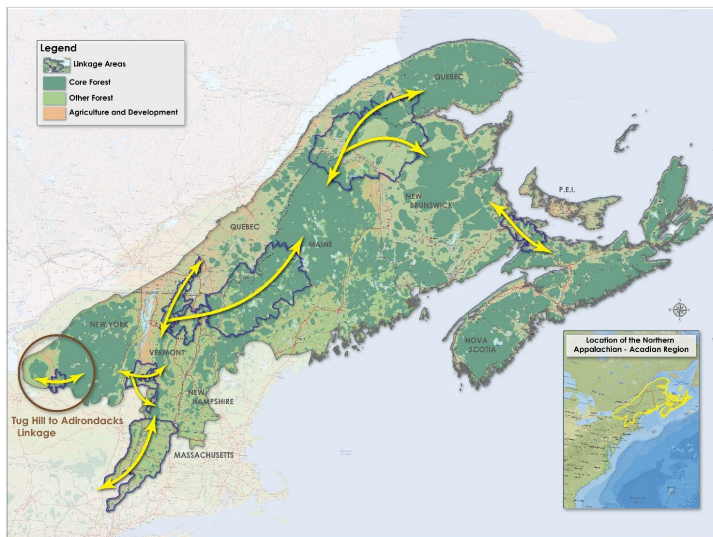
Since 2009, the commission has been part of the Staying Connected Initiative, <http://stayingconnectedinitiative.org/>, a partnership of several states and Canadian provinces working to restore and enhance landscape connections for the benefit people and wildlife across the Northern Appalachian/Acadian region. Tug Hill is the western anchor of the 80-million-acre forested landscape. The Adirondack to Tug Hill linkage area has included work with towns on land use planning, efforts related to transportation and reducing barriers for wildlife crossing, and voluntary land protection with private landowners. Local partners include the Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Society, as well as NYS Department of

Environmental Conservation and NYS Department of Transportation.

A story map on the initiative on Tug Hill provides a great overview: of <http://tnc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=fdcc32b8f6a346db9d4d9c1e2403825c>

Recently there has been significant press coverage on a culvert shelf installed in a culvert under Route 12 in the Alder Creek area. For more information, here are links to a few articles:

<http://romesentinel.com/oneida/critter-shelf-near-boonville-aims-to-reduce-roadkill/QBqqiu!05o2AaPcE1NK9urXziQIQ/>



<https://mountainlake.org/critter-crossings/>

Additionally, commission board member Gerry Ritter is one of the landowners participating in the wildlife camera portion of the project. A photo book of the images captured by the cameras placed with the permission of 16 landowners encompassing approximately 3,000 acres, compiled by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, can be found here: <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/e94mgtp2esi5mbw8u4clhp27muornlsx>

Commission executive director Katie Malinowski sits on the steering committee for the Staying Connected Initiative.



Moving through the Landscape  
LINKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

## Assistance to Fire Fighter Grants Awarded

The Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG) program which is funded by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is a grant program designed to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters by providing financial assistance to eligible fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS) agencies and state fire training academies. The funding is used to help equip and train emergency personnel among other goals.

For the financial year 2016 the Assistance to Firefighters grant had \$345 million in funding. FEMA received over 9,770 applications requesting more than \$2.1 billion in funding for Fire and EMS operations, emergency vehicle grants, fire prevention and safety grants. They awarded 1,965 grants.

Several Tug Hill fire departments were awarded grants in the 2016 grant cycle. Grant funds for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - The Lorraine Volunteer Fire Company received \$49,334; Floyd Volunteer Fire Department received \$97,143; Central Square Volunteer Fire Department received \$153,515; and Carthage/Wilna Fire District received \$112,858. Otter Lake Fire Company (in Forestport) received \$60,431 for equipment.

# Stormwater Decision Making for Planning Board and ZBA

November 2 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., The thINCubator, 326 Broad Street, Utica

## **Session 1:**

### **Stormwater Regulation For Local Review Boards (1.5 hours) Presented by NYS Department of State**

This course examines the relationship between different types of development and the potential for environmental damage from increased runoff, on-site best management practices, and the specific role of project review boards to mitigate stormwater impacts from new development with local, state, and federal regulations.

## **Session 2:**

### **Construction Stormwater Project Review for Local Review Boards (1 hour) Presented by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

The topics for this presentation are MS4 Program Requirements, SPDES Permit General Construction Activity and Local Flood Plain Management.

This workshop is hosted by the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (HOCCPP). Seating is limited. Please RSVP by October 26th by phone: 315-798-5710 or email: [kcampbell@ocgov.net](mailto:kcampbell@ocgov.net). For more information visit: <http://ocgov.net/planning>.

## Champion to Hold Hearing on Plan

The Town of Champion is holding a preliminary public hearing on its new comprehensive plan November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The plan, developed by a committee made up of planning board members, town board members and other representatives from the community, is intended to prioritize capital investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing zoning and land subdivision controls and will help assure that growth will be in accordance with existing plans for future water, sewer and road development. The hearing will be held at the Champion Municipal Building in West Carthage.



## Jefferson County SWCD Conservation Tour

Tug Hill Commission staff took part in the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Tour this past week. The group, which included county legislators, elected officials and local leaders, was led by district staff Christine Watkins, Patrick Crast and Rhonda Redder. The tour included Sheland Farms to learn about manure storage, Winona Forest to view a demonstration of forestry practices, and the county highway facility to see the county's newly installed green infrastructure, which includes a bio swale and many tree and shrub plantings.

The 1.6 million gallon waste storage structure at Sheland Farms will be used as a satellite storage for waste from the main facility or heifer facility. At the Winona lot in Lorraine, the county is managing the understory to encourage the growth of more valuable hardwoods, including maple and cherry. The county is using a skidsteer with forestry head to remove understory species, such as beech and striped maple, which will outcompete the more valuable hardwood species as the larger trees are harvested. At the nine acre county highway facility in Glen Park, 200 trees have been planted and a bio swale has been constructed. The purpose of this project was to reduce the amount of precipitation running off directly into the Black River. Each tree will intercept approximately 850 gallons of water annually, increasing as the trees grow in size.

To learn more about the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, go to <https://jeffersoncountyswcd.org/>.

# Grant Applications Available For Six Town Community Fund

Local non-profit organizations and community groups in the southern Jefferson County towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth are encouraged to apply for a grant from the Six Town Community Fund. The charitable fund is administered by the Northern New York Community Foundation and supports projects and activities that enhance the quality of life in the targeted communities. Applications are due November 17, 2017. \$5,000 in total grant support is available for this year. Grant awards will be announced in December.

Interested organizations may contact Max DelSignore, Community Foundation assistant director, to discuss potential projects. He can be reached via email at [max@nnycf.org](mailto:max@nnycf.org) or phone at (315) 782-7110.

## Clean Energy Communities Webinar Features Village of Boonville

On Wednesday, November 1, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, the Capital Region Planning Commission is holding a webinar entitled "Municipalities on the Move: Energy Efficiency." Barbara Freeman, Environmental Council Chair of the village of Boonville, will present a portion entitled "Collaboration as Key to Project Success."

For more information, see <http://bit.ly/2yRpg1i>.

## AOT and OSC Newly Elected Officials Webinar December 7

The NYS Association of Towns and Office of the State Comptroller are holding a webinar for newly elected officials on Thursday, December 7, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, go to [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org).

## Newly Elected Officials 2018 Training School

The NYS Association of Towns will once again hold its bi-annual newly elected officials training school. Two identical sessions will be offered:

January 10-12, 2018, Albany

January 17-19, 2018, Rochester

Please see their website at [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org) for updates and agenda information.

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