Strategic Planning Session

25 local officials joined Tug Hill Commissioners and Staff in Redfield this past Tuesday night (September 30) for a Strategic Planning Session to kickoff development of the Tug Hill Commission’s 2015-19 Strategic Plan. The evening began with an overview of the results of the 2013 Local Leaders Survey and the three primary areas that the Commission provides support for: land use planning, community development, and natural resources. A fourth area, local governance, was also an emphasis of the evening as Commission staff has noticed an increased interest in assistance related to governance issues.

Local officials were asked to share with the group their experiences with the Commission on various projects. Mayor Donna Smith (right) from Lowville shared with community officials the assistance the Commission is providing with codes work being done in the village of Lowville.

Following are the posters Commission staff put together to describe the variety of assistance provided in the four main subject areas.

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Monday, October 6 2014, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Worth Town Hall located at 24252 County Route 189, Lorraine, NY.
Mayor Katie Lienedecker (right) from Lyons Falls reviewed the various assistance provided to the Village since the early 2000’s mostly related to community development.

Supervisor Sherry Harmych (above) discussed Pinckney’s experience in shared services related to justice courts and highway equipment.
Highlights of 2013 Local Leaders Survey results:

Survey Responses:

371 surveys mailed with 152 responses – 41% response rate
36 of 41 Tug Hill municipalities responded
Respondents represented elected officials as well as appointed board members

97% of the respondents said they frequently (54%) or occasionally (43%) work with the Commission.

In regards to the IMPORTANCE of Commission programs for the first time in 35 years there was no discernable difference in the demand for environment, training or planning services. All at 97%

In regards to EFFECTIVENESS of Commission programs:

92% on workshops and training
88% on helping communities protect the environment
85% on land use planning assistance

In regards to the Commission’s ROLE in the region:

98% believe it is important for the Commission to continue its mission – Highest ever!
93% agree that the Commission provides services which local governments need or cannot provide themselves.
91% believe it is important for intermunicipal cooperation and planning for the region.

You can view the 2013 Local Leaders Survey results here: http://www.tughill.org/projects/strategic_plan/
Participants were divided into four groups and took turns at the four stations that were set up around the fire hall. Each group was given an overview of the station's topic, and then asked:

**How important to you feel each topic is in terms of Commission resources?**

**What specifically might the Commission work on related to each topic over the next five years?**

Tug Hill Commissioners and staff thank everyone who took the time to participate in Tuesday night’s session. For those who were unable to attend, please contact the Commission office with your thoughts or ideas on these two questions. Related material is available on the Commission's website at: [http://www.tughill.org/projects/strategic_plan/](http://www.tughill.org/projects/strategic_plan/)