



September 19, 2014

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**Remember to  
RSVP  
for the**

**Strategic  
Planning  
Session  
September 30  
in Redfield**

# 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.



Left to right: Jennifer Harvill, THC; Dick McDonald, DEC; Katie Malinowski, THC; Rod Douglass, NRCS; Nichelle Billhardt, Lewis County SWCD; Frank Pace, Lewis County Economic Development; Carla Luther, Lewis County SWCD; Mike Durant, Lewis County SWCD; Alexis Lyndaker, Lewis County SWCD.

## Black River Trash Bash held in Castorland

Members of the Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (including two Tug Hill Commission staff members) and staff from the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District took part in a Black River Trash Bash event on Friday September 12th at the NYS DEC Fishing Access Site at Castorland, in the Town of Denmark. Over 100 cigarette butts, as well as food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, cans, glass bottles, fishing line, pieces of a boat and very water logged plastic bags were collected. In all, 75 pounds of garbage, including 8 pounds of recyclable materials, were collected.

Trash data collected at this event, as well as two upcoming events, will be tallied and sent to the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society, which leads the New York State Beach Cleanup as part of the International Coastal Cleanup every September. In 2013, over 6,000 volunteers removed and collected data on 80 tons of garbage from 174 miles of shorelines across New York State. In the Black River Watershed, in 2013, 29 volunteers removed over 700 pounds of trash in 32 bags from the shores of the Black River.

We are, once again, grateful for donations of work gloves from White's Lumber in Watertown and water from Nirvana in Boonville. We are also pleased that the Development Authority of the North Country will be hauling away the trash from the Lewis County sites and disposing of the trash in their Solid Waste Management Facility.

Lyons Falls Alive will host their cleanup event on September 20th and the Adirondack Communities Advisory League will host their cleanup event on October 4th. Please contact Jennifer Harvill [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org) for more information.

# Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program

The New York Sea Grant, in collaboration with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is requesting proposals for up to \$25,000 in funding under the New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program. The deadline to apply is September 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 4:30PM. The Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program is intended to support stakeholder driven efforts to restore and revitalize New York State's Great Lakes Region, demonstrate successful application of an Ecosystems Based Management (EBM) approach, and support the State's Interim Great Lakes Action Agenda.

This year, the program is prioritizing funding for projects that implement goal #7 of the GLAA, which aims to "enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management". The funding is available through the Environmental Protection Fund under the Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act within Article 14 of NYS Environmental Conservation Law. For more information on the Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program:

<http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/t/new-york-s-great-lakes-basin-small-grants-program-grants-policies-funding-opportunities-current-rfps>

For Information on the Interim Great Lakes Action Agenda, please visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>

## New Invasive Species Regulations Explained

Last month, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets issued regulations to address damage caused by invasive species. The new regulations will prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, which are harmful non-native species, including plants, insects, fish and mammals that were imported or released - often accidentally - from other areas of the world. Many invasive species such as the Eurasian Boar, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and Northern Snakehead fish can cause significant damage to natural communities in NY. Since 2011, \$30 million in state funds have been allocated toward preventing the spread of invasive species.

To help people understand the new regulations and identify the species included, a full-color guide was released on September 10, 2014 entitled "New York State Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Plants." It can be found on the NYS Invasive Species Clearinghouse website at [http://www.nyis.info/user\\_uploads/files/DEC%20Prohibited%20Plants%20-%20web%20-%20091014.pdf](http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/DEC%20Prohibited%20Plants%20-%20web%20-%20091014.pdf)

## Continuing Efforts for Crown Cleaners

In an ongoing effort to advance next steps in remediating contaminated ground water and soil from the 9-acre Crown Cleaners of Watertown Inc. Superfund Site, an EPA Drill Crew was on site over the summer to construct & develop wells and deploy diffusion-bag samplers to passively collect groundwater samples. The samples were then sent to an analytical laboratory for analysis of volatile organic compounds as part of EPA's standard Quality Assurance process and results are expected to provide a more refined delineation of contaminated subsurface volume to determine levels of treatment.

Located in the Town of Wilna, the old industrial site was placed on the Superfund list by EPA in 1991, due to ground & water contamination from the former dry cleaning facility. Over the past 20-years, EPA has completed a series of ground & water contamination tests and studies that led to the release of a Record of Decision (ROD) by EPA in 2012 that was presented to the community. In preparing to guide future development of the open space & waterfront property, the town assumed ownership of the property in June 2012 to guide future development as a recreation park.

# Interesting Data on Winter Weather Severity

Clear Roads, an organization that works with many states to perform research on winter highway operations, has an interesting report on their website that analyzes the weather severity in the snow and ice states of the country. The goal of the project was to provide maps and data that depicts the weather severity in a manner similar to the plant hardiness zone maps used for agriculture. According to the report, "State Departments of Transportation are under constant pressure to justify their snow and ice program budgets and to look for new approaches to saving money, such as hiring private contractors and reducing level of service. To effectively defend current budgets and request additional needed funds, winter maintenance professionals need a better understanding of the costs associated with their operations, how these costs compare with other similar states, and opportunities for reducing spending that will not negatively impact level of service."

The map below shows what those that live on Tug Hill would expect - when compared across the country, Tug Hill's winter weather severity ranks up there with the Rocky Mountains and the upper peninsula of Michigan. The full report can be found at <http://www.clearroads.org/downloads/MappingWeatherSeverityZones-FinalReport.pdf>.

## Joint ZBA on the Horizon for RACOG



Members of River Area Council of Government (RACOG) approved a request from the Village of West Carthage to join the Joint Zoning Board of Appeals (JZBA) in April 2015. Formed in 2006 by the towns of Champion & Wilna and Village of Carthage through an intermunicipal agreement (IMA), the 5-member board is comprised of appointed representatives from the participating communities.

Serving 5-year terms, each member of the board is state certified and meets on an as needed basis to review and consider zoning appeals from participating communities.

## Cooperative Tug Hill Council Holds Fall Meeting

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council held their fall meeting on Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Central Hotel in Glenfield. There was an excellent turn-out for the meeting with 36 people attending representing 12 of the 16 towns. Following a delicious roast pork dinner, the meeting kicked off with a presentation on "Volunteerism in the Fire and Emergency Services Field" by Lewis County's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Bob Mackenzie. General business followed, with the spring meeting minutes, current financial report and budget for 2015 all being approved. The Tug Hill Commission, represented by three Commissioners, Executive Director John Bartow and Director of Planning Phil Street also updated the Council on the progress on the ongoing Special Areas and Highway mapping projects; as well as on the East Branch of Fish Creek working group, an upcoming portrait and history project involving Tug Hill Sages and the Strategic Planning meeting to take place soon in Redfield. The Council approved a completed Special Areas map for the Town of Lewis and will add it to their regional Special Areas map. A change to the Council's bylaws was also presented and approved by unanimous vote. The Council will also be undertaking a survey to gather information about the Towns, and how they operate; and hope to have the reported information available to present at the spring meeting. Concluding the meeting with Supervisor Topics, there was a discussion about the requirements for Worker's Comp and Unemployment Insurance on appointed individuals in the Towns.



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## Municipal Budget Process Workshop Held in Albion

The town of Albion hosted a municipal budget process workshop held Monday, September 15 at the Albion-Altmar Municipal Building. The workshop, co-sponsored by the Tug Hill Commission and the New York State Comptroller's office, provided an overview of the process towns and villages go through to create and adopt their annual budget, and the use of the budget as a management tool throughout the fiscal year.

Eighteen local officials representing nine municipalities attended Monday's meeting. A majority of attendees were new to the municipal budget process, making the information shared even more important in implementing a smooth budget creation and adoption process.

# Upcoming

### WORKSHOP

### WHEN/WHERE

### CONTACT/INFO

Site Plan Review Training	Thursday, September 25, 7pm @ Vienna Town Hall	Tug Hill Commission 1-888-785-2380
Fiscal Oversight/Red Flags for Fraud Workshop	Thursday, September 25, 6:30pm-8:30pm @ CNSE SUNY-IT	<a href="http://www.LGEC.org">www.LGEC.org</a>
SUNY Potsdam 23rd Annual Local Government Conference	Tuesday, October 14, 7:30am-3:00pm @ SUNY Potsdam	<a href="https://secure.potsdam.edu/conf/localgov/">https://secure.potsdam.edu/conf/localgov/</a>
4th Annual Lewis County Economic Development Conference	Thursday, October 23, 9:00am-3:00pm @ Ridgeview Inn, Lowville	Lewis County Planning Department 376-5422 or <a href="mailto:syoung@lewiscountyny.org">syoung@lewiscountyny.org</a>