



July 15, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Hydrofracking News
- Altmar Dissolution News
- Forestport Meeting
- Turin and Burdick's Crossing News
- West Monroe Community Efforts
- NY-Alert Application
- Women Forest Landowners Educational Opportunity

**TO CONTACT THE
TUG HILL
COMMISSION:**

**Phone toll free within
the region:
1-888-785-2380**

**or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org**

**Please visit our
website:
www.tughill.org**



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.

Department of State to Host Town Hall Meeting in Watertown Public Invited to Participate in Dialogue on Improving Regional Economies

The New York Department of State will hold the fourth of a series of regional town hall meetings to discuss regional economies on Thursday, July 21 in the First Floor Auditorium at the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown. Deputy Secretary of State Dierdre "Dede" Scozzafava will meet with local leaders and interested citizens to discuss how the Department of State can help create thriving and sustainable communities. The meetings are part of Governor Cuomo's commitment to ensuring that state programs reflect local and regional needs. The meeting will begin with remarks by Deputy Secretary Scozzafava, followed by discussion. The meeting will be from 6:30-8:00 pm with sign-in starting at 6:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public.

Reuse of Parish Elementary School Discussed at Meeting

The town and village of Parish held a public meeting regarding the future use of Parish Elementary School on Wednesday, June 29. The meeting, held at the elementary school, was held in conjunction with Peter Fairweather of Fairweather Consulting and the DiMarco Group. Over 40 members of the Parish community were in attendance.



At the meeting, Peter Fairweather and the DiMarco Group reviewed what had led to the upcoming change in use of Parish Elementary School, the physical assessment of the school and its surrounding property and its suitability for re-use, and what market opportunities were most likely to be successful. Attendees were then asked to identify their concerns and hopes for the future of the building.

The web site for the Parish Elementary School Adaptive Re-Use Plan can be found at <http://parishschoolplan.ning.com/>, and includes the Fairweather Consulting summary of the June 29 meeting. There will be additional public meetings as the process moves forward. Parish Elementary School is currently scheduled for closure in September of 2012.

DEC Revises GEIS on Hydrofracking

Page 2

Early in July 2011, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released revised recommendations on mitigating the environmental impacts of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF, also known as hydrofracking). The DEC has prepared a preliminary Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (draft SGEIS) to the original 2009 draft impact study to satisfy SEQR requirements by studying hydrofracking and identifying potential new significant adverse impacts for these anticipated operations. The document is deemed “preliminary” because it omits a number of areas of analysis that are still ongoing and will be finalized later in 2011 and incorporated into this draft. When DEC deems this draft Supplement complete, it will be published in full and a formal public comment period will begin.

In summary, the revisions state that hydrofracking is prohibited in the watersheds that provide NYC and Syracuse with drinking water, that drilling is banned within all primary aquifers (there are none in the Tug Hill Region), that drilling is also banned on State-owned land including State Forest and Wildlife Management Areas, and that drilling will be permitted on other private land with various protections. Permitting rules state, amongst other things, that DEC would notify local governments of each well permit application for hydrofracking and that applicants must certify that a proposed activity is consistent with local land use and zoning laws. Failure to certify or a challenge by a locality would trigger additional DEC review before a permit could be issued. For a complete report, please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>.

Commission staff will be attending a conference later this month that will explain the draft impact statement in more detail.

Village of Altmar Holds Dissolution Plan Public Hearing

As part of the village dissolution process, the village of Altmar held a public hearing on Wednesday, July 6, at the Altmar-Albion Municipal Building. Questions at the hearing included the issue of sidewalks, their current condition and the town's intentions regarding what would happen upon village dissolution; and the village's cemetery and mapping of cemetery plots.



The next step in the process will be the village board's adoption of the proposed Elector Initiated Dissolution Plan. The proposed plan, along with other dissolution process documents, can be found at www.cgr.org/altmar. The village of Altmar can be found on the Internet at www.villageofaltmar-ny.us.

Informational Meeting Held in Forestport

An informational meeting for the town board and area residents on the Black River enhancement project was held in Forestport on July 13. The project consultant, Michael Rizzo from Ward Associates, P.C., presented a preliminary design for two projects in the hamlet along the Black River that will enhance public river access by improving existing boat launch sites. The plan showcased the site reconnaissance work and survey of both sites that have been completed. Concerns for safety and ongoing maintenance of the sites were voiced by residents. Town officials stated the town will be maintaining the sites once the project is completed. It was also stressed there are many safety issues now that were addressed in the preliminary plans and the goal is to make both sites safer as well as more attractive.

The project, one of several Black River Blueway Trail projects underway, focuses on an important destination along the Trail. Trail funding is administered by the NYS Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

Turin's Burdicks Crossing Boat Launch Project Awarded Iroquois Grant

Page 3

The town of Turin has been awarded \$9,910 from Iroquois to help fund Black River access improvements at the Burdick's Crossing site. This project is a collaborative effort between the town of Turin, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Tug Hill Commission that will relocate the existing carry-in earthen launch approximately 150' upriver to take advantage of a low-point in the bank for better drainage of seasonal flooding and assist with bank stabilization. The concrete slab launch will accommodate small motorized boats as well as kayaks and canoes. The gravel parking area will also be expanded to service the new launch. The DEC will provide engineering and other technical assistance while Turin will provide most of the equipment and labor. A portion of the project is possible through donation of materials and use of equipment, along with in-kind labor. The Commission will assist with overall project coordination.

The Iroquois Community Grant Program considers local, state, county governments and non-profits for funding of up to \$15,000 in a community in which Iroquois facilities are located. Primary project focus areas are environmental initiatives and passive recreation and secondary focus areas are historic preservation, civic and community, and targeted arts and culture. Grant applications are solicited twice a year on May 15th and November 15th. For more information on Iroquois grants and a map of pipeline communities, please visit <http://www.iroquois.com/iroquois-grants.asp>. You may also contact the Commission for assistance with project development and grant writing assistance at (888) 785-2380 or Carla@tughill.org.

West Monroe Community Assembles Park Playground Equipment and Fence

The town of West Monroe now has a fenced area with playground equipment at its town park, as a result of the town's initiative and support from area citizens. The project was partially funded by a legislative member item obtained by prior supervisor Gary Ross. Current Supervisor John Messere spearheaded the effort to move the project forward from approved grant to its realization. Supervisor Messere organized and directed the volunteer effort to assemble the playground equipment and install the playground fence, meaning that more of the funding could go toward equipment rather than its installation. Several meetings were held in advance of the equipment assembly day to solicit volunteer commitment and to organize the effort. The organization paid off in a playground equipment assembly day that came off smoothly and on time and budget.



Over 50 area citizens participated in the playground equipment and fence assembly, along with the participation of the town's highway department in site preparation. Citizens can now say that not only is this their park, but they personally had a role in making it what it is today. Initial assembly of the playground equipment took place on Saturday, June 4, with assembly of the fence on Saturday, July 9.



The town of West Monroe can be found on the Internet at www.townofwestmonroe-ny.us, and additional pictures of the playground and its new equipment can be found at www.wmtown.blogspot.com.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Mailing address:

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

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

Phone: (315) 785-2380
Fax: (315) 785-2574
E-mail: tughill@tughill.org
Web: www.tughill.org

**Assisting communities and
citizens for over 38 years.**



If you are receiving this publication in paper format, please consider helping us reduce our costs by opting to receive your copy electronically through your email. (Electronic versions appear in full color!) Please contact the Commission for assistance.

Thank you!

NY-Alert Applications

NY-Alert shows alert information for weather, school closings, traffic, emergencies, etc. You can view these alerts by going to their website at www.nyalert.gov where you can choose from different applications to view this information. Their newest application is I-Alertz, which can be used on the iPhone. To download this application, go to www.ialertz.com.

If you have alerts you would like to put into their system, you can contact them at support@nyalert.gov to get setup to display alerts.



Women and their Woods: Building a Network of Women Forest Landowners

Women are increasingly responsible for the care and stewardship of private forestlands; they outlive spouses, inherit forestland from parents, or just seek their own woodlot. A study of forest landowner offspring conducted for the National Association of State Foresters showed that 83% of women sampled were interested in managing their family forestland when transfer occurred, but only 34% felt they had enough knowledge to make forest management decisions (Mater 2005). A desire to be more connected and learn with and from other women in similar land management roles has led a group of women forest landowners in northeast Pennsylvania to form Women and their Woods.

With an increased interest in promoting educational opportunities for women forest landowners, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Penn State's Natural Resources Extension, with funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service, are offering outreach and education to women forest landowners across Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region. In addition to informative newsletters and emails about events and cost share incentive programs, the partnership is offering a long-weekend educational retreat for women forest landowners from October 13-16. The cost to attend the four day retreat is \$130 and covers all lodging and meals, all materials, and nationally known presenters at Camp Susque near Trout Run, Lycoming County, in the scenic Pennsylvania Wilds. **The deadline to submit applications is August 1, 2011.** If you are interested in being involved with the Women and their Woods group, contact Allyson Muth at Penn State (814-865-3208, abm173@psu.edu) for an application or for more information.

Mater, C.M. 2005. Family forests: What will the next generation do? Address to the National Association of State Foresters. Available online at www.pinchot.org/?module=uploads&func=download&fileId=52.