



2018 Local Leaders Survey Please Return Today!

APRIL 20, 2018

Many of you will have received a survey in the mail from the Tug Hill Commission earlier this week. Our enabling legislation requires us to survey the region's local leaders every five years, to gauge our performance and gather input on future work. We sent this year's survey to 369 village, town and county officials, as well as many of our partner organizations.

All survey responses are kept confidential. The responses will be combined into a white paper delivered to Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature later this year. Survey results will also be reported at local meetings of the Tug Hill Commission board and the region's councils of governments. The results will also be available on our website, www.tughill.org.

Please return your completed survey no later than May 4, 2018. Thank you!

Reminder: April 30 Grant Workshop

Join staff from the Tug Hill Commission and Lewis County Planning Department on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 6 pm at the Port Leyden Fire Hall, 3387 Douglas St. The workshop will cover simple but important items to consider, so towns and villages are ready to apply for various grant opportunities.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Casandra Bueller at the Lewis County Planning Department at (315) 376-5919, casandrabueller@lewiscounty.ny.gov.

Plan Ahead for NYS Grants

New York State will soon announce grants available through the consolidated funding application (CFA). If you are a municipality or a non-profit, YOU MUST REGISTER ON THE GRANTS GATEWAY at <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/Grantees>. You will likely be required to register on the grants gateway to even apply for state grants! Registering is simple, but it does take time. You will need to download a form https://grantsreform.ny.gov/sites/default/files/registration_form_for_administrator.pdf, fill it out, have it notarized and send it to Albany. From there, you will receive a user name and password to register on the grants gateway.

If you are a non-profit, you will need to take additional steps to pre-qualify on the grants gateway, which adds even more time to this process.

Please visit <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/Grantees> and scroll down to "Getting Started." In addition, there are super-helpful training videos on all of this at <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/youtube>. Please don't wait until the last minute to complete this process – grant deadlines come around quickly!

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Earth Day at the Zoo

Saturday, April 21, 2018

10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

1 Thompson Park
Watertown, NY 13601

Enjoy crafts, games and see the animals at the Thompson Park Zoo. Meet local organizations that protect land and advocate for our wildlife.

Bring the family and celebrate Earth Day!

Oneida Lake Association Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 2

The Oneida Lake Association (OLA) will be holding its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m. at Gillette Road Middle School, 6150 South Bay Road, Cicero, New York.

The Oneida Lake Association was founded in 1945 to protect, restore and preserve the natural resources of Oneida Lake and its surrounding ecosystem. Oneida Lake falls at the southern extent of the Tug Hill Commission's region.

The major agenda items for the OLA's May 2 meeting include election of officers, an update on the hatchery in Constantia, a report on the Oneida Lake fishery, cormorant management on Oneida Lake, algal blooms in the lake, and naming the OLA's Conservationist of the Year.

The Oneida Lake Association web page can be found at: www.oneidalakeassociation.org/

The agenda for the Oneida Lake Association annual meeting is at: www.oneidalakeassociation.org/Annual%20Meeting%20Agenda%202018_.pdf

ZBA Basic Training May 10

Hosted by the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, trainings will be held at the Oneida County Planning Department, 3rd Floor, Boehlert Center at Union Station, 321 Main Street, Utica from 5:00-7:00 p.m..

• **Thursday, May 10 - ZBA Basics** - Overview of the powers and duties of Zoning Board of Appeals, statutory requirements relating to the issuance of use and area variances, handling of zoning interpretations, board procedures, referral to the county planning agency and making findings.

Registration fee is \$10 per session and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so please RSVP. Registration form and details available at www.ocgov.net. For more information: kcampbell@ocgov.net or 315-798-5710.

This training provides an opportunity for local planning and zoning board members to receive training on a variety of land use topics and to receive 2 hours of training credits.

State of Lake Ontario Fisheries Meeting Summary

This year's series of State of the Lake Ontario Fisheries meetings wrapped up in March with the popular sportfish of Lake Ontario and its tributaries generally doing better than reported in previous years. The meeting held in Pulaski on March 15 was attended by approximately 50 interested anglers and other stakeholders, and included reports from NYSDEC's Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit on stocking updates, sea lamprey control and coho salmon research.

The NYSDEC Great Lakes Fisheries Section Head discussed how fisheries managers are working with stakeholders to identify their desired outcomes in the fishery, and how they will use this information when developing fishery management plans and objectives. A DEC biologist reported on the 2017 Lake Ontario fishing boat survey and how anglers saw increased success for Chinook, coho, and rainbow trout. The Salmon River angler survey indicated that Chinook salmon were the most abundant species caught during fall 2017, and that the majority of anglers are satisfied with the fishery. The US Geological Survey prey fish assessment determined that the alewife population (that supports the salmon fishery) is increasing, although ecosystem changes are continuing to be observed, such as water clarity, invasive mussels and goby declines. Eastern Lake Ontario warmwater fisheries, such as smallmouth bass and walleye, are expected to remain stable based on 2017 assessment data. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry reported that there have been strong year classes of walleye in the bay of Quinte.

The public meeting ended with audience members sharing ideas about habitat restoration needs in the Black River and Eastern Lake Ontario. For more information, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7969.html>

ANCA Offers Clean Energy Program Portfolio

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) has recently compiled a Clean Energy Program Portfolio, available on their website at <https://adirondack.org/clean-energy-program-portfolio>.

The portfolio is a user-friendly search tool that provides access to resources for project planning, financing and implementation in the 14-county North Country (including all four Tug Hill counties). Each entry contains a summary of key information in an easy to read format, and links for more details. To get started, select your search criteria from the available energy categories.

Development of the portfolio was support by NYSERDA grant funding through the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program.

The screenshot shows the ANCA website's navigation bar with links: WHAT WE DO, EVENTS, NEWS & PUBLICATIONS, ABOUT, PARTNERS, and SUPPORT. Below this is a search filter section with five categories: Project Planners, Other Resources, Project Development, Project Funding, and Project Technology. Each category has a 'Click for Options' button. Under 'Project Type', there is a dropdown menu currently showing 'Lighting X'. The main content area displays the 'Clean Energy Communities Program (CECP)' with a description: 'The CEC program provides technical assistance to municipalities interested in becoming a certified Clean Energy Community. Municipalities adopting at least 4 of 10 high-impact actions items are eligible for certification. Certified CECs are eligible to apply for grants up to \$250,000 with no local cost share, to support additional clean energy projects. Grant guidelines apply based upon population and are available on a first come first serve basis. Contact local CEC coordinator for more information and to get started. Action items include:'. A bulleted list follows: 'Unified solar permit', 'Benchmarking', and 'Energy code Enforcement Training'.

Did You Know...Executive Sessions

During regular meetings of municipal governing boards, it is sometimes suggested that a discussion be held privately, or in "executive session". The law does provide for these closed sessions under certain circumstances, if proper procedure is followed.

An executive session is not separate from an open meeting but rather is a portion of an open meeting during which the public may be excluded. In order to do so, a motion must be made during an open meeting to enter into executive session, the motion must identify the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, and the motion must be carried by a majority vote of the total membership of a public body.

Article 7 of the Public Officers Law outlines the topics for which a board may enter executive session:

- matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
- any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
- information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
- discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
- collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
- the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
- the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and
- the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

Following executive session, the board then needs to approve a motion to return to regular session. Additional information and resources about Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law can be found at www.dos.ny.gov/coog/index.html.

Archive Webinars Available

New York State Archives Winter Webinar series for 2018 are available on the NYS Archives YouTube page. So, if you missed them the first time, or want to see them again, please view them at your convenience:

Disaster Response for the Records Manager (originally presented on Jan. 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrf614sLYSU>

Records Appraisal for Records Managers (Jan. 31)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGm64x_11Us

Introduction to Information Technology for Records Managers (Feb. 14)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr1AK1Dagss>

Introduction to Historical Records for Local Governments (Mar. 7)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLenLXCj4DM>

Developing or Renewing a Records Management Plan (Mar. 21)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCinD4p6TAA>

Visit the NYS Archives YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/user/nysarchives>

Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group Meetings: Northeast - May 8 and Southeast - May 9

NYSDEC invites you to join other regional stakeholders in a basinwide partnership to advance ecosystem-based management (EBM) opportunities for New York's Great Lakes basin, as identified in the state's interim Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA). Meeting objectives include:

- Share updates on Great Lakes funding, mapping tools and partner efforts.
- Report on implementation progress of work group priorities and EBM Demonstration Areas.
- Facilitate focused planning discussions to identify collaborative projects in anticipation of upcoming grant funding.

Sub basin work groups provide a unique opportunity to connect, coordinate and collaborate with other groups and agencies working locally and basinwide

NE Lake Ontario Work Group - May 8, 1:00 - 4:15 p.m. - Redwood Hill Preserve Trailside Learning Center, 44379 Stine Road, Redwood, NY 13679 (optional hike with IRLC staff following meeting)

SE Lake Ontario Work Group - May 9, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Fair Haven State Park, Sabin Hall, 14985 State Park Rd, Sterling, NY 13156 (optional tour with NY Sea Grant's Coastal Processes Specialist following meeting)

Please RSVP to greatlakes@dec.ny.gov at least one week in advance of the meeting you plan to attend.

If you have any question please contact Emily Sheridan at Emily.Sheridan@dec.ny.gov or 315-785-2382.

