

April 12, 2019

Time to Gear Up, It's CFA Season!

Although the 2019 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) guidebook has not been released yet, details about upcoming CFA workshops are becoming available. Please watch future Tug Hill Times issues for additional workshop dates. If your community is thinking about a grant application (likely due end of July 2019), you should be developing your project NOW and should definitely plan to attend a workshop. Regionalcouncils.ny.gov/CFA for more info!

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The Consolidated Funding Application

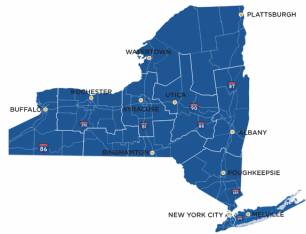
Learn more about ongoing CFA projects and how to apply

HOME / CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION

View Projects

Select a region to browse its projects.

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- Mid-Hudson
- Southern Tier
- New York City
- Central NY
- Long Island
- Mohawk Valley
- North Country



[VIEW ALL PROJECTS](#)

From the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (REDC):

May 17, 2019, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13502

Jun 17, 2019, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Herkimer County Community College
100 Reservoir Rd, Herkimer, NY 13350

Commission Meeting April 22, Lee

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, April 22, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Town of Lee Municipal Building, 5808 Stokes Lee Center Road, Lee Center, NY 13363. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the commission and a review of major projects and activities in the region, including the 2019 Local Government Conference and the commission's 2020-2024 strategic plan.

NYS DEC Webinar, 480A Regulatory Reform, April 30th

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will deliver a presentation on 480a Forest Tax Law regulatory reform via webinar on Tuesday, April 30 at noon. Panelists will be DEC forestry staff Rob Messenger, Sloane Crawford, and Jason Drobnack. Their presentation will be followed by responses to questions presented by the audience. Duration depends on the questions, but is not expected to extend past 2pm. ***This is the only time this webinar will be offered.***

The Forest Tax Law (RPTL 480a) was enacted in 1974 to provide tax abatement to forest landowners with 50 acres or more of eligible forest land. During this webinar, DEC is asking for input and suggestions from interested stakeholders on how the program can be improved through regulatory reform. The purpose of this reform is to increase landowner compliance, reduce administrative burdens and improve forestry outcomes. During the webinar, DEC staff will outline how the law works, what the current status of the program is statewide, and present the suggestions that have been received from stakeholders so far. The webinar is free, open to the public and intended for woodland owners, 480a participants, and foresters. Registration is required at https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FoD3_HQ2T4md20-c7gfUgg. If prompted for a password use "Cornell". The registration page prompts you for information if you want CEU credits. After registration you will receive the link to the webinar and a password, to use on the day of the webinar.

CTHC Spring Meeting April 25

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) annual spring meeting will be Thursday, April 25 at the Steak and Brew Restaurant, 4497 State Rt. 26, Turin. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. with the business meeting to follow.

On the agenda are review of the September 2018 meeting minutes, the current financial report, and election of officers for 2019. The 2018 slate of executive committee officers have all decided to seek re-election (Roger Tibbetts, Doug Dietrich, Carla Bauer, Ian Klingbail, Stephen Bernat, Paulette Skinner) with the exception of Rosalie White, who has decided not to run. CTHC is looking for someone to fill that vacancy, and nominations for any office will be taken from the floor. The Tug Hill Commission will provide project updates, the locally approved Special Areas map from Boylston will be reviewed, and the proposed work goals for 2019 will be reviewed for approval. The meeting is open to the public.

Guest speaker will be attorney Mark Gebo, who will discuss wind project negotiations and updates. The meeting will close with supervisor topics and any other comments from the floor.

The cost for the dinner is \$25 each for guests, with representative's dinners covered by CTHC. Reservations (by April 19) can be made by contacting Angie Kimball via email at angie@tughill.org, by phone at (315) 599-8825 or (315) 480-6857.

NOCCOG Undertaking Pilot GPS Project

Last year, the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments executive board approved the purchase of two GPS units. The equipment will be shared among the seventeen member communities as part of a shared services plan to begin mapping infrastructure in the region.

A training program with three initial villages to utilize the equipment is planned for early spring. The project, which will likely take multiple years, mirrors the road mapping project completed in NOCCOG several years ago. The goal is to map water, sewer, lighting, sidewalks, and other infrastructure to compile an online database. This will provide crucial benefits when there is turnover over of local employees, during emergency situations such as water main breaks, and in current, ongoing improvement projects.

For more information, contact Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds at jarmstrong@tughill.org, or (315) 371-7612.

RACOG LED Lighting Update

The River Area Council of Government (RACOG) has been looking at options for conversion of street lights to LED lighting over the past year. The interest in the street light conversion has grown to communities from outside RAOCG taking part. There are now a total of 16 communities that are active in some form with the group.

The option that some communities are starting to commit to is the NY Power Authority (NYPA) municipal owned option. The towns of Champion, Martinsburg, Wilna, and village of West Carthage have already approved moving forward with NYPA for the first phase of the project, which begins with a design study. Other towns and villages plan to review it at their next board meeting or in the near future for discussion and/or approval.



Based on discussions and presentations that have taken place, communities are contemplating the 60 to 70% yearly savings on their electric bill and the potential opportunity of having smart controls that might offer other savings and efficiencies by working with NYPA. Some communities are still doing comparisons between options offered by NYPA and National Grid. At the end of the day, it is up to each individual community to decide what option best fits their needs.

Lorraine Worth Justice Court Moving Forward

The towns of Lorraine and Worth are about mid-way through the process of creating a shared justice court. Under the proposal, the two towns would share one justice who would hold court at the Lorraine municipal building. A preparatory plan has been completed and both towns held public hearings on the matter in the last two weeks. The proposal will likely go before the NYS Legislature for final approval during the 2020 legislative session.



Fort Drum Community Involvement

On April 9th, Mickey Dietrich, River Area Council of Government (RACOG) Municipal Management Consultant, gave a presentation to the 210 Brigade Support Battalion on ways soldiers and their families can be involved within their local communities. This unit looks for volunteer opportunities to get involved in. If you are a municipality or other organization in need of volunteers for a project or event, this Fort Drum unit might be able to help you. Ideas include volunteering to be on a community board, helping with projects like monument restoration, assisting with park trail maintenance, and helping with various community events. By attending a local community board meeting and introducing themselves, soldiers and their families can get connected to projects or events that are in need of volunteers.

Also he highlighted recreational opportunities within the River Area Council of Government area, such as kayaking on the Black River, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, snow tubing, cross country skiing, hiking, and enjoying the area's parks.

Municipalities or organizations interested in learning more about how to get assistance from this Fort Drum unit for volunteer activities can contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or (315) 681-5023.

Oneida Lake Association Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 1

The Oneida Lake Association (OLA) will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Gillette Road Middle School, 6150 South Bay Road, Cicero, New York. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

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 association's May 1 meeting include election of officers, an update on the hatchery in Constantia, a report on the Oneida Lake fishery, cormorant management on Oneida Lake, Digital Selective Calling with VHF Marine Radios, and naming the OLA's Conservationist of the Year.

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

NYS DEC Plans to Update 46 Corners Unit Management Plan

The 46-Corners Management Unit is a group of eight state forests located on the south west portion of Tug Hill. The unit management plan (UMP) covers 18,032 acres in the Oneida County towns of Annsville, Camden and Florence; Oswego County town of Redfield; and the Lewis County town of Lewis. Eight state forest properties are included in the unit: Big Brook State Forest, Cobb Brook State Forest, Fall Brook State Forest, Florence Hill State Forest, Furnace Creek State Forest, Mad River State Forest, Tri-County State Forest and Swancott Hill State Forest. For more information about the unit and the previous UMP, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/44921.html>.

There is currently an open public comment period, ending May 31. Comments should be emailed to R6.UMP@dec.ny.gov or mailed to Chelsea Sheridan, Senior Forester, 225 North Main Street, Herkimer, NY 13350 or by calling (315) 866-6330. NYSDEC will present a revised draft of the UMP to the public at a later date.

2019 Black River Watershed Conference Registration now OPEN!

Head to <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/black-river-watershed-conference/> for details or contact Jennifer Harvill jennifer@tughill.org or 315-785-2392 for more information. All are welcome!



TUESDAY ~ JUNE 4, 2019

Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center
7955 Brantingham Road
Greig, NY 13494

8:30 am - 3:45 pm



Sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council

Organized and hosted by the Lewis, Oneida Hamilton, Jefferson and Herkimer County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, NYS Tug Hill Commission and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6.

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Sign-in, Vendors/Exhibitors and Networking
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome and Introduction by Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District and Marilyn Patterson, Supervisor, Town of Greig
9:15 am - 10:00 am	Soil and Water Conservation District Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <i>The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25 Year Perspective</i> ~ Catilin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD ♦ <i>MS4 Update</i> ~ Christine Watkins, Jefferson County SWCD
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am - 11:15 am	KEYNOTE - <i>The Great Lakes Compact, A Decade of Lessons Learned</i> ~ Peter Annin, Director, Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	<i>Road Salt Pollution of Surface and Groundwater Resources in the Adirondack Region</i> ~ Dr. Dan Kelting, Adirondack Watershed Institute
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Optional Tour of Camp Aldersgate
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	<i>Dam Relicensing</i> ~ Jon Wiley, US Fish & Wildlife Service
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	<i>Geologic Natural History of the Black River Watershed</i> ~ Dr. Chris Ebey, Jefferson Community College
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	<i>Sampling Plastics Along Lake Ontario</i> ~ Dr. Eric Hellquist, SUNY Oswego
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Closing Remarks

Contact Us

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Web: www.tughill.org
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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!

Free Tree Selection and Planting Workshop May 3

Several organizations, including New York ReLeaf, the New York Urban Forestry Council and Central NY Conservancy, are hosting a free workshop on Friday, May 3 from 9 am to 12:15 pm in Utica. Certified arborists will present sessions on how to plant containerized, ball and burlapped trees as well as bare root trees and shrubs, and how to select the right trees for the site.

Registrations are required by April 30, and should be emailed to michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov. For more information, please contact Michael Giocondo (315) 376-3521 ext. 203 or Dan Welc (315) 866-6330 ext. 125.

