

# TUG HILL TIMES



NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION | DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING | 317 WASHINGTON STREET | WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 | [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

January 31, 2020



From left to right, Roger Maciejko, Bill Scriber, Leona Cheresnoski, Gerry Ritter, Jan Bogdanowicz, and Katie Malinowski.

## Commission Meets in Amboy

The Tug Hill Commission board met at the Amboy town hall on Monday, January 27. Several area supervisors, mayors, and other elected officials were in attendance. Items discussed included the proposed State budget, a new community recognition award under discussion, minimum maintenance roads legislation, solar project proposals around the region, and the new Tug Hill Recreation Guide.

The next commission meeting will be March 25 in Watertown.

## In This Issue

- Commission Meets
- Updated Brochure
- Fiscal Oversight Workshop
- We're Hiring
- State Archives Applications
- New York Planning Federation
- Tug Hill Recreation Guide
- The Farm Babe
- Onondaga County Planning Federation
- Federal Regulatory Authority

## Updated Local Government Services Brochure Available

New to local government in the Tug Hill region? Not sure exactly how staff at the Tug Hill Commission can assist? Please take a look at our updated Local Government Services brochure [here!](#)

New York State

Local Government Services

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.

**NYS Tug Hill Commission**  
Dulles State Office Building  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
(315) 785-2380  
Toll-free in the region: (888) 785-2380  
[www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)  
[tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Tug Hill Commission

## Fiscal Oversight Workshop February 13 in Altmar

A Fiscal Oversight/Red Flags for Fraud training will be held at the Albion Municipal Building, located at 15 High Street in the hamlet of Altmar on Thursday, February 13. The workshop will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. followed by a question and answer period. The presenter is Laird Petrie of the Office of the State Comptroller's Syracuse Regional Office.

This training opportunity is designed to assist town officials in carrying out their fiscal oversight responsibility. Topics to be covered include the fiscal oversight duties of the board, the purpose of an audit and who is responsible, an overview of the supervisor's records as chief fiscal officer, a review of justice and clerk fiscal responsibilities, key records to examine and audit concerns, red flags for fraud to watch for, and what to do if you suspect fraud. The workshop is free of charge. Registration is requested by Tuesday, February 11 via email at [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org) or by phone at 1-888-785-2380.

# We're Hiring: NOCCOG Circuit Rider

The New York State Tug Hill Commission is hiring a circuit rider/municipal management consultant to serve the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG). NOCCOG is a cooperative of 17-member local governments in the Tug Hill region providing day-to-day technical assistance through this position to its member communities. Answering to an executive committee and working as a state employee of the commission, the person filling this post is expected to establish and maintain regular contact with member communities and to serve as the program manager.

Minimum qualifications are: a bachelor's degree and 3-5 years' work experience, although an equivalent combination of education and experience with local government of 5-10 years will be considered; NYS driver's license and suitable vehicle; proven computer literacy (email, word processing, spreadsheets, data base, website maintenance) and reliable access to high speed internet and cellular service; excellent oral, written, organizational and interpersonal skills; self-starter with strong work ethic and ability to work independently; ability and willingness to attend night meetings three plus times per week and travel in inclement weather on very rural roads; familiarity and experience with local government a plus; familiarity with Tug Hill region a plus.

For more information about the position, see our website, <https://www.tughill.org/2020/01/17/noccog-municipal-management-consultant-circuit-rider/>.

## State Archives LGRMIF Applications Now Being Accepted

New York State Archives has announced that it is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant cycle. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020.

The Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) provides grants to assist local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program, awarding grants based on the merits of applications. Created in 1989, the fund comes from fees collected by county clerks and the New York City Register. These fees are collected during the recording of certain documents and when county clerks assign index numbers for certain court cases.

Application types include:

- Individual (up to \$75,000)
- Shared Services (up to \$150,000)

Project categories include:

- Disaster Management
- Document Conversion and Access
- Files Management
- Historical Records

More detailed information on the program and the application process can be found here: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/lgrmif-grants> or by contacting our area's Region Advisory Officer, Michael Martin, at [Michael.Martin@nysed.gov](mailto:Michael.Martin@nysed.gov) or (518) 330-7987.

## New York Planning Federation Annual Conference

**SAVE THE DATE!! April 19 – 21**

The Sagamore Resort on Lake George  
110 Sagamore Road, Bolton Landing, NY 12814

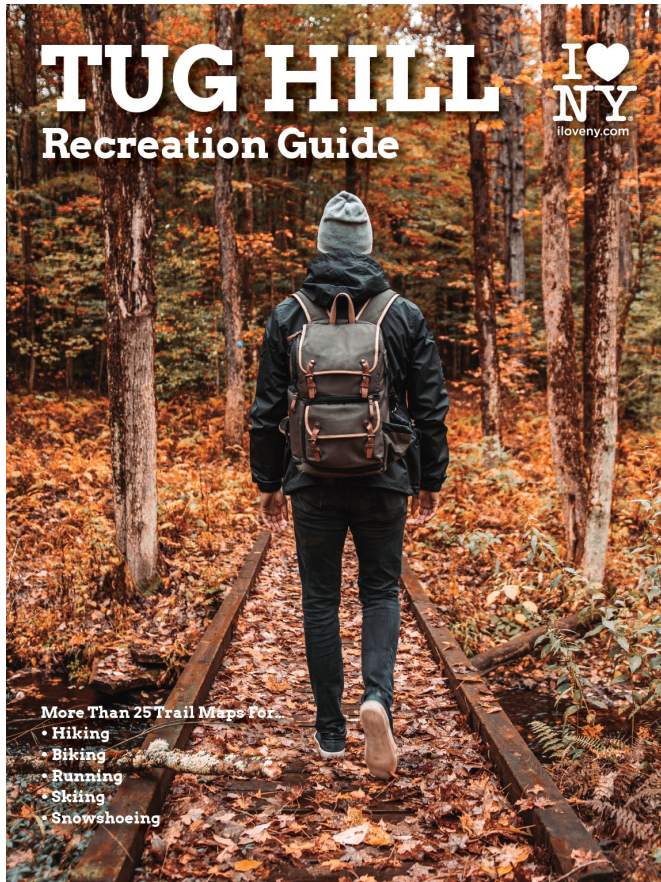
Includes a day and a half of planning and zoning related sessions.  
Register now by going to the website at [www.nypf.org](http://www.nypf.org).



# New Tug Hill Recreation Guide Available

The long overdue new Tug Hill Recreation Guide is printed and available, created by a partnership among the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council, Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Oswego County Tourism, Oneida County Tourism, Tug Hill Commission and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. The 64-page, full color guide features communities across the region and over 25 full page trail maps for non-motorized recreation on and around Tug Hill.

Copies are available from all of the aforementioned organizations, and will be included in the Tug Hill Local Government Conference attendee folders.



## “The Farm Babe” is coming to the Jefferson County March 19-20

Michelle Miller, also known as The Farm Babe, is coming to Jefferson County on Thursday March 19 and Friday March 20, 2020. More information about Michelle's story is available at [www.thefarmbabe.com](http://www.thefarmbabe.com).

**Thursday March 19, 2020 6:30 p.m.** at the Sturtz Theater in the McVean Student Center on the Jefferson Community College Campus. This program is geared for the general public, students, elected officials, farmers, ANYONE! Michelle will teach attendees about agriculture in a fun and compelling manner. **A free reception starts at 6:30pm in front of the theater and Michelle's presentation begins at 7:00 p.m.** Students in the Jefferson Community College Business Club and Agribusiness programs are co-hosting the program.

**Friday March 20, 2020** at The Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown. This program starts at 9:00am with presentations on societal trends and how they might impact agriculture and what retailers are seeing in the supermarket with shopper purchasing habits. At noon there is a free lunch buffet for everyone registered to attend. Michelle Miller speaks at approximately 1:00 p.m. This time, Michelle provides a “train and inspire the trainer” style program. Farmers, agribusiness people, agency staff and elected officials are encouraged to participate!

**Registration is required to attend.** You may come and go at any time throughout the day. Please call 315-782-5865 or email [coordinator@comefarmwithus.com](mailto:coordinator@comefarmwithus.com) to register.



# Onondaga County Planning Federation

The 32nd Annual Planning Federation Symposium to be held March 12, 2020 (<http://ongov.net/planning/ocpf.html>).



**32nd annual planning symposium**

**March 12, 2020 • 8:00 am - 4:15 pm**  
Marriott Syracuse Downtown

**Keynote Address**  
**Tom Murphy**  
Senior Resident Fellow  
Urban Land Institute

For program and registration materials, visit:  
**<http://ongov.net/planning/ocpf.html>**

Courses can be used to fulfill annual training requirements for Planning and Zoning Board members.  
For more information contact: Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency at 315.435.2611

## Contact Us

### NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380

Toll Free within the region:

1-888-785-2380

Email: [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

## New Federal Regulatory Authority Under the Clean Water Act established:

On January 23, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (Army) finalized the [Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define "Waters of the United States"](#) and thereby established federal regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act. The agencies are streamlining the definition so that it includes four categories of jurisdictional waters as follows:

- The territorial seas and traditional navigable waters,
- Perennial and intermittent tributaries to those waters,
- Certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments, and
- Wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters

The definition additionally provides 12 exclusions for many water features that traditionally have not been regulated, such as features that only contain water in response to rainfall and groundwater. The definition also defines terms in the regulatory text that have never been defined before, such as what a typical year is, and what an adjacent wetland is.



**Navigable Waters Protection Rule**  
**Not WOTUS**

Dry washes and ephemeral streams

Many farm ditches

Many roadside ditches

Isolated wetlands

Farm and stock watering ponds constructed in upland

Stormwater runoff

**EPA** 

[epa.gov/nwpr](http://epa.gov/nwpr)

This final rule will become effective 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register* and will replace the Step One Rule published in October of 2019. EPA and the Army will hold a public webcast to help explain the key elements of the final Navigable Waters Protection Rule on Thursday, February 13, 2020. [Registration is available here](#). For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr>.