

February 26, 2021

COG Chairs Meeting with Commission Staff

The Tug Hill region's five Council of Government (COG) board chairs held their annual meeting with commission staff on Tuesday, February 23 via Zoom. A robust agenda was discussed,



Top, left to right: Katie Malinowski, Mickey Dietrich, Jean Waterbury, Paul Baxter.

Middle, left to right: Wayne McIlroy, River Area Council of Governments; Roger Tibbetts, Cooperative Tug Hill Council; Angie Kimball; William Potter, Salmon Rivers Council of Governments.

Bottom, left to right: Matt Johnson, Rip Colesante, North Shore Council of Governments; John Doiron, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments; Jan Bogdanowicz, Tug Hill Commission (no photo).

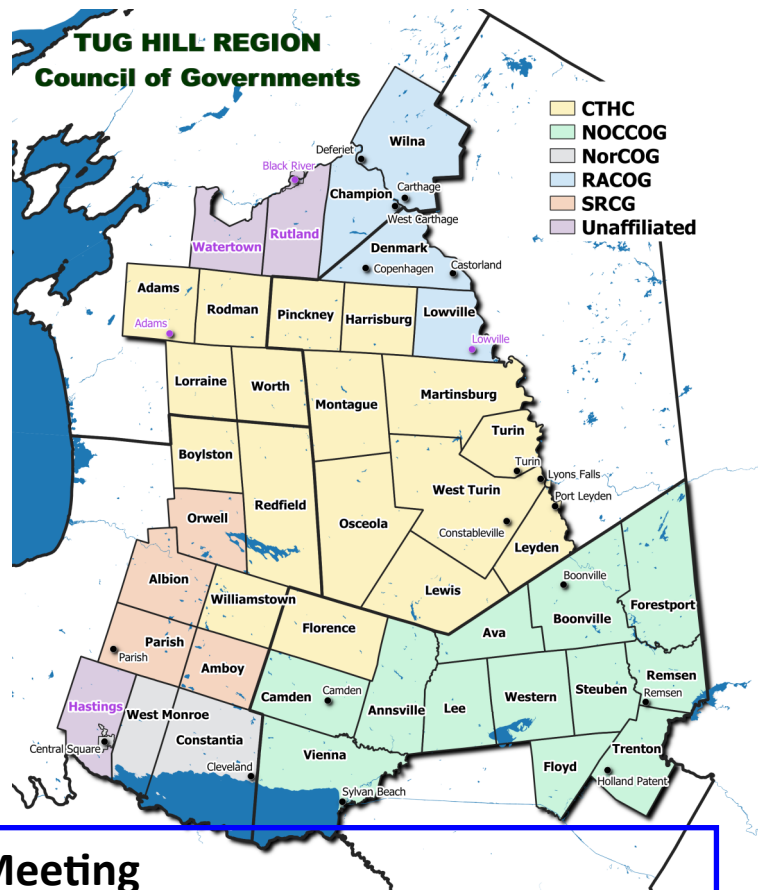
including an overview on the commission budget and staffing, minimum maintenance roads and seasonal use zoning; broadband improvement efforts; renewable energy and clean energy communities; snowmobile economic impact study; civic engagement committee, GPS/GIS initiatives, and a new Tug Hill community recognition award.

Each council also shared information about progress in their areas, including growth in member communities (Village of Lowville in RACOG, Village of Adams potentially in CTHC), large projects moving forward (sewer and water projects, LED lighting, Special Areas mapping, road and infrastructure mapping) and planning and zoning work, much of it related to solar.

The region's five councils of governments are critical to promoting co-operation between municipalities and delivery of Tug Hill Commission programs.

In This Issue

- COG Chairs Meet
- THC to Meet
- Headwaters
- Remote Public Meetings
- NBRC Grants
- Conservation on Tug Hill Part 3 Webinar
- A Primer for Highways Webinar
- Letters from a Tug Hill Logger – Part 3
- New Climate
- JCC Economic Survey
- Clean Energy Communities
- Amboy Comprehensive Plan
- Cyber Security Webinar
- COVID Records
- Cornell Local Roads Training
- Webinar Recordings Available



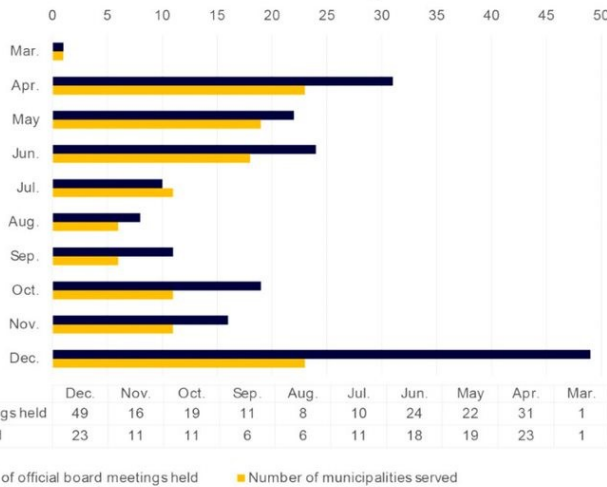
March 15 Tug Hill Commission Board Meeting

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet next on Monday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85472663375> or via phone at (929) 205-6099 US, meeting ID 854 7266 3375. The public is welcome to attend.

Headwaters Annual Report Published

The Tug Hill Commission's annual report, Headwaters, can be viewed at tughill.org/headwaters-annual-report/. Only available electronically this year, the report details progress made in 2020, as the way the commission and its communities worked shifted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A good visual of that shift is shown below, a compilation of the Zoom meetings hosted by commission staff for the region's towns and villages.

Tug Hill Commission Hosted Zoom Meetings, 2020



NEW YORK STATE TUG HILL COMMISSION HEADWATERS 2020 NEWSLETTER & 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT, ISSUE 57



Wondering where some of the beautiful photos included in Headwaters were taken? Here is information for the five photos included in the Council of Governments reports.

Page 5, CTHC – A headwater stream in Tug Hill's core.

Page 5, Salmon Rivers – Fishing in the Salmon River.

Page 6, RACOG – The Black River as it flows through Carthage and West Carthage.

Page 6, NorCOG – The newly renovated Cleveland Dock.

Page 7, NOCCOG – The covered bridge in Boonville's Erwin Park.

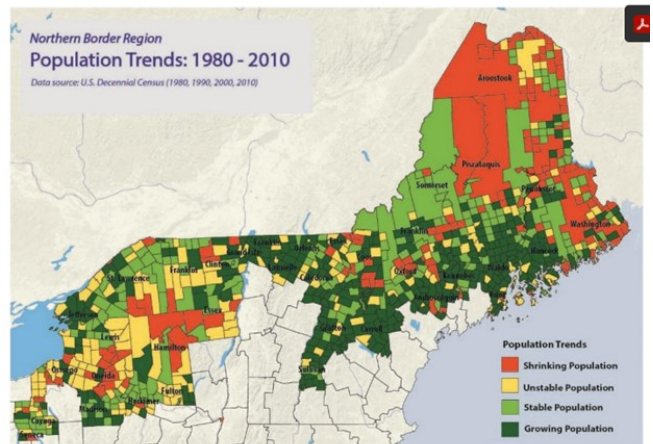
EO 202.94 Extends Remote Public Meetings Through March 16, 2021

According to the [Committee on Open Government](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20294-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency), Executive Order 202.94 extends suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of open meetings law until March 16. The entire executive order is available at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20294-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

Northern Border Regional Commission Economic Infrastructure Grants Available

The Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) [State Economic & Infrastructure Development](https://www.nbrc.org/state-economic-infrastructure-development) grant application materials will be available March 8, with an application deadline of May 21. There will be approximately \$4.6 million available for each state (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York). All four Tug Hill counties are within the program area, and it is likely that all four counties (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego) will be considered distressed, which makes them eligible for 80% grant 20% match.

Maximum awards of up to \$1,000,000 will be made to eligible infrastructure projects, with a \$350,000 limit for non-infrastructure projects. Public bodies, 501© organizations, Native American tribes, and state governments can apply. State economic development plans and the NBRC's [five-year strategic plan](https://www.nbrc.org/five-year-strategic-plan) will guide decision making. In NY, it is recommended that all applicants for NBRC contact Kyle Wilber at the NYS Department of State in advance of applying. He can be reached by phone at (518) 473-3694 or by email at kyle.wilber@dos.ny.gov.



Conservation on Tug Hill - Part 3

Wednesday March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

A three-part webinar series from the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the NYS Tug Hill Commission, Conservation on Tug Hill is geared towards municipalities and landowners. In part 3, Forest Conservation, you will learn about the multiple benefits of forest conservation, and existing and proposed funding programs.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_68NAWYdDQgmARkRPj1JTCA

A Primer for Highways

Thursday March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Highways by prescription (use); width and bounds; encroachments and obstructions by abutting owners; abandonment by non-use and discontinuance; minimum maintenance highways; and seasonally limited use roads. Featuring Lori Mithen-Demasi.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r6CImSfxQVOv1WmbLw1zwg

Letters from a Tug Hill Logger - Part 3

Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

This three-part series will be narrated by Leona and Peter Chereshnoski, the granddaughter and great-grandson of John Clemons and keepers of his treasured scrapbooks of memories. They will read letters, share stories, show off artifacts and photos and “spin yarns” of Tug Hill logging in its hey-day, all through the eyes of two remarkable personalities, one who wrote the stories and the other that broadcast them over the radio for the masses to hear.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SglXM7TJSSCQccG2uv6eSw

A New Climate on Both Large and Small Scales

The commission is hosting a free webinar called “*A New Climate on Both Large and Small Scales*” on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm eastern time. Meteorologist David Eichorn will provide an updated meteorological perspective on Tug Hill’s changing climate and changing local weather. Mr. Eichorn’s talk was well-received at the commission’s 2018 Black River Watershed Conference. The commission is excited to now make his updated presentation available to a broader audience and serve as an alternative to the typical keynote address given at the annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference which was not held again in 2021 due to the pandemic. Mr. Eichorn will discuss data related to climate change through a meteorological perspective and review how a warmer Arctic can impact our Northeastern weather. He will also look at one of the region’s big climate drivers, the El Nino/La Nina cycle in the Pacific and investigate its role in the changing climate. And lastly, Mr. Eichorn will explain the “Polar Vortex” - is this a new catch phrase or is there something more to it? His message to local governments is generally to plan for more unpredictability in weather patterns.

Register for this free event at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4ytumAawRHmncowBvOQejw.

David Eichorn is a meteorologist with over 30 years of experience who retired from Syracuse-area television in 2016. As a meteorologist, Dave has won awards for severe weather coverage of the superstorm of March 1993, Hurricane Gloria, and for educating the public in the science of meteorology. While Dave is most widely known for his tv weather broadcasts, he has also expanded his work into lecturing and education, teaching at several colleges across Central New York. Dave is a visiting professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry where he teaches introductory meteorology and environmental meteorology. He is a full member of the American Meteorological Society and has a specialized background in meso-scale (small scale) atmospheric modeling and lake effect snow forecasting. Dave has a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from the SUNY Empire State College and a master’s degree in Environmental Science from SUNY ESF.



Jefferson Community College Economic Survey

On February 5, the College hosted a distinguished panel of economic development experts to discuss the workforce needs of our community. Officials from Jefferson Community College and the Jeff-Lewis BOCES were joined by Brittany Davis, Executive Director of Lewis County Economic Development, Greg Hart, the North Country Regional Director for the Workforce Development Institute, Cheryl Mayforth, Executive Director of Jefferson County Employment and Training, and Dave Zembiel, CEO for Jefferson County Economic Development. The panelists provided an overview of the local employment landscape and projected future educational needs. The discussion highlighted the importance of pathways, or a pipeline, for students to move between our region's educational institutions and into employment. The College is continuing this important work with the launch of two community surveys, one for [local employers](#) and one for [prospective students](#), to gather critical information. The surveys will close March 16. Please share your thoughts with them through the applicable survey.

Clean Energy Communities Regional Contacts

Clean Energy Communities is a statewide NYSEDA program delivered through various regional entities. Below is key contact information for each Tug Hill county:

Jefferson and Lewis: Adirondack North Country Association, Jennifer Perry, jperry@adirondack.org. A video of their informational webinar from earlier this week can be accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6WEsSBD8Xc. A second webinar will be held on March 2 at 9:30 am, register at adirondack.org/civCRM/event/info?reset=1&id=145.

Oneida: Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Amanda Kaier, akaier@mvedd.org. A video of their informational webinar can be accessed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb2iHEV0ROk. More information on their website, mvedd.org/for-governmental-entities. Interested entities can also fill out a community interest [form](#).

Oswego: Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board, Chris Carrick, ccarrick@cnyrpd.org. More information on their website, www.cnyenergychallenge.org/nyserda-clean-energy-communities-dr.

Amboy Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

The town of Amboy adopted an updated comprehensive plan after a public hearing on February 5, 2021. The previous version had been in place since 2003. The plan, developed by the planning board, is intended to prioritize capital investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing land use controls and will help assure that growth will be in accordance with existing plans for future development. The plan was approved by the Oswego County Planning Board.

American Waterworks Association Cyber Security Webinar March 17

The NYS Chapter of the AWWA will host a free webinar, **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)**, on March 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Learn about cybersecurity services for building cyber resilience; physical security and emergency preparedness. Get help from CISA to protect your Utility with Physical and Cyber Security!

[Click here to register.](#)

How long to keep COVID questionnaires and temperature check records?

These are the standard group of questions used by local governments and given to persons entering a building, worksite, or property or participating in programs or services. They do not ask for specific temperature information but ask if the person passed a certain temperature threshold.

If the survey responses are documented, including electronically, they would constitute a record and be subject to the [LGS-1](#) item 792d in the Public Health section. Related records may be covered by other 792 sub-items.

Item 792, Results of screening programs, except lead poisoning (previously CO2 508; MU1 472; MI1 409)

- 792a: Summary reports on screening results: RETENTION: PERMANENT.
- 792b: Master index or listing of participants: RETENTION: 50 years.
- 792c: Positive report of individual screened, including statement of consent or participation and authorization for release of information: RETENTION: 6 years, or 3 years after individual attains age 18, whichever is longer.
- **792d: Negative report of individual screened, including statement of consent or participation and authorization for release of information: RETENTION: 1 year.**
- 792e: Log or other working record of screening and testing, used to compile statistics and other data: RETENTION: 1 year.

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

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call

1-888-785-2380.

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

Cornell Local Roads Spring In Person Training

Registration is now open for Cornell Local Roads spring training. The full list of available courses is on their website at www.clrp.cornell.edu/workshops/workshops.htm. Locally, workshops will be held in Jefferson County the second week of May:

May 11 – Local Roads and Streets Done Right
May 12 – Surveying
May 13 – Dollars and Sense of Municipal Operations

Webinar Recordings Available

Recordings of *Letters from a Tug Hill Logger Part 2* and *Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure* are available on our [YouTube](#) page.