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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2021

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Black River Watershed Wednesday Webinar Series



Watertown, NY – The Tug Hill Commission and its partners at the Lewis, Jefferson, Hamilton, Herkimer and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6 are pleased to bring you “**Watershed Wednesday Webinars**,” in May and June, as the in-person Black River Watershed Conference has been postponed again this year. All webinars are free, presented via Zoom and require preregistration. This information is also available on the commission’s website at tughill.org/black-river-watershed-wednesdays-2021/.

Black River Trail Extension and Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity and The OUTSTEPS.org Research Network: A Community Platform for Stakeholders and Universities in the Lower Great Lakes
Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

The Watertown-Jefferson County Area Transportation Council (WJCTC) is exploring various alternatives for extending the Black River Trail to Fort Drum as well as identifying gaps in the regional network for active transportation modes. This is an interactive presentation as the WJCTC is actively seeking public input as part of the planning process. Come see how this project and OUTSTEPS.org, a regional research network of eight founding universities, a diverse group of urban and rural stakeholders and indigenous rights-holder groups, can work together to support transformative and collaborative science to address regional sustainability and community resilience challenges in the Lower Great Lakes basins, including Lake Erie and Ontario. While this pair of topics that may appear different – by the end of the webinar participants will see how both efforts can collaborate to advance similar goals. How could a recreational trail study and a research network possibly be related? Come find out as both efforts will be described and then linked in a locally and regionally impactful way.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gc4c3WSyTkaq2GyPdHnkZg

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in a Changing Climate: Changing Forests and Identification and Management
Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Lindsey Rustad will give an overview of her 30+ years of research in New Hampshire's White Mountains on how climate is altering the composition of northeastern forests, from a global perspective to local impacts. Caroline Marschner will discuss eastern hemlock, its role in New York ecosystems, hemlock woolly adelgid identification and management, and implications of climate change on this aggressive forest pest.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B46jdWc9TzW8PaAVEjPZGw

Ice and Snow Best Practices: Communication and Consensus
Wednesday May 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Ice and snow removal must balance cost, public safety and environmental considerations. Having a clear consensus on the expected level of service allows everyone a basis to communicate. Tim Hunt, Highway Superintendent at the Lewis County Highway Department, has extensive experience in local government and has served in various leadership roles throughout NY. He has presented at the Cornell Local Roads Programs highway school on procurement issues and currently teaches a budgeting class entitled "Dollars and Sense of Municipal Budgeting." Tim brings a diverse and balanced approach to highway management issues.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G3lcl-rXQy6TzAlf8GcN2A

Weather Resilience: Tips for Improving Your Community's Ability to Respond to Severe Weather
Wednesday June 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

In the northeast, extreme weather events like floods, heat waves, changing precipitation patterns and storms are increasing in frequency and severity. The ability of local communities to cope with the immediate impact and recover from the aftermath is critical to their continued well-being. In this session, Mary Austerman, New York Sea Grant and Khristopher Dodson, Environmental Finance Center, will look at tools communities can use to be better adapted to these conditions, funding programs to support related planning processes and project implementation, and hear about other community experiences that can be replicated in the Black River Watershed and beyond. Participants will learn to access and use tools and become more familiar with funding programs to support projects for local priorities related to extreme weather events as well as understand how other communities have made themselves more resilient to future events.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2GmeMDqmQ4mA1-Ox9LQFeQ

SWCD Municipal Assistance Programming - Presentation and Panel Discussion
Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will discuss county soil and water conservation district (SWCD) municipal assistance programs including stormwater pollution prevention, green infrastructure, North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative, stream corridor and floodplain management, forestry management and more. Brian will also discuss how SWCDs and municipalities can cooperate and coordinate programs through intermunicipal agreements.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N1FwehH-REq-meTS21U2uw

Hamilton and Herkimer County Conservation Initiatives in the Black River Watershed
Wednesday June 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Jaime Parslow, District Technician, Hamilton County SWCD, will present an overview of the green infrastructure project in Inlet's Arrowhead Park and an update to the county's lake monitoring project. Katherine Whitcomb and Robert Tilbe of the Herkimer County SWCD will present *Streambank Stabilization – Stake Your Bank*, an overview of a partnered project with the Herkimer County BOCES Conservation Class, Herkimer County Highway Department, and the Herkimer County SWCD. This project utilizes streamco willow stakes as part of a larger streambank stabilization project.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p4TvdtXuSQ2Zih5U94KuYw

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The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.

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