

June 18, 2021

## CNY Broadband Internet Study

The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) has partnered with its member counties (Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego) and ECC Technologies, LLC to complete a study to identify areas in Central New York that lack reliable access to broadband internet. This includes lack of physical access to broadband infrastructure as well as lack of access due to service reliability and speeds, affordability, household resources, or other circumstances.

The CNY broadband study includes the physical mapping of existing telecommunication infrastructure in Central New York along with a public outreach and community survey - which is currently underway. As of June 14, just over 1,000 individuals have participated in the survey from Oswego County. However, more responses are needed to help develop a comprehensive plan to address broadband issues facing residents and business owners in Oswego County and across Central New York.

### CENTRAL NEW YORK BROADBAND INTERNET SURVEY

TAKE A RESIDENTIAL/BUSINESS  
SURVEY TO HELP IMPROVE  
LOCAL **BROADBAND**  
**INTERNET ACCESS**



No internet or computer?  
Please call for assistance  
 **(315) 412-5966**

**CNYINTERNET.COM**

Sponsored by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board  
in partnership with Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties

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Anyone who lives or works in Oswego County or within the five-county CNY region is encouraged to [take the survey here](#) and share it with your community as a step towards improved broadband access. You may also call the CNY RPDB at (315) 412-5966 to take the survey over the phone or have a paper copy delivered to your home.

Additionally, the Oneida County broadband survey is also still open. Take the Oneida County survey at [www.mveddbroadband.com/](http://www.mveddbroadband.com/).

## Tug Hill Commission Meeting June 21, Forestport

The commission's next meeting will be held Monday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Forestport Town Hall, 10275 NY-28, Forestport, NY 13338. Please contact Gwen Decker at [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) for in-person RSVP. Zoom access information is [us02web.zoom.us/j/82669688230](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82669688230) or dial 929-205-6099, meeting ID 826 6968 8230.

## EO 202.110 Extends Remote Public Meetings Through July 5, 2021

According to the [Committee on Open Government](#), Executive Order 202.110 extends suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of open meetings law through July 5. The entire executive order is available at [www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202110-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202110-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency).

# Broadband Webinars Completed—Rewatch on YouTube

The Tug Hill Commission, along with its partners listed below, has been working to identify solutions forimproving broadband throughout the region and beyond. A series of three webinars in May and June provided the chance for local government leaders, agency partners, and Tug Hill residents to learn more about how investments in broadband infrastructure can be made over the next several years to improve access. We hope that you had an opportunity to participate in the 2021 Broadband Webinar Series hosted by the commission. In case you missed the webinars, you can see them in our YouTube playlist [Broadband 2021 Webinar Series](#).

<p>On May 12, Scott Rasmussen, Assistant Vice President of Innovation &amp; Broadband with Empire State Development, presented the <b><i>Statewide Perspective on Broadband</i></b>. His presentation highlighted the efforts that have been undertaken to improve access to broadband across the state and current efforts to reach every household. The NYS Broadband Program Office has useful tools for accessing information quickly, such as the Residential Broadband Availability Map and the Residential Broadband Availability Search. Recently, a required \$15-a-month internet service option for low-income families was approved under a new law in NYS. Watch Scott’s presentation at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/broadbandstatewide">tinyurl.com/broadbandstatewide</a>.</p>	<p>On May 19, Joe Starks, President of ECC Technologies, and Andy Lukasiewicz, Director of Broadband Services with ECC Technologies, presented a regional perspective: <b><i>How Broadband can be Delivered, a look at the Southern Tier Network</i></b>. Counties across the state have partnered with ECC Technologies and other regional partners to map gaps in broadband infrastructure and service, and identify barriers to broadband adoption. Joe and Andy discussed similar efforts that created the Southern Tier Network and provided an update on several counties’ infrastructure inventories and broadband surveys. Watch Joe and Andy’s presentation at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/broadbandSTN">tinyurl.com/broadbandSTN</a>.</p>	<p>The third webinar, which aired on June 16, was presented by David Wolf, Telecom Division Manager with the Development Authority of the North Country. Dave’s session, titled <b><i>Technical Solutions and Things to Consider for Broadband Expansion</i></b>, highlighted technical broadband solutions implemented in the North Country and things that must be considered when discussing broadband expansion in rural communities. The focus was on the town of Tupper Lake, where the Development Authority is currently implementing a project funded by the Northern Border Regional Commission. Watch Dave’s presentation at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/broadbandtechnical">tinyurl.com/broadbandtechnical</a>.</p>
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Thank you Scott, Joe, Andy, and Dave for your wonderful presentations. The commission looks forward to seeing broadband services expand in unserved and underserved Tug Hill communities. If you would like to access the materials for any of these presentations, visit [Past Workshop Presentations](#).

## Short-term Rental Webinar June 23

Learn about short-term rentals and what your community should be considering at a Tug Hill Commission-sponsored webinar on **Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.** Attorneys Charles Malcomb and Alicia Legland, Partner and Associate of Hodgson Russ, LLP, respectively, will discuss short-term rentals, the efforts to regulate them, case law interpreting such efforts, and tips on fashioning regulations. Register at [tinyurl.com/shorttermrentaltughill](https://tinyurl.com/shorttermrentaltughill) or on the Tug Hill Commission’s website at [tughill.org/upcoming-workshops/](https://tughill.org/upcoming-workshops/). If approved by your municipality, this webinar can count towards the four-hour training requirement for planning and zoning board members.

## Land Use Training Workshop in Lewis County September 28

The Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department will be sponsoring a land use training workshop for local land use officials on **Tuesday, September 28** from **4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Lewis County Court House in the Legislator Chambers. This year’s training topics will include “Rural Planning” (4:00-6:00 p.m.) and “Revising Zoning” (6:30-8:00 p.m.). [Click here to register](#). More details we be available in August, but please pencil the date into your calendars ahead of time! A flyer is also available at the [Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department’s website](#).

# Lewis County Acknowledged by NYSERDA as “Success Story”

In NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities News of June 2021, Lewis County is acknowledged for its efforts to achieve the Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification. High impact actions that were listed in the article are Lewis County's benchmarking efforts, PACE financing, Unified Solar Permit, and clean fleets efforts. Kevin Brouillard, community development specialist with Lewis County Planning, and Alaina Mallette, planner with the Tug Hill Commission, were named “Energy Champions” for their work to further Lewis County's Climate Smart Communities program.

The commission would like to congratulate Kevin for his hard work organizing the Lewis County Climate Smart Task Force and for all his data collection efforts throughout his tenure at Lewis County. In Jefferson and Lewis counties, if your community is interested in becoming a Climate Smart Community, please visit [climatesmart.ny.gov/](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/) and reach out to the Adirondack North Country Association's clean energy communities coordinators for guidance:

- Nancy Bernstein, [nbernstein@adirondack.org](mailto:nbernstein@adirondack.org)
- Jennifer Perry, [jperry@adirondack.org](mailto:jperry@adirondack.org)
- Matt Price, [mprice@adirondack.org](mailto:mprice@adirondack.org)

Learn more about their projects and initiatives at [www.adirondack.org](https://www.adirondack.org).

In Oneida County, contact the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Amanda Kaier, [akaier@mvedd.org](mailto:akaier@mvedd.org). A video of their informational webinar can be accessed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb2iHEV0ROk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb2iHEV0ROk). More information on their website, [mvedd.org/for-governmental-entities](https://mvedd.org/for-governmental-entities).

In Oswego County, contact the Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board, Chris Carrick, [ccarrick@cnyrpd.org](mailto:ccarrick@cnyrpd.org). More information on their website, [www.cnyenergychallenge.org/nyserda-clean-energy-communities-dr](https://www.cnyenergychallenge.org/nyserda-clean-energy-communities-dr).

## Constable Hall Seeks Executive Director

The Constable Hall Association, Inc., a house museum located in Constableville, NY, is seeking a part-time, seasonal (May through October) executive director to start in August of this year.

The association is a 72-year-old member-based corporation that owns and manages a 22-acre campus which contains a 202-year-old stone mansion, a period garden and two outbuildings from the 1820s as well as an extensive artifact collection. The executive director is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the museum to include giving tours, supervising employees and volunteers, maintaining the interior of the building and artifacts, working with the curator and interacting with the board.

References are required. Please call the office at 315-397-2323, email [constablehall@rocketmail.com](mailto:constablehall@rocketmail.com) or visit Constable Hall's website [constablehall.org](https://constablehall.org) for more information.

## Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium

Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 and 24, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. [Register here](#)

The Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium, hosted by the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM), will be held on June 23 and June 24, 2021. The symposium is a professional exchange of information that provides applicable and timely ways to support invasive species prevention and management initiatives, while also enhancing the health and resiliency of the natural systems that make the St. Lawrence - Eastern Lake Ontario region special. All who are interested are invited to attend this FREE virtual experience via Zoom. Regional and state-wide partners, including staff from NYSDEC's Great Lakes Program, will present on projects and initiatives that are protecting our lands and waters from the impacts of invasive species. For more information and registration, visit: [www.sleloinvasives.org/links-resources/eastern-lake-ontario-symposium-resources/](https://www.sleloinvasives.org/links-resources/eastern-lake-ontario-symposium-resources/).

# Committee on Open Government Offering Virtual Trainings

**Open Meetings Law**, Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kristin O'Neill, Assistant Director of the Committee on Open Government, will present an overview of the statute, followed by questions and answers. Register [here](#).

**Freedom of Information Law**, Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kristin O'Neill will present an overview of the statute, followed by questions and answers. Register [here](#).

Pre-registration is required for both sessions, however, all registrations, up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved. Once the host approves your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session. If you have questions that you believe would be of general interest, please submit them to Ms. O'Neill via e-mail: [kristin.oneill@dos.ny.gov](mailto:kristin.oneill@dos.ny.gov).

## Cornell Local Roads 2021 Summer Topical Tuesday Webinars

**June 15, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Fleet & Equipment Management:** Highway and Public Works Departments manage large fleets of equipment. Having a plan to replace and maintain the fleet is a critical step to managing the department. Join instructor Tim Hunt as he discusses one way to make this process work. [Register Here](#)

**June 22, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Flagging:** Flagging is critical to keeping everyone safe in a work zone. In this webinar you will learn about the critical functions of a flagger and ways to make sure your flaggers keep you safe while working in the right-of-way. [Register Here](#)

**June 29, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: We Are All Responsible for Good Roads:** David will provide a review of what makes good roads from state highways to the lowest volume local road. The session will: Review what makes a good road; Explain the total costs of a highway for the users; Identify low cost solutions applicable for all highways. [Register Here](#)

**July 13, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Intersection Signs and Markings:** Intersections are one of the most critical locations for safety. Having good sign distance with proper signs and markings can go a long way to making all users of the highway safe. In this session, we will review the most critical issues regarding intersections and give you tools to improve safety for all users. [Register Here](#)

**July 20, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: It is never too late to start a budget:** Developing your budget has never been more important. Join instructor Tim Hunt as he covers the basics of developing a budget and how to be ready to present your budget to the board. [Register Here](#)

**July 27, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Intermunicipal Agreements & Shared Services** [Register Here](#)

**August 3, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Off the Rails: Safety Along the Roadside:** To improve driver safety, many agencies turn to guiderail. David will discuss steps that should be reviewed prior to installing rail, how rail works, and the basics of a proper roadside barrier. [Register Here](#)

**August 10, 9:00- 10:00 a.m.: Federal Aid Projects:** Agencies that get federal aid are sometimes blindsided by the requirements in the federal process. There are certain critical steps needed to make a federal aid construction contract work. In this one hour webinar, David will give you some of the basics and help you understand and start on the journey to a successful project using federal dollars. [Register Here](#)

**August 17, 9:00- 10:00 a.m.: Erosion: soils, slopes, mitigation, and maintenance:** Erosion is costly to the environment and to the bottom line. In this session Geoff will discuss erosion issues and ways to mitigate and maintain surfaces prone to erosion. [Register Here](#)

**August 31, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.: Snow and Ice Control Chemicals:** High-quality snow and ice control works best with an understanding of the materials used to provide winter maintenance. In this session, instructor Jim Craw will discuss the various chemicals and how they can be used in solid, liquid, and pre-wetted forms. [Register Here](#)



# Resiliency Workshops for Jefferson, Oswego Counties June 29 and 30

The NYS Department of State is holding public workshops for Lake Ontario communities on its Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative (CLEAR) to help improve coastal resiliency and community planning. While the focus is on communities that include the shore of Lake Ontario, some of the information presented may be relevant to communities with smaller lakes or rivers.

As part of the initiative, local steering committees comprised of local community members, state agency experts and dedicated planning firms have been established. These committees reflect the various interests of the community and provide focused assistance to the State and public in assembling the CLEAR Plans. The first public workshops, which will provide an overview of CLEAR, are taking place as follows:

**St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties**, Tuesday, June 29, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.,  
[www.northcountryclear.com](http://www.northcountryclear.com)

**Cayuga and Oswego Counties**: Wednesday, June 30, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.,  
[www.cnyclear.com](http://www.cnyclear.com)

To learn more about CLEAR, visit [here](#).

## Contact Us

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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](#).

## EPA 2021 GLRI Nonpoint Source Runoff and Nutrient Reduction RFA Announced

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced their Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) request for applications (RFA) to fund projects in the Great Lakes basin aimed at addressing stormwater runoff which carries pollution from the land into water bodies. These projects include innovative ways to reduce nutrients from agricultural runoff and a special consideration for underserved/[environmental justice](#) communities. EPA will award approximately \$9 million in total for roughly 24 projects in three categories: riparian restoration to reduce runoff, addressing legacy phosphorus in agricultural settings, and green infrastructure for shoreline communities.

Applications are due August 20, 2021, with no matching requirements. For more information and application instructions, visit: [www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects#categories](https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects#categories).



Rain garden at Black River village office.