

May 6, 2022

## June 9 Deadline for Local Law and Policy Adoption for Video Conferencing

Amendments were made Open Meetings Law in the final 2022-23 NYS budget. Section 103-a was added to Public Officers Law, which allows members of public bodies to participate in meetings via videoconference from a location that is not accessible to the public, so long as certain conditions are met, including that a majority of the board meets from a publicly accessible location(s). AOT has a very informative guide with a sample local law available on their website at [www.nytowns.org/images/Documents/Announcement/Sample%20Local%20Law%20%20Videoconferencing%20Amendments%20Guide.pdf](http://www.nytowns.org/images/Documents/Announcement/Sample%20Local%20Law%20%20Videoconferencing%20Amendments%20Guide.pdf). Their guide reviews the local law and local policy requirements, allowable reasons to videoconference, quorum requirements, town website and posting requirements, minutes requirements and transcriptions, and public participation.

**This law became effective on April 9, 2022 and will expire in 2024. Towns have 60 days from April 9, 2022 to continue using video conferencing under the current authority granted during the pandemic.**

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## Reminder: Tug Hill Community Recognition Award Nominations Due June 1

The Tug Hill Commission started accepting nominations on April 1 for a second round of community recognitions awards. Last year's recipients were the village of Deferiet and Martinsburg Historical Society. Awardees will be recognized at the commission's 2022 annual dinner, scheduled for Thursday, October 20 at Zero Dock Street in Carthage. A full program description and detailed list of criteria are available at [tughill.org/about/tug-hill-community-recognition-award/](http://tughill.org/about/tug-hill-community-recognition-award/), but overall the award is looking for local governments or groups that have gone above and beyond to implement a project that has made a real impact in their area. A selection committee made up of council of government and commission representatives will review applications and decide on award winners.

Nominations are due by June 1, and should be emailed to Katie Malinowski, [katie@tughill.org](mailto:katie@tughill.org).

## Black River Watershed Conference June 8

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Black River Watershed Conference will be held on Wednesday June 8, 2022 at the Three Willows Event Center, 3950 State Route 12, Lyons Falls, NY. Sign in and continental breakfast begin at 8:00 a.m., with presentations from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **RSVPs are required by May 16, 2022.** Financial support for the conference is provided by the Black River Advisory Council. Information is available at [www.tughill.org/2022-black-river-watershed-conference/](http://www.tughill.org/2022-black-river-watershed-conference/), including a registration form, or by contacting Jennifer Harvill at (315) 785-2380 or emailing [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org).

The annual event is organized by the NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6. The annual Black River Watershed Conference stems from the completion of the Black River Watershed Management Plan in 2010. It is meant to bring together stakeholders in the watershed and provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss issues that face the Black River, as well as how to become better stewards of the Black River. The Black River Watershed includes over 60 communities in Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, and Oneida counties.

# Commission Board Meeting May 16, Turin

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet on Monday, May 16 at the Turin Municipal Building, 6312 East Main Street, Turin from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Remote access will also be offered, by Zoom at [us02web.zoom.us/j/86573052992](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86573052992), or by calling (929) 205-6099, participant code 86573052992.

## RACOG Economic Visioning Summit

The River Area Council of Governments convened a new economic visioning summit for municipalities and businesses at the Zero Dock Street Restaurant & Bar on April 28, 2022.

The topics discussed at the summit included existing and future regional business partnerships, programs, events, downtown stabilization and building reuse, waterfront utilization, ARPA funds and other grants, planning needs, and some of the challenges in the way of community and economic development in the River Area Council of Governments region.

Speakers included a Chamber of Commerce panel with Lewis County Chamber Executive Director Kristen Aucter and Carthage Area Chamber Executive Director Rebecca Wallen; an Economic Development panel with CEO of Jefferson County Economic Development (JCED) David Zembiec; Town of Wilna Community Development Coordinator, Sarah Bullock and Executive Director of Naturally Lewis, Brittany Davis; and a Community Development Panel with Cassandra Buell and Megan Krokowski from Lewis County Planning, Andy Nevin from Jefferson County Planning, and Katie Malinowski from the Tug Hill Commission.

The summit concluded with a SWOT exercise facilitated by Tug Hill Commission staff. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise can help participating community leaders and members articulate their economic and community development needs and potential opportunities within the specific context of their communities.

It is worth noting that the site hosting the conference (Zero Dock Street Restaurant & Bar) is an example of an ongoing business success story. Restoration of fire damage, downtown revitalization, and mixed-use property rehabilitation was a significant source of discussion, and the Zero Dock Street Restaurant & Bar served as a case study of under-utilized properties that were repurposed as a community asset and a source of economic activity.





# Fort Drum's 2021 Economic Impact Approaches \$2 Billion

Advocate Drum, also known as the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO), estimates that the 2021 impact of Fort Drum reached \$1.96 billion in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County. This marks a 7% increase from the previous fiscal year, which was \$1.83 billion. Fort Drum is the largest military installation in the Northeastern United States, and remains the largest single-site employer in New York State.

Annually, Fort Drum releases an Economic Impact Statement that reports its spending from the preceding fiscal year. On its own, however, this report merely accounts for Fort Drum's direct spending; it does not necessarily provide a robust picture of how the military base affects the local economy. The additional economic impact is measured using an IMPLAN-based model developed by the Economic Development Research Group, Inc., Boston MA, which is maintained by the Jefferson County Planning Department. The Planning Department inputs the direct spending data released by Fort Drum into the model and calculates additional economic outputs. This way, the North Country can not only see the direct impacts from Fort Drum (payroll for military and civilian on-post employees), but also indirect impacts (additional off-post jobs and income supported by Fort Drum's purchasing of services and supplies from businesses in the region), and induced impacts (re-spending of wages associated with both indirect and direct jobs).

See the full report [here](#).



## Local Government Conference Feedback Requested

Whether you have attended our LGC in the past or not, we would appreciate your thoughts! This [survey](#) will only take a minute and we will read and consider each response. Your insight truly helps us as we begin to plan for 2023 and beyond. The survey will be open through Thursday, May 12. If you would rather not complete the survey online, please call (315) 785-2380 or email [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org). Thank you!

# 2022 Consolidated Funding Application Now Open

The 2022 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is now open with applications due Friday, July 29, at 4:00 p.m. Please contact the commission if you need assistance linking your projects to possible [available resources](#) in the CFA. Additionally, the 2022 CFA Application Manual is available [here](#).

Some grant opportunities that may be of interest to the Tug Hill community include:

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** See instructions and guidance for CDBG applications [here](#), including a registration link for the CDBG application webinar for Public Infrastructure, Public Facility and Community Planning categories at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 11.

**Environmental Protection Fund Grants for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF):** Up to \$20.875 million for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas. More information [here](#).

**Local Government Efficiency Program:** Up to \$3.6 million to reduce the cost of operations and service delivery, thereby limiting growth in property taxes. Read the request for applications [here](#).

**Local Waterfront Revitalization Program:** Up to \$16 million in matching grants for eligible villages, towns, cities, and counties along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways for planning, design, and construction projects to revitalize communities and waterfronts. Watershed plans are also eligible projects under this program. More information is available [here](#).

**New York Main Street Program:** Up to \$4.2 million for projects providing economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts. More information is available [here](#).

**Market New York Tourism Grant Program:** Up to \$15 million for tourism marketing initiatives, capital/construction projects and the recruitment and/or execution of special events, including meetings, conferences, conventions, festivals, agritourism/craft beverage events, athletic competitions and consumer and industry trade shows. [Click here for more information](#).

**Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program:** Up to \$2 million to advance the preparation of municipal comprehensive plans to establish land use policies which support smart growth and clean energy principles for the community. Read the request for applications [here](#).

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) are also offering funding through the CFA for the following programs:

**Climate Smart Communities Grant Program:** Up to \$14 million for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change on a local level and become certified Climate Smart Communities. See the request for applications [here](#).

**Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program:** Up to \$75 million for local governments and not-for-profits to implement projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. Learn more [here](#).

**DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program:** Up to \$3 million for municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects. Local match is required. Learn more [here](#).

**Green Innovation Grant Program:** up to \$15 million for projects that improve water quality and implement green infrastructure in New York State. Learn more about grants awarded for the four eligible categories of Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, and Environmental Innovation [here](#).

## Hawkinsville Dam Rehabilitation Project

The Hudson River-Black River Regulating District is moving ahead with the long-anticipated rehabilitation of Hawkinsville Dam in the hamlet of Hawkinsville, town of Boonville, Oneida County. The Regulating District's Chief Engineer Robert Foltan recently led potential bidders for the project on a site visit. The Regulating District anticipates, following an award to the successful bidder, construction will begin this summer and be substantially complete by the end of 2022.

# Town & Village Budget & Accounting Technical Assistance Continues

The commission has extended its contract with Laird Petrie in his retirement to provide budgeting and accounting technical assistance to towns and villages belonging to one of the region's five Councils of Governments.

Examples of services Mr. Petrie can provide include:

- Assistance with annual budget preparation, including attendance at budget workshops when requested.
- Assistance with preparation of the Annual Update Document (AUD) required to be filed with OSC each year.
- Training municipal accounting personnel and aid with developing accounting records required by OSC.
- Assistance with multi-year capital plans including establishing, accounting, and reporting for capital reserve funds.
- Assistance with long-term operational plans including the use of various reserve funds authorized by General Municipal Law.
- Assistance with the planning, budgeting and accounting for capital projects including those involving debt and grant funds.
- Assistance to local officials with shared service and government reorganization initiatives (dissolutions, consolidations, etc.).
- Assessment of various internal controls and policies and recommendations to governing boards as to how to effectively safeguard municipal assets.

Interested municipalities should contact Carla Fowler, Community Development Specialist at the Tug Hill Commission, [carla@tughill.org](mailto:carla@tughill.org) or (315) 785-2380 to request assistance.

## Contact Us

### NYS Tug Hill Commission

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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](#).

## Land Acquisition Funding for Source Water Protection

Acquiring lands to protect drinking water sources are eligible projects for [Water Quality Improvement Project \(WQIP\)](#) Program funds. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will provide information about this opportunity during one of two information sessions, both containing the same information to provide greater accessibility.

1. Wednesday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. Register [here](#).
2. Tuesday, May 31 at 1:00 p.m. Register [here](#).

The [WQIP](#) program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that funds projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. It provides funds specifically for [Land Acquisition](#), focusing on acquiring and protecting lands that are critical to safeguard a source of drinking water. To stay up to date on this and other source water related funding, join the [DWSP2 monthly newsletter](#).

