

12th Annual Black River Watershed Conference a Success

June 17, 2022

Over 70 private citizens, professionals, and local leaders convened last week at 3 Willows Event Center in Lyons Falls for the 12th Annual Black River Watershed Conference. The Black River Watershed Conference is part of an ongoing effort developed by the Black River Initiative to involve decision makers, citizens, and additional organizations to come together to learn about research and highlight projects to protect water quality and enhance regional communities. The Black River encompasses over 60 communities in Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida counties. This year's conference included information from county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, a septic replacement program by Lewis County Planning, culvert assessments to benefit both roadways and trout by Trout Unlimited, urban forestry, the Great Lakes Program, funding resources, the Salt Task Force, green infrastructure, Japanese knotweed management, Friends of the Black River projects and goals, agricultural best management practices, water quality monitoring programs, and the Drinking Water Source Protection Program from the NYSDEC and NYS Department of Health.

Photos of the event can be seen on the Tug Hill Commission's Flickr Album: [12th Annual Black River Watershed Conference](#).

Conference presentations and additional resources can be found on the Tug Hill Commission website: [Past Black River Watershed Conference Presentations](#).

For more information about the Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program, and assistance for communities visit: [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\) - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#).

For more information about the Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative and resources for communities visit: [Urban Forest Sustainability – SLELO PRISM \(\[sleloinvasives.org\]\(http://sleloinvasives.org\)\)](#).

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Tom Voss, (Retired NYSDEC) welcomes attendees for the conferences and served as the emcee of the event.



Noreen Gallagher (NYSDEC) and Lindsey Drew (NYSDOH) present on the Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program.



An example of green infrastructure innovation used by a project in Hamilton County, presented by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.



SLELO PRISM, NYSDEC, and Tug Hill Commissioner Gerry Ritter discuss Black River water quality with presenters.

Commission Board Meeting June 21 in Adams

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet Tuesday, June 21 at the Adams Municipal Building, 3 South Main Street, Adams, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Remote access will also be offered, by Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/85692979650, or by calling (929) 205-6099, meeting ID 85692979650 . The public is welcome to attend.

Remote Meetings Extended Through July 14, 2022

On January 14, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022 amending Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 to authorize any public body (as that term is defined by §102(2) of the Open Meetings Law) “to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.”

Chapter 1 takes effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed upon the expiration or termination of the state disaster emergency declared pursuant to Governor Hochul’s Executive Order 11 or any extension or modification thereof. As of the date of this memo, Executive Order 11.2 had extended Executive Order 11 through **July 14, 2022**.

NYCOM has an updated overview of the remote meetings extension and the new law regarding video conferencing policies available on their website at www.nycom.org/images/documents/Open_Meetings_Law_2022_Amendments_-_New_Videoconference_Procedures_-_Remote_Meeting_Authorization_Extension_-_June_14_2022.pdf.

Naturally Lewis Economic Development Conference

Naturally Lewis held its “Shift Back to Rural” Economic Development Conference on June 16 at the 3 Wil-lows Event Center in Lyons Falls. Lewis County Economic Development, through its board, the IDA, and its brand, Naturally Lewis, centered the focus of this conference on the growth of a community where people want to work, build businesses, and play. The themes of living, working, leading, growing, and recreating in Lewis County were recurrent throughout the conference. Naturally Lewis credits a philosophy of forward thinking and relationship building while connecting of people, businesses, partnerships, and resources as critical to growing Lewis County in an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family.



Keynote speaker Christie Andrus-Nakano, CEO of international business The Human Factor, emphasized the possibilities available in Lewis County. Describing the relocation of her life and business to Lewis County from Canada, she emphasized the willingness-to-help, and small-town culture as a key ingredient in “the secret sauce” that makes Lewis County ripe for homegrown growth.

The conference was broken up throughout the day with several panel-based breakout sessions with nationally recognized virtual leadership speakers Mike Bush, CEO of Great Place to Work, Guy Raz, Radio and Podcast Personality, and Todd Henry, Founder of the Accidental Creative. Panelists included local business owners, entrepreneurs, trade and professional association members, and government agencies.

The Friends of the Black River
&
The Lowville Academy and Central School (LACS)
History Department

PRESENT

a Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
RiverFest 2022 Event



DR. JOHN GALLUCCI

Professor of French, Colgate University

THE CASTORLAND JOURNAL

a presentation and discussion with translator
and editor of: *Castorland Journal: An Account
of the Exploration and Settlement of Northern
New York State by French Emigres in the
Years 1793-1797*

WHAT:

An In-Person or Virtual
Presentation and Q & A

WHERE:

LACS High School Auditorium
7668 N State St
Lowville, New York 13367

WHEN:

Thursday, July 28 7:00 p.m. to
8:30 p.m, venue opens at 6:30 p.m.



OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

For more information, please contact the
Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380.

Register by clicking on link below:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CASTORLAND](https://tinyurl.com/castorland)

in collaboration with:

The Lewis County Historical Society;
The Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District;
River Area Council of Governments; & the
NYS Tug Hill Commission

Leasing to Solar Developers Webinar Series

July 12 - This webinar will give participants an overview that prepares them to more beneficially discuss leasing issues with developers and with attorneys who would preferably advise landowners on specific leasing language before a lease is negotiated or signed.

To register: www.bit.ly/solarJuly12

July 26 - This webinar will focus on how to structure and manage the financial, and most importantly, the tax implications of windfall of solar lease income, should it become available to the landowner. We will cover a number of key estate planning, trust structuring, LLC formation, and other multigenerational wealth preservation options.

To register: www.bit.ly/solarJuly26

There are two additional webinars in the series (**announcements to come**):

August 9 - We will discuss agrivoltaics beyond grazing including an overview of practices and business & legal considerations from solar design to solar operation.

August 23 - Is a Q&A session where speakers from the previous 3 webinars will be invited back to answer questions in depth. In addition we will review any changes that have occurred to state solar policy since the previous webinar series (extension.psu.edu/utility-scale-and-community-solar-in-new-york-and-pennsylvania).

Unearthed Turin Water Pipe: The Plumbing Technology of Yore

A piece of history was recently unearthed in Turin, Lewis County. While working to locate and replace the village's existing water main along Route 26, crewmen from Shue Brothers were halted in their digging by a hard wooden artifact. While the initial discovery was not the water main they were searching for, the wooden pipe is believed to have served as the village's water main potentially as far back as the pre-Civil War era.

While it is difficult to determine an exact date for the Turin pipe installation, the village was founded at the turn of the 19th century, and wooden water mains were a common method of providing running water into early municipalities. In the absence of precise dating, Mayor Josh Leviker estimates that the pipe could be from the [early-to-mid 1800s](#). Elm and hemlock were common materials for wooden mains, and they were often bored manually, sometimes with the help of fire to burn the heartwood.

Wooden mains may seem underwhelming, until you consider how they paved the way for the modern conveniences. Historically, structures dedicated to ferrying in fresh water and removing wastewater were crucial to the development of communities, especially in growing towns and cities. Without it, acquisition of water from streams or pumps would be more arduous, especially in winter. There is evidence as far back as Ancient Egypt of copper pipes being used to provide indoor plumbing for royalty and sometimes augmenting irrigation. The Romans were known for their massive aqueduct structures, but they also used pipes made from lead to bring water to communities. In fact, the origin of the word "plumbing" comes from the Latin *plumbus*, meaning lead, though water pipes were also often made from ceramic and wood. Centuries later, wooden mains became the most popular medium for running water in Europe and the United States, particularly among the well-to-do.

Today, most homes have water heaters, faucets with adjustable temperature, running toilets, showerheads, and so on, but indoor plumbing is a widespread convenience from the modern era. In parts of New York State, faucets with running water in individual homes were less common until the 20th century. There are, however, [some notable examples](#) like the LeRay Mansion (rebuilt 1826-1827) in Jefferson County that had wooden mains for personal use, precisely like the one located in Turin.

The presence of the water main was previously unknown. Remarkably, the old infrastructure had neither disturbed – or been disturbed by – Route 26, nor came to light even when the new main was placed. The crew was able to excavate the wooden main intact, and village officials say that the artifact will be on display in the Turin Municipal Building.



Photo Credit: Josh Leviker, Mayor of Turin

Cornell Local Roads Program Summer Webinars

All online webinars and virtual workshops are worth [Road Master](#) credit based on the length of the session.

Join Cornell Local Roads for a new, ongoing series of free **foundational webinars** focused on the important principles key to local highway agency operations and management. Focusing on *why* we do what we do - “Why do we put three signs in advance of a work zone?” each webinar offers a convenient way to learn the basics of a particular topic. Taken together, they cover the foundation of local highway issues.

Many webinars will be repeated yearly or every other year to give attendees the opportunity to attend the full series. Below is a listing of the current plan of webinars or find them at cals.cornell.edu/nysltap-local-roads/training-events/webinars-online-training. Foundational webinars are held most Tuesdays in the late fall, winter, and summer from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. EST. Click the topics below to register

Summer 2022 NYSLTAP-CLRP Foundational Webinars

June 14	Asset Management *
June 21	Grants, State Aid, Federal Aid, and other sources of Revenue
July 12	Emergency Preparedness
July 19	Ethics *
July 26	Alignment & Intersections *
August 2	Communication Tools
August 9	Gravel and Base Materials *
August 16	Managing the Fleet
August 23	Snow & Ice Overview *

* Anticipated to be worth 1 PDH for engineering continuing education.

Lewis County Community Choice Aggregation Survey

Lewis County has prepared a short survey to gauge the public’s interest for municipalities to offer Community Choice Aggregation.

Community Choice Aggregation enables municipalities to pool local energy demand together at a large enough scale to dictate and negotiate more favorable terms, decrease electricity costs, choose clean energy, increase consumer protection, and reap the benefits of solar or other renewables to the entire county.

Survey link: [qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NESaBL5H54qbNc?](https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NESaBL5H54qbNc?fbclid=IwAR3gMh5XY7naS8A23Sy_a5Tqcex1cBOSgZX6QfNFaS5fk4C-MvLhVl1rXak)
[fbclid=IwAR3gMh5XY7naS8A23Sy_a5Tqcex1cBOSgZX6QfNFaS5fk4C-MvLhVl1rXak](https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NESaBL5H54qbNc?fbclid=IwAR3gMh5XY7naS8A23Sy_a5Tqcex1cBOSgZX6QfNFaS5fk4C-MvLhVl1rXak)

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

