

July 15, 2022

North Shore, Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Hold Joint Meeting

The North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments (COGs) held a joint meeting on Thursday, July 7 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. In a departure from recent past practice, the boards decided to try the dinner meeting format, a method which has been used successfully by other Tug Hill councils of governments, but had not been recently used by North Shore and Salmon Rivers.

The boards convened for a social half-hour, followed by dinner. The meeting included conducting routine business, and there were several speakers. Dave Turner, Oswego County director of community development and planning, and director of strategic initiatives, and Ellen Holst, president of the board of directors of Operation Oswego County, the county's industrial development agency, spoke on economic development initiatives by Oswego County, and Katie Malinowski, executive director, updated the COGs on the state of the Tug Hill Commission and upcoming commission plans.

The meeting was a success; the two COGs will hold another joint meeting with the dinner format in Fall 2022. They will consider speakers for future meetings as opportunities are presented.



Dave Turner addresses members of North Shore and Salmon River Council of Governments

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ISSUE PAPER SERIES

Short-Term Rentals

July 2022



NEW YORK STATE TUG HILL COMMISSION

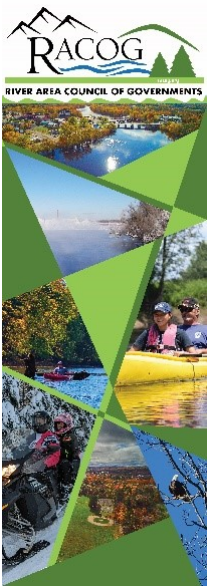
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New Short-Term Property Rental Issue Paper

The commission has just released a new issue paper on [Regulating Short-term Rentals](#). Short-term rentals are rentals of residential properties for periods of usually less than 30 days. The north country has seen a dramatic increase in this land use trend over the last decade, due mostly to the ease of advertising and booking over the internet through services such as Airbnb and Vrbo. These rentals can bring great benefits to communities and to homeowners, but can have some negative impacts if not properly planned and regulated. The paper is available on our website.

The Tug Hill Commission's Technical Papers and Issue Papers are written to help local officials and citizens in the Tug Hill region and other rural parts of New York State. Technical papers provide guidance on procedures based on questions frequently received by the commission. Issue papers provide background on key issues facing the region without taking advocacy positions. Other papers are available from the Tug Hill Commission. Please call us or visit our website for more information.





New RACOG Display Banner and Promotional Video

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) has a new display banner thanks to the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Howard G. Technical Center visual communication's class. Emily Stinebricker, BOCES student, designed the banner, which will be used for various events and be part of promoting the river area region and member communities.

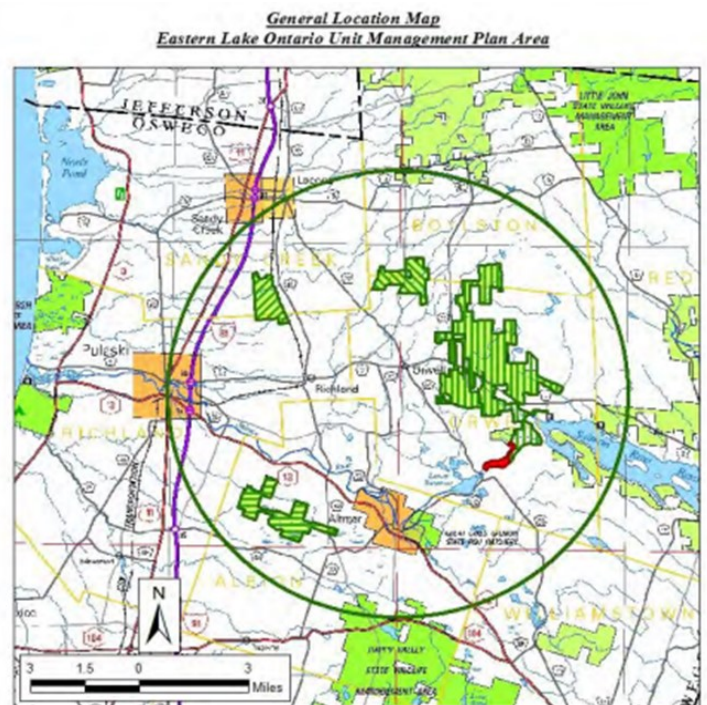
RACOG has also signed an agreement with CGI, a company that develops promotional videos for municipalities, to develop a video for the RACOG region. There will be no cost to the municipalities, as CGI works separately with local businesses to help sponsor the video page.

Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan Finalized

The approved and final Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan (UMP) is available at: [Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan](#). Included in this management plan are Altmar State Forest, Chateaugay State Forest, Sandy Creek State Forest, and Trout Brook State Forest. The plan, which covers the next ten years of state forest management in the area, involved public feedback, and balances natural resources protection with sustainable recreational opportunities.

The Eastern Lake Ontario UMP forests are located in Albion, Boylston, Orwell, Richland, and Sandy Creek in Oswego County. This state forest unit covers 6,201 acres and identified the following goals:

- Goal 1: Provide Healthy and Biologically Diverse Forest Ecosystems
- Goal 2: Maintain Man-Made State Forest Assets
- Goal 3: Provide Recreational Opportunities for People of All Ages and Abilities
- Goal 4: Provide Economic Benefits to the People of the State
- Goal 5: Provide a Legal Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of State Forests



To accomplish those goals, the unit management plan has come up with priority projects and initiatives including:

- Increase early successional habitat for 66 acres to benefit wildlife species: American woodcock, brown thrasher, Canada warbler, ruffed grouse and willow flycatcher
- Safeguard the HCVF Village of Orwell Municipal Water Supply Watershed portion on Chateaugay State Forest protection area that is part of the Town of Orwell's potable water source
- Improve brook trout habitat
- Maintain and improve 3.2 miles of snowmobile trails, and 6.6 miles of cross country/foot trails
- Designate 0.5 miles in Trout Brook State Forest for motorized use of for people with disabilities available by permit
- Three timber stands have been identified to produce maple syrup, adding to the economic benefit of the region

There are additional unit management plans that need your input in the Tug Hill Region. The NYSDEC is seeking public comment to the draft Fish Creek Unit Management plan. Comments are accepted until July 31. The Fish Creek draft plan can be found at: [Recreation and Unit Management Plans - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#).

Regulatory Changes Proposed to 480a

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced proposed changes to the implementing regulations for Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, also known as the Forest Tax Law. The goal of overhauling these nearly 50-year-old regulations is to lessen the administrative burden on participating forest landowners, help DEC promote compliance with requirements in place, and maintain and improve sustainable timber management on enrolled lands.

"The Forest Tax Law Program provides private forest landowners a significant real property tax reduction on enrolled forest lands in exchange for managing their timber resource for the long-term with the support of professional foresters," said Commissioner Seggos. "Privately owned forests make up to 74 percent of the total forest land area in New York, and healthy, well-managed forests are essential for supporting our economy, protecting water and air quality, providing wildlife habitat, and improving forest carbon storage and sequestration, supporting the State's climate efforts."

NY enacted the 480a forest tax law in 1974 to encourage the long-term management of woodlands to produce forest crops and encourage a more stable forest economy. Nearly 1.4 million acres owned by approximately 4,000 private forest land are currently enrolled in the Forest Tax Law program.

Prior to developing these new regulatory proposals, DEC Lands and Forests staff held 10 meetings across the state with stakeholders to discuss proposed changes to 480a that would increase compliance, reduce administrative burdens to landowners and DEC, and improve forestry outcomes. The feedback resulted in proposed changes meant to benefit both participating landowners and assist DEC in the administration of the program by enhancing standardization and will help improve compliance. They would not alter the annual tax benefit, stumpage tax, commitment period, or penalties for non-compliance.

The proposed changes include:

- Extending the period an approved forest management plan would cover from 15 years to 20 years and requiring fewer plan updates;
- Providing more flexibility to enrolled landowners to complete forestry treatments by changing the work schedule from year-by-year deadlines to a 10-year work window;
- Strengthening forest sustainability requirements on enrolled lands, such as explicitly banning high grading and requiring efforts to establish adequate forest regeneration. High grading involves removing most of the commercially valuable trees at the expense of future growth and future financial return, often leaving a forest in poor condition; and
- Establishing a training requirement for consulting foresters working with Forest Tax Law clients to help set clear expectations and standardize Forest Tax Law administration across the state.

The proposed changes would go into effect on March 1, 2023.

DEC is holding two virtual public comment hearings on Sept. 13, and will be accepting public comments through Sept. 19. The public is encouraged to submit comments in writing to: NYSDEC Private Lands and Forest Utilization Section, Bureau of Forest Resource Management 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7254 or by email to: bslmregs@dec.ny.gov. The virtual public comment hearings will be held on Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. For more information about the new and revised regulations, as well as how to participate in the public comment hearings, visit DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/125735.html.

Visit Our Display at the County Fair

Starting this week, the Tug Hill Commission will have a booth at the Jefferson, Lewis, and Oswego County fairs, as well as the Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, over the course of the summer. Please stop by and say hello if you're visiting the fair, to grab a copy of the updated Tug Hill Recreation Guide, spin the trivia wheel and test your local knowledge, fill out a coloring sheet with your kiddos, and have a chat with commission staff.

- ◇ Jefferson County: July 12 –17 ◇ Lewis County: July 19 - 23,
◇ Oswego County: August 17 - 21 ◇ Woodmen Field Days: August 19 - 21

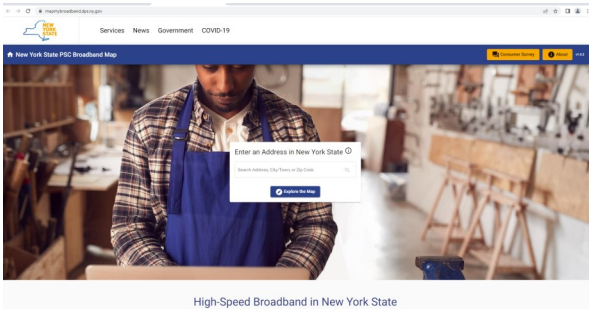


Public Service Commission Releases Broadband Map

The New York State Public Service Commission released an [interactive broadband map](#) to provide the most detailed depiction of broadband infrastructure in New York to date. The map is an interactive tool for exploring the "level of service" for a given location, as well as assessing potential broadband providers on a per-address basis.

Everyone is encouraged to use the feedback function in the map to notify the Public Service Commission of inaccuracies and/or other general feedback for how the map can be improved in the future. The map is intended to depict the current scope of the state's broadband infrastructure and, therefore, does not include projects currently under construction or future planned infrastructure buildouts.

The new map will allow individual New Yorkers and policymakers to analyze a more accurate representation of which locations are served, underserved or unserved. The commission found that 97.4% of address locations are served by high-speed broadband service providers. The map demonstrates that high-speed broadband services remain unavailable to many New Yorkers in predominately rural areas, including Hamilton County, and Lewis County, which are 70.2% and 73% served, respectively. Furthermore, it shows that counties with the lowest median income were found to have the highest average prices for broadband and the lowest percentage of served locations.

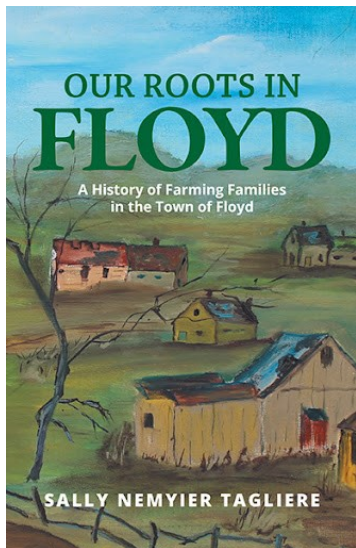


Venerable Folks of Tug Hill at Constable Hall

This free public exhibit will be on display at Constable Hall for two weeks from the afternoon of Friday, July 15 through Friday, July 29. It features portrait paintings by local artist, Loretta Lepkowski, along with theme panels documenting folks and their stories who exemplify the traditions and spirit of Tug Hill. John P. Constable, Jr., the fifth generation of the Constables that resided at Constable Hall, is one of the 22 people featured in this display. They represent the resourceful and hardy people of the Tug Hill region: the farmers, loggers, mill workers, doctors, teachers, artists, musicians who contributed to their communities in so many ways; serving on local town boards, in schools, libraries, churches, government, and other organizations. These people carry on traditions of hunting camps, old tyme fiddling, antique collecting, food and dance festivals that celebrate their heritages to pass on to the next generation.

This collaborative project included a partnership between artist, Loretta Lepkowski, the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Tug Hill Commission, and Traditional Arts of Upstate New York. Multiple sources of funding and the willingness of the subject families to participate helped to create this exhibit. We encourage you to come and enjoy this free educational exhibit at Constable Hall. While you are there take time to stroll on the beautiful grounds, the historical garden, and take a tour of the Hall that was completed in 1819 with much of the original furnishings. Visit [Constable Hall](#) website or call the office at 315-397-2323 for more information about this event and others at Constable Hall, 5909 John St., Constableville, NY 13325.

Floyd Town Historian Publishes Our Roots in Floyd



The town of Floyd was first settled in the mid 1700's, when Native Americans still lived in and near the area. Imagine a time when there was no established monetary system and most trade was done in the form of bartering. People made their living by farming, hunting, trading, or any combination of these. These remarkable people not only survived but flourished under the untamed rustic conditions. Some settlers moved on to other towns and states, but many stayed and became the ancestors of many current day Floyd residents. Some of these remaining descendants were kind enough to share their family histories. Their legacy, along with a patchwork of records and legal documents are curated and compiled in Our Roots in Floyd.

Sally Nemyier Tagliere, a lifelong Floyd resident, has served as Town Historian since 2017. Her first job as historian was to ensure that the work of former town historian, the late Edwin Evans, was completed. This involved getting his history of Floyd published. Since then, she has devoted her work to the compiling of facts needed to write Our Roots in Floyd. Sally and her husband, Richard, live in the hamlet of Camroden. Our Roots in Floyd, published by Friesen Press, is available at multiple retailers online, as well as the town of Floyd municipal offices

Remote Meetings Extended Through August 13, 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 today, Executive Order 11.2 had extended Executive Order 11 through **August 13, 2022**.

American Farmland Trust Release New Report

American Farmland Trust (AFT) recently released a new report, ***Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future***. The report recommends that smart growth and investment in New York downtowns and main streets occur now to secure the land that grows our food.

AFT’s Farms Under Threat research anticipates that by 2040, as many as 452,009 acres of farmland, (or approximately 5% of New York’s farmland) may be lost to urban and low-density conversion across the state. In a worst-case scenario of runaway sprawl, New York could lose as much as 642,149 acres of farmland. This loss will disproportionately impact the region’s most productive, versatile land, threaten the future for small and peri-urban farms and limit opportunities for new and beginning farmers.

Furthermore, by 2040, 448 acres of New York farmland could be affected by rising seas due to climate change, based on mid-range sea level rise predictions and elevation.

Register for August 1, 2022 New York State Webinar [here](#) .

Restore New York Round 6 Launched

The Round 6 Restore New York Communities Initiative (“Restore NY”) was launched on July 11, 2022 with \$250 million available for municipal applicants in two offerings. The first installment of applications competing for \$100 million are due October 11, with the **required Intent to Apply form due on August 11**. The second opportunity to compete for \$150 million will launch October 11. Applications will be accepted through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) electronic platform.

Restore NY provides municipalities with financial assistance for the revitalization of commercial and residential properties. The program encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures that market forces will not fix. Restore NY funding is available for projects involving the demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties. Projects must have at least 10% in cash or in-kind matching funds.

Applicants must be initiated by municipalities, demonstrate at least a 10% match, and hold a public hearing to discuss the application and the property assessment list. Ineligible activities include redevelopment of properties for municipal use, such as local government facilities; projects at locations classified as greenfields; and property acquisition.

Applications are initially evaluated at the regional level and are scored against specific guidelines and how strongly they meet the program goals of 1) inducing commercial investment and 2) improving the local housing stock. Priority is given to projects in Empire Zones and Brownfield Opportunity Areas, as well as to projects that leverage other state or federal redevelopment, remediation, or planning programs. There is also a strong emphasis placed on projects from economically distressed communities. For more information, please review the [Restore NY Round 6 Guidelines](#) and/or contact your regional [Empire State Development office](#).

OSC Government Accounting Schools Classes

Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Basic): This on-line, multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with the basic concepts of governmental accounting. The program will give a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping procedures such as understanding debits and credits, a discussion of the modified accrual system of accounting, the practice of maintaining the books and records, developing and accounting for the annual budget, as well as the year-end closing process. This school is recommended for individuals with some accounting experience but are newcomers to governmental accounting in New York. It will benefit Chief Executive Officers, Chief Fiscal Officers, Comptrollers, Treasurers, Clerks, and Accounting Personnel.

Slots are currently available for two upcoming sessions: September 28 - 30, 2022 and October 25 - 27, 2022. Cost is \$85 for government employees and \$170 for all others.

Accounting Principles and Procedures (Advanced): This multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with accounting and financial reporting requirements for local governments in New York. The course provides guidance on certain operational issues, such as cash management, purchasing, processing claims for payment, accounting for capital projects and utilizing reserve funds. It is recommended as a good follow-up to our Introduction course, although attending the Introduction is not a prerequisite. It will benefit Chief Executive Officers, Chief Fiscal Officers, Comptrollers, Treasurers, Clerks, Accounting Personnel, Board Members and Department Heads.

Slots are currently available for two upcoming sessions: October 12 - 13, 2022 and November 15 - 16, 2022. Cost is \$85 for government employees and \$170 for all others.

A good resource for local officials is also [The Academy for New York State's Local Officials | Office of the New York State Comptroller](#).

Contact Us

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1-888-785-2380.

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

State Water Grants Available

\$225 million in grants for critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects through the [Water Infrastructure Improvement \(WIIA\)](#) and [Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant \(IMG\)](#) programs are available with a deadline to apply of September 9, 2022.

[Grant Summary \(PDF\)](#)

[WIIA/IMG FAQs](#)

Local units of governments are invited to apply for:

- WIIA grant awards that will fund up to 25% of an eligible wastewater project's total cost, up to \$25 million.
- WIIA grant awards that will fund 60% of net eligible project costs for projects that address emerging contaminants above the State determined Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), with no cap on the total award.
- WIIA grant awards for all other drinking water projects will be awarded up to 60% of net project costs up to a maximum of \$5 million.
- IMG awards that will fund up to 40% of an eligible wastewater or drinking water project for communities that share services, up to \$30 million.

EFC is now using an online application for WIIA & IMG. **The deadline to apply is September 9 by 5:00 p.m.** The application instructions below can help guide you through each section. The digital signature PDF form that is available below must be signed by the highest elected official or the authorized representative for the applicant and submitted via the online application.

[Online Application](#)

[Application Instructions \(PDF\)](#)

[Signature Form \(PDF\)](#)

There will be two opportunities to learn more about the WIIA/IMG grants and how to use the new online application at webinars scheduled on July 21 at 11:00 a.m. and August 16 at 2:00 p.m. Register at the links below.

[Register for the July 21 Webinar](#)

[Register for the August 16 Webinar](#)

If you have questions, please e-mail NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov or call 518-402-6924.