

Early Registration for LGC Due by March 3!

Drones: Transforming Work, Play, and Economies
Turning Stone Conference Center, 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478
Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
followed by Reception and Mixer (cash bar) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.



The Genesis Group Drone Education Program and Tug Hill Commission are co-hosting an afternoon learning session about unmanned aerial systems, commonly referred to as drones – their commercial and governmental uses and more. This information-packed afternoon includes a keynote by **NUAIR CEO Kenneth Stewart** on the work of the UAS test site; an overview of FAA rules for commercial pilots and drone hobbyists; informational demonstrations; and hands-on opportunities. Central and Northern NY are at the epicenter of drone research and applications, with significant facilities and/or activities in Rome, Syracuse, and Fort Drum.

Registration is \$75 due by March 3 and includes a reception and mixer (cash bar), and the chance to win a mini-drone. Registration information (either via credit card or check) is available at tughill.org/lgc2023/.

32nd Annual Local Government Conference
Turning Stone Conference Center, 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478
Thursday, April 6, 2023, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The full-day conference offers participants dozens of sessions of interest to government officials. Fiscal and asset management, policies and procedures for local governments, legal matters, emergency services, property assessment, planning, zoning, and land use, and the nuts and bolts of managing any governmental entity – are just a few of the topics to be presented by experts from across New York State. Click [here](#) for a full description of sessions. Registration is \$85 due by March 3.

“Snow Ridge: Through the Years” Well-Attended

The Tug Hill Commission and Snow Ridge Ski Resort successfully hosted its first history presentation of the year on January 29: “Snow Ridge: Through the Years.” With the help of the Turin Library, the Tavern 230 was transformed into a mini history museum for the day. Displays included skis from every decade starting at the 1900s, ski patrol jackets, instructor apparel and photos, Oneida Silversmith trophies, historic fliers, black-and-white photo slideshows, and more. Speakers Nancy Grisham (nee Williams), Jerry Britton, Bronny Davis, Tom Smith, and Nick Mir walked the audience through the history of Snow Ridge from its opening in December 1945 and into the modern day.

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From left to right: Nick Mir, Tom Smith, Taylor McKinney, Bronny Davis, Jerry Britton, Nancy Grisham.

Around 150 people joined the presentation online, and around 70 people were gathered in the dining area of the tavern. Registrants hailed from all over the United States and Canada, with some audience members listening all the way from Switzerland.

NYS Tug Hill Commissioner, Roger Maciejko, donated a pair of his mid-1900s model skis that belonged to Lawton Williams, who was Nancy Grisham’s father and one of the founders of the Snow Ridge Ski Resort. If you missed the event, or would like to re-visit the presentation, the slideshow materials and link to the YouTube video recording can be found [here](#).

COG Leaders Meet with Commission Chairman and Staff

Leadership from the Tug Hill region's five councils of governments met with the commission chairman, directors and circuit riders on January 30 in Lorraine. The working lunch is organized annually to share information about priorities and projects, and brainstorm new ideas. It is one of the many ways the Tug Hill Commission follows its grassroots approach to foster environmental protection and appropriate rural economic development in a way that retains "home rule" by local governments. The commission provides local assistance to the region's towns and villages and helps them with their day-to-day issues. This, in turn, leverages conservation and sustainable development that benefits the communities and state as a whole.

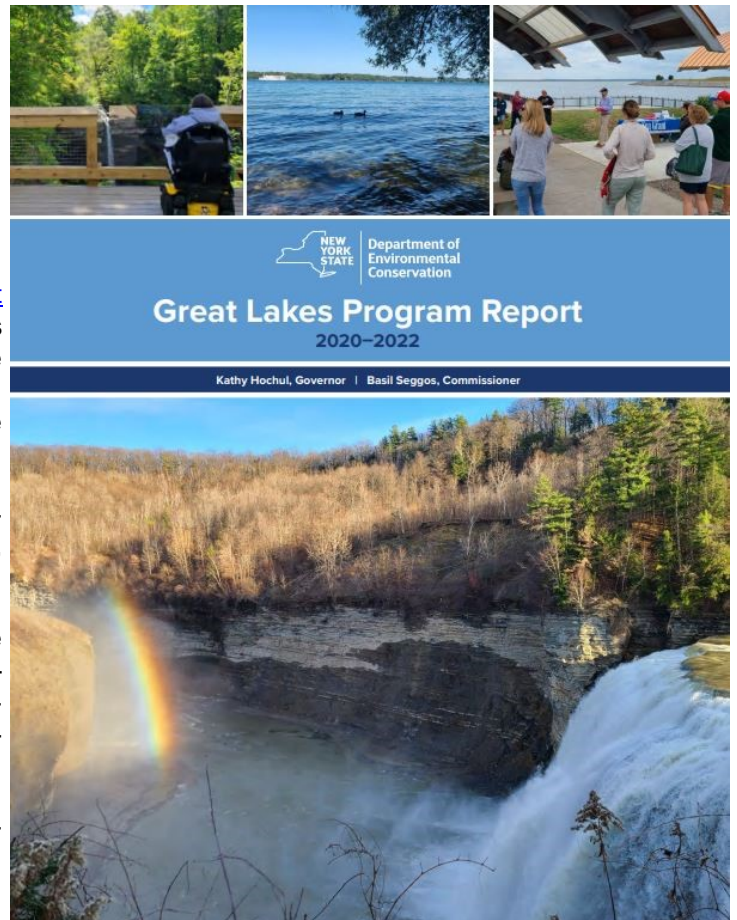
Attendees included River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) Chairman Brian Peck; Salmon Rivers Council of Governments Chairman Bill Potter; NOCCOG Chairman Bob Sauer; North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) Chairman Rip Colesante; Tug Hill Commission Chairman Jan Boganowicz and staff Executive Director Katie Malinowski; RACOG Circuit Rider Mickey Dietrich; Projects Director Jen Harvill; Cooperative Tug Hill Council Circuit Rider Angie Kimball; Planning Director Matt Johnson; Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) Circuit Rider John Healt; Not pictured, NorCOG/Salmon Rivers Circuit Rider Paul Baxter.



Great Lakes Program Report 2020-2022 Includes Accomplishments in the Tug Hill Region

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation recently released the biannual [Great Lakes Program Report 2020-2022](#), highlighting important efforts within New York's Great Lakes to build community resilience to flooding, restore and connect healthy ecosystems, promote environmental justice, and educate the next generation. Within the Tug Hill region, the report highlights significant achievements, including:

- Modeling engagement with stakeholders to implement watershed management plans within the Black River Initiative, in partnership with the Tug Hill Commission.
- Advancing aquatic connectivity in coordination with the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative- NY working group by providing training, promoting funding, supporting culvert assessments and implementing culvert right sizing demonstration projects.
- Completing Resilient NY Stream Studies in flood prone areas, including Fish Creek.



Abandoned Cemeteries Paper Updated

Several updates were recently made to the *Abandoned Cemeteries and Municipal Responsibilities* paper which can be found on the commission's website at tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/.

The cemeteries paper updates were done in close collaboration with attorney David Fleming, Jr, Chief Operating Officer of the Albany law firm Featherstonhaugh, Wiley & Clyne, LLP. David has served eight terms as a town supervisor, one term as a deputy supervisor, and is the cemeterian responsible for three formally abandoned town cemeteries. He has represented cemeteries and towns for 28 years and has served as a consultant to some of New York State's smallest cemeteries as well as some of the nation's most famous burial grounds. During the pandemic of 2020, he was an emergency management resource to state and national organizations in death care planning and response. The paper details significant new regulations put in place in 2022 related to cemetery abandonment, and a recent new law intended to prevent cemetery abandonment. Look for a workshop with Mr. Fleming sometime later this year.



Jefferson County Submits Restore NY Grant to Improve Deferiet's Old Mill Site

Commission staff recently assisted Jefferson County to submit a Restore NY Round 7 application for the "Reinvent Deferiet Initiative: Mill Site Demolition Project." The application, if funded, will provide funds to complete demolition and waste removal of the century old, abandoned former St. Regis paper mill facility in the village of Deferiet and town of Wilna. The site includes 192-acres of land, and 15 buildings, ancillary structures, foundations, and debris piles.

The mill permanently closed in 2004, was purchased by a developer in 2005, and was then heavily salvaged for scrap metal. A 2010 Architectural and Environmental Study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers for Fort Drum concluded that none of the mill buildings were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, individually or as a historic district.

Amid tax delinquency, liability concerns, and the extent of demolition activities required, there has been no private party able to successfully return the site to productive use. However, a new partnership that includes the village of Deferiet, the town of Wilna, Jefferson County IDA, Jefferson County, the Tug Hill Commission, NYS Department of State (DOS), and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is working to study and address existing site conditions with the goal to create multiple community-informed projects involving renewable energy, light-industrial/commercial redevelopment, and restoration of habitat.

Other programs are part of the same effort. The NYSERDA Build-Ready program is assessing part of the site for solar development. Also, Wilna is working with stakeholders as it begins a DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Study for the site. An application to the National Grid Brownfield Redevelopment program is pending.

If successful, Jefferson County's Restore NY award could provide up to \$10.5 million toward the project.

Records Management Grants Due March 1

The Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) provides grants to local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program, awarding grants based on the merits of applications.

Visit the following link for more information: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/lgrmif-grants>.

Webinar | Knowledge Transfer:

How to make sure you know what you don't know when you experience staffing changes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Online via Zoom | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM EST

When employees leave their positions, they take with them all of the experience and knowledge that may have been essential to the work they did, and critical to your organization, community, and current and future employees. If that knowledge is lost, it can undermine organizational capacity, and cause disruptions in services and performance.

In this webinar, we will share examples of the impact of when knowledge transfer goals were not met, examples of ways to prevent too much knowledge loss, and will discuss completing a **Position Knowledge Inventory**. This allows organizations to get an idea of the knowledge and responsibilities required to fulfill all current positions in order to seamlessly transfer key information to future employees.

Register Online via Zoom

Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)

Wastewater & Drinking Water Infrastructure Workshop

Is your community looking for funds for clean water infrastructure such as wastewater and sewer projects and drinking water projects?

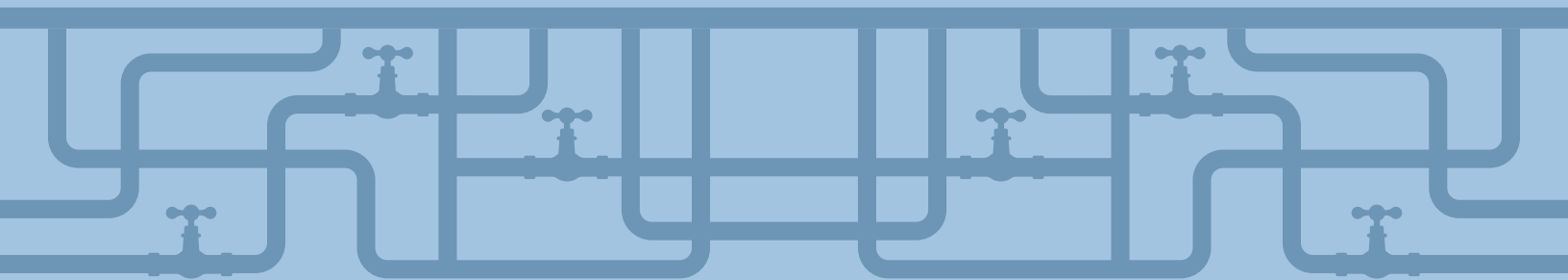
Tuesday, February 28th 1-3 PM

Herkimer College
Robert McLaughlin College Center
100 Reservoir Road Herkimer, NY 13350
RSVP to info@mvedd.org

Or Via Zoom [Register Here](#)



Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc can offer technical assistance to municipalities who are interested in pursuing these funds but looking for application guidance. In order to take advantage of these historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds, your project must be listed on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the State Revolving Funds within the next year or two.



DEC Grant Funding Webinar March 1

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding an on-line webinar Wednesday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. DEC will share information on successful strategies to access and manage grant funding, and highlight approaches that municipalities of various sizes have used to secure funding. Municipalities will share information such as how they access grant funds, what barriers they have had to overcome, lessons learned, the skill sets needed, and who are the key players necessary to successfully apply for grants.

Click [here](#) to register.



Preserve New York Grants are Now Available!

Preserve New York (PNY) grants provide support to eligible municipalities and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations for projects that identify, document, and preserve New York's cultural and historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. PNY helps fund preservation planning projects: historic structure reports, condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys. Grants are likely to range between \$5,000 and \$14,000 and the program requires that each applicant contribute at least 20% of the project cost as a cash match.

All interested applicants must submit a pre-application to receive a full application form. [Review grant guidelines and submit your pre-application on the PNY website.](#)

Please [click here to review the updated 2023 PNY guidelines before](#) submitting your pre-application.

Pre-applications are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, March 24. Applications for the 2023 PNY grant cycle are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, March 31.

[Check the Preserve New York website for the schedule of grant webinars and drop-in help sessions!](#)

Free grant webinars, workshops, and online help sessions will take place in the weeks leading up to the grant deadline. Register to attend at www.preservenys.org/preserve-new-york. For further questions, contact Janna Rudler, Grants and Technical Services Manager, (518) 462 – 5658 x10 or jrudler@preservenys.org. For a list of previously awarded PNY projects, visit www.preservenys.org/pny-recipients.



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust – New Location

The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust has moved. Staff and volunteers helped move its office to the Barton & Loguidice building at 120 Washington Street in Watertown. In doing so, the land trust also gained some new corporate sponsors - Jake Johnson Properties and Northern Credit Union who, through their generosity helped make this move achievable. The land trust will be holding an open house in the very near future.

Contact Us

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To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

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