

Commission Meets in Constantia

The Tug Hill Commission board met at the Constantia Town Hall on Monday, May 15. The meeting included a review of the 2023 Local Government Conference survey results; discussion about options for the 2024 Local Government Conference; approval of 2023-24 contracts for Lee Willbanks, commission counsel, and Laird Petrie, municipal budgeting assistance provider; review of materials related to the upcoming Tug Hill Sage Class of 2023 nomination period; and review of various activities in the region.

The next Tug Hill Commission meeting will be held on Monday, June 26 in the village of Castorland Community Room.



Tug Hill Commission board members from right: Roger Maciejko, Mike Yerdon, Jan Bogdanowicz, Tom Boxberger, Leona Cheresnoski, and Katie Malinowski, commission executive director.

Camden Holds SWOTs for Comprehensive Plan Update

The town of Camden planning board held two “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats” (SWOT) sessions this week as part of its comprehensive plan update. The first session, on Monday, May 15, led by Tug Hill staff Matt Johnson, Matthew Smith, and Gabriel Yerdon, targeted the input from local Camden business owners. Approximately 20 business leaders attended and offered their thoughts on what should be included in the comprehensive plan. The second session, on Thursday, May 18, led by Tug Hill staff Jennifer Harvill, Matthew Smith, and Taylor McKinney, was for the general public to come and give their input. There were six in attendance at the session.



Attendees from Monday, May 15 session, facilitated by Matthew Smith, Tug Hill Commission planner.

A SWOT is a type of visioning exercise which helps gather thoughts and opinions about the town’s future. All comments will be compiled into a summary for the planning board to review. Any relevant questions or concerns heard at the SWOTs will be incorporated into a community survey to be sent out in the coming weeks.

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SAVE THE DATE

Tug Hill Commission 50th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Tailwater Lodge

More Details to Follow!

Highway Departments and Town Budgets Workshop May 30

NOTE DATE CHANGE

It's not too late to register for the "Highway Departments and Town Budgets" workshop with Laird Petrie on **Tuesday, May 30** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Adams Municipal Building, 3 South Main St., Adams. Call the office at 315-785-2380 or email tughill@tughill.org to register for this free training opportunity.

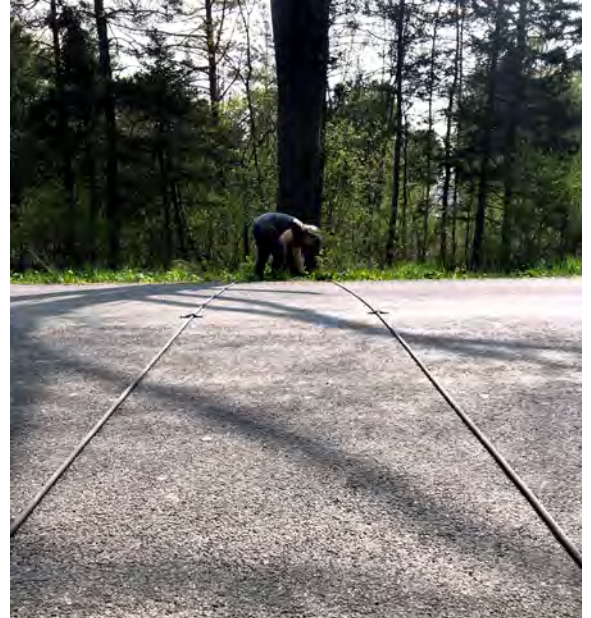
MetroCount Traffic Counting System Available to Municipalities Free of Charge

The NYS Tug Hill Commission has obtained a MetroCount MC5900 Series Roadside Unit with related software for computer desktop analysis.

Deployment and analysis of traffic data is available for any municipality in the Tug Hill region and its councils of government, free of charge.

The MetroCount system collects data on vehicle speed, class, direction, flow, spacing, etc. These metrics can be compiled into reports, summaries, and graphs. Commission staff will set-up the equipment for one week and retrieve it from a municipality specified location.

Please fill out the sign-up form [here](#) if your highway department is interested in commission staff facilitating the collection of road data to produce vehicle and traffic data reports. The sign-up form includes a full list of the data and reports available to municipalities. Please contact Gabriel Yerdon with any questions: gabriel@tughill.org, 315-785-2387.



Road tubes installed across the road collect data for traffic counts.

North Shore Council of Government Meetings

The North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) have had a busy and productive May, meeting on Wednesday, May 3 at the West Monroe town hall and Thursday, May 4 at the West Monroe fire station.

The May 3 meeting had three major topics – continued evaluation of the impacts of the Micron plant development in neighboring Onondaga County, options for an economic development study for the NorCOG communities, and a presentation on the Oneida Lake Nine Element Study by Aaron McKeon of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

Discussion of the options for an economic development study led to the council's decision to hold a meeting the following Thursday, May 11. The council met with senior economic analyst Tracy Verrier of the MRB Group. The MRB Group has experience with towns and villages similar in size to the North Shore area, having recently completed a study on economic resilience for Carthage, West Carthage, Wilna, and Champion. At the May 4 meeting, NorCOG decided to move forward on a North Shore economic development study, and to determine the next steps required for such a study.



NorCOG members and Tug Hill Commission staff meet with Tracy Verrier, MRB Group on May 11, 2023.



NorCOG members and Tug Hill Commission staff were joined by Aaron McKeon, CNY Regional Planning and Development Board on May 3, 2023



BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2023

JUNE 14, 2023 - 9AM - 4PM @ ZERO DOCK STREET, CARTHAGE

Featured Content




Black River Watershed Modeling project - Learn about updates underway to the Black River watershed's management plan.

Environmental DNA & Invasive Species - SLELO PRISM will delve into eDNA and how it is revolutionizing species detection efforts.


PFAS Panel Discussion - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, what and where are they? How to address PFAS, and negative health effects. Hear from the NYSDOH, a PFAS researcher, PFAS consultant.

Road Salt - Updates on the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force, implications, and applications for the BR watershed.



Updates from - The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, DEC Eastern Great lakes watershed program, Friends of the Black River, the Drinking Water Source Protection program, and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.

Event Details



The Black River Watershed Conference will be held at Zero Dock Street Restaurant and Bar, 130 Canal St, Carthage, NY 13619. Registration will begin at 8:00AM. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included with registration.

Registration

There is a registration fee of \$45 per person. Please register by May 30 using the following link: tinyurl.com/BRWC2023.

Sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Harvill



315-785-2392



@ jennifer@tughill.org

NYS Consolidated Funding Application Open for 2023

The 2023 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is now open! The full 2023 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) list of available resources is available [here](#). The Consolidated Funding Application is available [here](#). The 2022 CFA Application Manual is available [here](#). Applications are due Friday, July 28, at 4:00 p.m.

Grant opportunities of interest to the Tug Hill community include:

Community Development Block Grant: Up to \$20 million to help municipalities with projects that improve communities and benefit residents across the state. Learn more about community planning, public infrastructure, and facilities [here](#).

Environmental Protection Fund Grants for Parks, Preservation, and Heritage: Up to \$26 million available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties and heritage areas within the state. Learn more [here](#).

Recreational Trails Program: Up to \$1.9 million available for municipalities and pre-qualified not-for-profit corporations to develop and maintain trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Please note that the RTP is a reimbursement program. See more detailed information [here](#).

Local Government Efficiency Program: Up to \$4 million for municipalities 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 \$16.3 million in matching grants for eligible villages, towns, cities, and counties along New York's coasts or waterways for planning, design, and construction projects to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

Market New York Tourism Grant Program: Up to \$15 million available for tourism marketing, 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.

New York Main Street Program: Up to \$4.2 million available for municipalities and eligible not-for-profit organizations involving projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts. Learn more [here](#).

Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program: Up to \$2 million available for the development or update of comprehensive plans, area plans, or zoning ordinances that incorporate smart growth principles, including promoting efficient and sustainable land development and redevelopment patterns that optimize prior infrastructure investments. Read the request for applications [here](#).

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program: Up to \$8 million for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change at the local level and become certified Climate Smart communities. See request for applications [here](#).

Water Quality Improvement Project Program: Up to \$75 million for local governments and non-profit organizations to implement projects that directly improve water quality or aquatic habitats, promote flood risk reduction, or protect a drinking water source. Learn more at the DEC website [here](#).

DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program: Up to \$3 million for municipalities to pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects. Learn more [here](#). (*Note: Page is currently under construction, but will be online shortly. The RFA is also located on the CFA website.)

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](#).

For additional resources and recent webinar recordings on some of these programs, follow the link [here](#).

State Canal Corporation 2023 Opening Dates

The state Canal Corporation has announced opening dates for the canal for 2023. Oneida Lake, at the southern boundary of the Tug Hill region, is part of the state canal system.

Conditions permitting, all portions of the New York State Canal System are scheduled to open Friday, May 19 at 7:00 a.m. If adjustments to the schedule of operations are necessary, the public will be notified accordingly. Canal notices and alerts are posted at www.canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices/index.aspx.

There are no tolls or fees for recreational use of the canal system in 2023. Standard hours of operation, through peak navigation season through Wednesday, October 11, are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours until 10:00 p.m. until Wednesday, September 13 at specified locks, including Lock E-23 in Brewerton,

More information about the Canal Corporation and the canal system can be found on their web site, www.canals.ny.gov.

2023 North Country Current Issues Survey Results

The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College completed their second annual North Country Current Issues survey in April 2023. In the study a total of 1,402 adult residents from the tri-county region were surveyed, including 646 residents of Jefferson County, 347 from Lewis County, and 409 from St. Lawrence County. The full survey results can be reviewed [here](#).

Topline Summary/Observations

1. Food Security – Inflation in food prices remains a challenge in the North Country, and food pantries, farmers markets, and home gardens are common activities that residents currently report to (or, plan to) utilize.
2. Housing – Dissatisfaction with both rental properties, and available house stock to purchase, are expressed very commonly among North Country residents, and strong sentiment has been expressed that homelessness needs continued attention by North Country communities and governments.
3. Recreation – Strong interest in supporting a wide variety of recreational aspects and activities is present in the North Country.
4. Senior Community Centers – Tremendous support exists among North Country residents for local government financial support for senior community centers in their counties.
5. Childcare – North Country residents unquestionably recognize that childcare services supported by employers are important factors in one's choice for employment and believe that public employers should voluntarily opt in to offering this support.

Penn State Extension Solar Siting and Regulations Webinar

Penn State Extension held a webinar on Thursday, May 18, to discuss solar siting considerations and regulations. While the presentation was focused on Pennsylvania primarily, there were some general considerations that were informative, including:

- It takes about five to six acres to produce one megawatt of energy.
- Fire safety plans should be in place for solar facilities and battery storage facilities and can be done through cooperation between local fire departments and developers.
- Having current and explicit zoning laws that explain where solar can be placed and what types of considerations must go with them to accommodate various concerns.

The webinar was recorded and should be available some time next week. If you would like to watch the recorded webinar, please reach out to msmith@tughill.org.

There is another webinar in the solar series of webinars coming up on June 15th titled "Large-scale solar from the Developer's Perspective" which is free of charge but requires registration which can be found here: <https://extension.psu.edu/large-scale-solar-from-the-developer-perspective>.

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