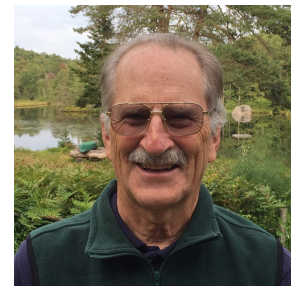


Commission Welcomes New Board Member

At the Monday, March 18 commission board meeting in Pulaski, commissioners welcomed newly-appointed board member Robert Keller to his first meeting. Bob was recently appointed to the Tug Hill Commission board by Governor Hochul. At the same time, chairman Jan Bogdanowicz was reappointed by Governor Hochul to his fourth term on the board.



Bob and his wife Carol are 30+ year residents of Boonville, Oneida County. Bob is a Vietnam War veteran and retired from a career with the Social Security Administration. He is also a pilot who has flown for conservation organizations around the Northeast and the nation through a not-for-profit called Light Hawk. His community activities over the years include current board member and immediate past chair of the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, past board member of Trout Unlimited - Tug Hill Black River Chapter, past council member and chair of the Black River-St. Lawrence Resource Conservation & Development Council, and former THRIFT (Tug Hill Resources – Investment for Tomorrow) council member. Bob has been a key volunteer in developing and building the Tug Hill Traverse trail.

At Monday's meeting, Chairman Bogdanowicz recalled his first time working directly with Bob, testifying together in Albany in 2011 when the Tug Hill Commission faced budgetary issues. Commissioner Gerry Ritter, also from Oneida County, acknowledged the benefit of having a second Oneida County representative to the commission board. Welcome Bob!



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April 1 Regular Registration Deadline for Tug Hill LGC

Register at our regular rates by April 1 (\$25 May 1 infrastructure roundtable/\$15 May 1 reception/\$85 May 2 full day conference), [click here for details](#). Prices go up to \$50/\$30/\$170 on April 2! This is a great way for municipal officials to access affordable training with relevant topics and top-notch speakers. Network with speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and colleagues from across upstate New York. Bring back information to your municipality.

Another thank you to our 2024 event sponsors! At the diamond level: GYMO Architecture and Engineering, P.C. At the gold level: Bernier Carr & Associates, C2AE, Comp Alliance, GAR Associates, LaBella Associates, National Grid, the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, and Williamson Law Book. At the silver level: Adirondack Bank, C&S Companies, MRB Group, NYCLASS, and Siewert Equipment. At the bronze level: the Development Authority of the North Country, Environmental Finance Center, North Shore Council of Governments, River Area Council of Governments, and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments. Sponsorships by these organizations and support from numerous exhibitors keep the conference registration fee affordable for attendees.

Call the office at (315) 785-2380 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

March 26 Lead Service Line Inventory Workshop

There's still plenty of time to sign up for the **Lead Service Line Inventory Workshop** next week! Taking place **Tuesday, March 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, Jamie Herman and Mark Roberts from New York Rural Water Association will present on the topic in-person at the **Lee Town Hall in Lee, NY (Oneida County)**, and **via Zoom**.

This workshop is designed to help municipalities and public utilities address any last-minute questions and roadblocks regarding the completion of an initial lead service line material inventory. Public water systems and non-transient, non-community water systems in NY must develop an initial inventory by October 15, 2024, as outlined by the federal lead and copper rule revisions. Experts from the New York Rural Water Association will help walk communities through the federal regulations, procedures, and timelines, provide data collection help, and help direct communities to helpful resources. Mark Roberts, who provides technical assistance to communities in the Tug Hill region and beyond, will also be present to answer questions and share more about his role in working with communities, specifically on developing material inventories.

This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required [here](#). If you have any questions about the workshop or need assistance registering, please contact Taylor McKinney at taylor@tughill.org or (315) 785-2606.

RACOG Economic Visioning Summit March 29

The River Area Council of Governments' Third Annual Economic Visioning Summit will be Friday, March 29 at the Carthage Elk's Lodge. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch, free of charge. There will be presentations on the Denmark highway garage solar project, Fort Drum regional economic impact, Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Double Play Community Center, Carthage Area Hospital, and traffic safety data & transportation safety coordination. The event will end with a fun and informative game of Jeopardy and lunch. Registration is required and can be completed online [here](#). Please register by the end of the day on March 27, 2024.



Contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 681-5023 or mickey@tughill.org with questions.

Micron Public Scoping Meeting Held

A public scoping meeting was held for the Micron Semiconductor Manufacturing Facility Project on March 19 in Clay. The purpose of this meeting was to give a brief overview of the project and then invite agencies, organizations, and public members to present comments and suggestions about the actions, alternatives, and potential impacts to be considered when developing the project's Environmental Impact Statement. Various comments on wetlands, water quality, air quality, endangered species, traffic, hazardous chemicals, and human and animal health impacts were presented at the public scoping meeting.

Micron New York Semiconductor Manufacturing LLC proposes constructing a semiconductor manufacturing facility for leading -edge manufacturing of dynamic random-access memory chips. The proposed site is 1,400 acres, located in the town of Clay at 5171 Route 31 in Onondaga County, which is about four miles from the Tug Hill region. A notice of intent (NOI) was released on March 5, 2024, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead federal agency for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act. The NOI informs the public about the project's environmental analysis and provides a 30-day period for comments and suggestions to be considered in the EIS.

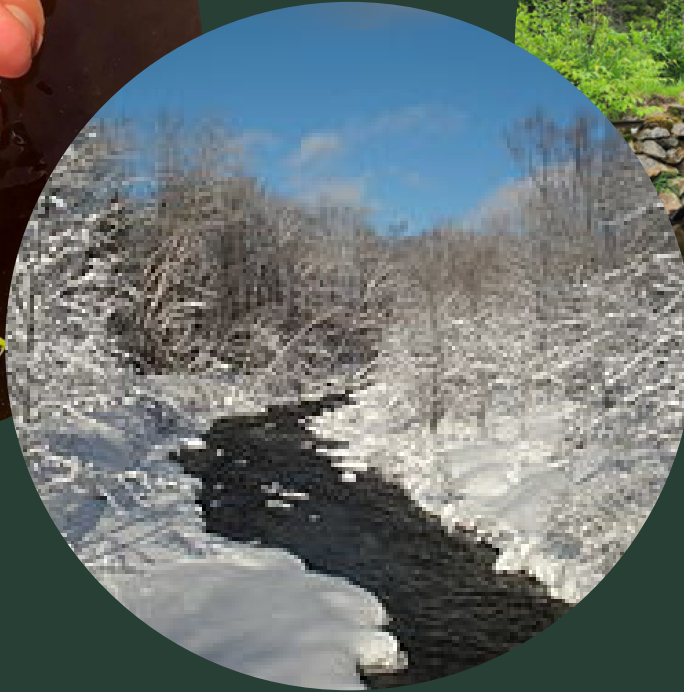
The project's comment period is from March 5, 2024 to April 4, 2024. Below is information on how to submit written comments. The NOI can be found on the [Federal Register website](#).

Emailed comments can be sent to: celrb-micron.public.comments@usace.army.mil

Mailed comments can be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Attn: Ms. Margaret Crawford
7413 County House Road
Auburn, New York 13021

BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION & GENETICS ON TUG HILL AND THE ADIRONDACKS



Thursday April 11, 2024, 6PM

PRESENTED BY

Paul Miller
NYS Council of Trout Unlimited
Region 6 Vice-President

Chris Murphy
Trout Power
President

REGISTER AT
[TINYURL.COM/TUGHILL
TROUT](https://tinyurl.com/tughilltrout)

Contact info:

View previous webinars at:
[TUGHILL.ORG/SERVICES/TRAINING/](https://tughill.org/services/training/) gabriel@tughill.org | 315-785-2387

Photo Credit: Trout Power (left), Trout Unlimited (right)

Revised Commission Meeting Schedule for Remainder of 2024

DATE	LOCATION	COUNCIL	TIME	NOTES
Monday, May 20	Central Square	NorCOG	10:00 AM	
Monday, June 17	Denmark	RACOG	10:00 AM	
Monday, August 19	Williamstown, Camp Zerbe	CTHC	10:00 AM	Staff/Commissioner Retreat
Thursday, September 19	Port Leyden, Hayloft at Moonshine Farm	Annual Dinner	5:00 PM	
Monday, October 21	Martinsburg	CTHC	10:00 AM	
Monday, December 9	Watertown		10:00 AM	Holiday Luncheon

April 3 Finance Training from OSC and AOT

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller’s Office (OSC) will present a webinar titled *“Understanding the Budget Process”* on Wednesday, April 3 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The session will explain the budget process, the procedures that should be used in preparing the budget, and the resources and tools available to assist with budget development. It will also address the requirements and options for amending the budget, and the reports necessary for successfully monitoring the budget during the year.

Register online [here](#) or visit the Comptroller’s Office Academy for Local Officials webpage at www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy. The Academy for Local Officials webpage lists information on OSC’s accounting schools, in-person seminars, webinars (many of which are available on demand to fit your schedule), publications and many other resources for local officials.

Additionally, available for registration now on the Academy page are the annual *Town Finance Schools*, co-sponsored by the NYS Association of Towns (AOT). These schools will be held May 7- 8 in Geneva and May 14-15 in Albany. You can find registration, hotel and agenda information on the Finance Schools by following the [links to AOT’s website](#). You can register online or by mail, with April 30 the deadline to pre-register at a lower registration cost. Early registration costs are \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members. For additional information, check www.nytowns.org. For specific questions, call Executive Meeting Coordinator Patty Kebea at (518) 465-7933 or via email at pkebea@nytowns.org.

NOCCOG Scholarship Program Open

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments is pleased to announce the NOCCOG scholarship program is continuing in 2024. The program, which started last year, is available to graduating seniors in the NOCCOG area school districts that are attending college in the fall. The current schools involved with the program are Adirondack, Camden, Holland Patent, and Remsen.



The award is given to recognize the importance of local government, as well as the often unacknowledged service, commitment, and dedication of community members who are essential in the daily operation of our towns and villages. Ideally, the candidate has been involved in school or community organizations, volunteering their time, usually behind the scenes, without the desire for recognition. The award is given with the hope the recipient will someday be involved in their local government.

The \$500 award is given upon the successful completion of their first college semester. If you know of a deserving senior, encourage them to check with their local guidance office and apply! For more information on the program, please contact John Healt, or email, jhealt@tughill.org.

Prepare Jefferson County, NY Mobile App Release

Jefferson County Fire and Emergency Management, and the county’s public health service have released the *Prepare Jefferson County, NY* mobile app. The app is available on both ios and android operating systems. The purpose of the app is to provide residents information on emergency preparedness, power outage information, storm drainage reporting, programs and services provided by Jefferson County Public Health, health topics, and more in one convenient location. The app can be found by searching for “Prepare Jefferson County, NY” or by scanning the below QR code.

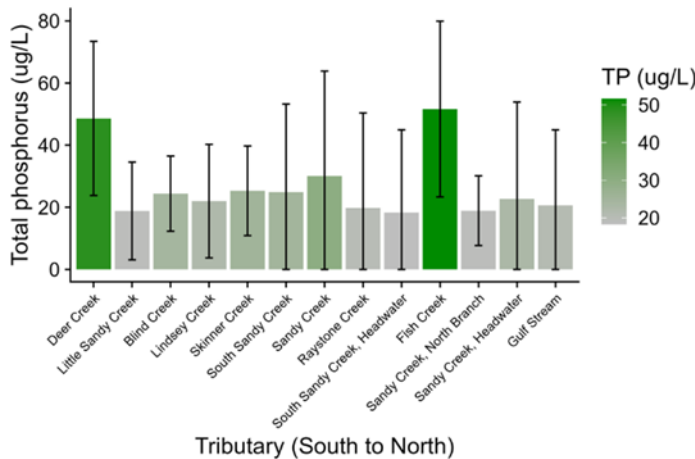


Sandy Creeks Watershed Meeting – Water Quality Results

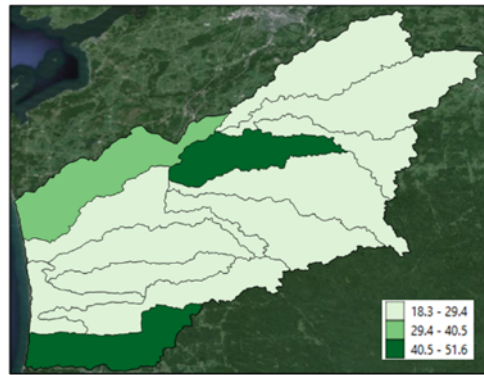
A public meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20 to convey water quality sampling results for the Sandy Creeks watershed project. The sampling was undertaken by the Jefferson and Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, with support from Upstate Freshwater Institute. Results indicate that water quality in the 13 tributaries is in generally good condition, and metrics including phosphorus, nitrogen, and total suspended solids were highlighted in the presentation. These results will be used in modeling scenarios for the watershed including future development, agricultural best management practices, forest regeneration, septic/sewer upgrades, and climate change. A recording of the meeting, the presentation slides, and other project materials are available on the Tug Hill Commission website, [here](#). The North Sandy Pond Management Plan document, part of a separate project by the town of Sandy Creek and Oswego County, is also available on the website.

Tributary Monitoring 2023

Total phosphorus (TP)



Average TP (ug/L) – March through December 2023



Questions / Discussion

March 28 Dr. David Kohl Agricultural Presentation JCC

Jefferson County Economic Development’s annual guest forum programming will be held on Thursday, March 28, from 6 :00 - 9 :00 p.m. The presentation, **“Future-Proofing Your Farm or Business,”** will be delivered by Dr. David Kohl and hosted at Jefferson Community College’s Jules Center.

Dr. David Kohl, a native of the North Country and graduate from the Belleville-Henderson FFA program, is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. An extremely well-traveled and accomplished speaker, Dr. Kohl will focus on geopolitical insights into agriculture, as well as strategies to incorporate resiliency, nimbleness, and agility to maintain a local food supply.

Attendance is free, but advance registration is required [here](#).

Jefferson County Area Transportation Plan Update

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the city of Watertown, Watertown Jefferson County Area Transportation Council (WJCTC), is in the process of updating the region’s Long Range Transportation Plan. The WJCTC is seeking public input on areas such as major roadways, transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, etc., and has provided access to a survey to provide input. The below QR code and URL can be used to access the survey.

Long Range
Transportation Plan

Take the Survey!

Scan Here



Or go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8PDVFK>

Engineers Roundtable: Navigating the Funding Frontiers



Thursday, April 4, 2024 | 10 AM – 3 PM

 **Syracuse Center of Excellence, Room 203
727 E Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13210**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Description:

Join [SU-EFC](#) to find out how to make your funding applications stronger to support your municipal clients. In this hybrid event, in-depth discussions with state and federal funding agencies will provide information about environmental review, dos and don'ts for successful applications, and a primer on the “co-funding” process. SU-EFC, in partnership with the [New York Water Environment Association \(NYWEA\)](#), is excited to host municipal engineers and representatives from private consulting firms for our roundtable event.

We encourage project managers and grant writers from engineering firms consulting with local governments, municipal town planners, engineers, and water infrastructure managers to attend. **Lunch will be provided.** In-person attendance is encouraged, but sessions will be live-streamed for hybrid viewing. If you would like to attend virtually, please indicate so on the registration form.

Presenters will include representatives from:

- New York State Homes and Community Renewal
- New York State Departments of State, Health, & Environmental Conservation
- New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation
- US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development



Traffic Safety Corner: 2023 Vehicular Crashes Contributing Factors

State vehicle crash data for 2023 was released this month, and the charts below examine contributing factors of vehicular crashes, from October 2022 – September 2023, and the trend from the previous year. The top contributing factors include animal actions, unsafe backing, unsafe speed, following too closely, failure to yield right-of-way, and inattention/distracted driving. From 2022 to 2023; crashes involving animal actions, unsafe backing, unsafe speed, and following too closely increased, while there was a minor decrease in crashes related to failure to yield right-of-way and inattention/distracted driving.

2022/2023 Crash Contributing Factors Comparison			
	Oct. 2021 – Sept. 2022	Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023	Trend in %
Animal Actions	3,355	3,389	+1%
Unsafe Backing	876	1,071	+22%
Unsafe Speed	1,221	1,345	+10%
Following too Closely	1,002	982	-2%
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	1,023	1,167	+14%
Inattention/Distracted Driving	1,540	1,499	-3%

Younger drivers (16-20) share the same contributing factors as other age groups. Although inattention/distract driving is decreasing in this age demographic, it is the leading contributing factor for 16–20-year-old drivers. The second leading contributing factor is unsafe speed and saw an increase of 13% between 2022 and 2023. These two factors are a focus of traffic safety advocacy and driver education programs.

2022/2023 Youth (16-20) Contributing Factors Comparison			
	Oct. 2021 – Sept. 2022	Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023	Trend in %
Animal Actions	215	191	-13%
Unsafe Backing	94	125	+6%
Unsafe Speed	215	213	+13%
Following too Closely	222	202	-14%
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	210	203	No Change
Inattention/Distracted Driving	247	214	-15%

2024 Highway School June 3-5

Sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of New York and the NYS LTAP Center, the 2024 Highway School is being held June 3-5, 2024 in Ithaca. The early registration fee on or before May 17 is \$125. After May 17 attendees must register on-site at a fee rate of \$165.

This year's topics include: legal panel; budget, inflation, & purchase lead time; highway materials; CDL training; electric vehicles; signs and markings; a year in the life of a highway superintendent; reasonable suspicion.

Full information available at [Association of Towns](#) and [NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program](#).

Contact Us

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To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org.

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