

Successful CTHC Spring Meeting in Glenfield

On Tuesday, April 29 the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual spring meeting at the 3G Fire Hall in Glenfield, with the meal catered by Tim Fargo from Turin. Sixteen of the twenty-two CTHC municipalities were present, along with three Tug Hill Commissioners, three Tug Hill staff members, three CTHC circuit riders and several other guests, for a total of 43 people.

Following approval of minutes and financials, the current slate of officers was re-elected with Roger Tibbetts returning as chairman; Doug Dietrich as vice chairman; Carla Bauer as secretary and Ian Klingbail, Steve Bernat, Paulette Walker, and Fran Yerdon returning as directors. In new business, the proposed work goals for 2025 were reviewed and approved with minimal changes. Newly contracted associate circuit rider Denali Dietrich was introduced to attendees, who will replace Beth Steria.



The evening's speaker was Casandra Buell, Lewis County director of planning and community development. Casandra talked about various projects the county is spearheading, many of which partner with towns and villages in Lewis County. Highlights included broadband expansion and a shared service project to help the municipalities establish new .gov compliant websites; a county-wide complete streets program and coordinating village, town and county road infrastructure and other projects within that mindset; assisting with the West Leyden Elementary School closure by Adirondack Central School District and continuing work to reclaim and re-use the Lyons Falls school building. She also discussed many hot planning topics including zoning and comprehensive plan projects, moratoria regarding renewable energy and battery energy storage systems, work on a short-term rental registry due to new state regulations, and work on a new downtown design guide. Tim Hunt, new county manager and John Reed, new county highway superintendent, attended the meeting as well. Mr. Hunt thanked all the officials for their service in local government and emphasized how important local government leaders are.

Matt Johnson, commission planning director, gave updates on the new commission officers, including Gerry Ritter who was recently elected as the first female chairperson. He also reported on the commission's new strategic plan, planning work in CTHC municipalities and the recently held Tug Hill Local Government Conference. He also reported that mini comp plans completed for CTHC municipalities several years ago, based on the cooperative planning work done by CTHC, have nearly all been adopted and final versions are being added to the CTHC website.

NOCCOG Releases Reference Guide for Municipalities

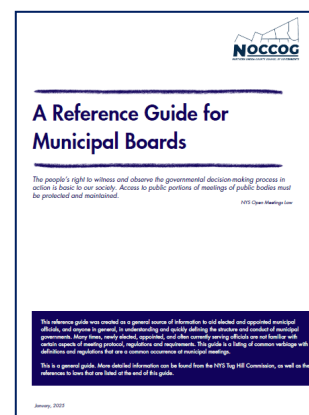
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The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) recently announced the finalization of a reference guide for municipal officials. This guide was created as a general source of information to aid elected and appointed municipal officials, and anyone in general, in understanding and quickly defining the structure and conduct of municipal governments.

Many times, newly elected, appointed, and often currently serving officials are not familiar with certain aspects of meeting protocol, procedures or mandated obligations. This guide covers much of the usual verbiage, definitions, requirements and regulations that are a common occurrence at municipal meetings.

Physical copies of the guide are available to all NOCCOG municipal officials at no cost, and a digital version is available on the NOCCOG website, noccog.org. For more information, contact John Healt at jhealt@tughill.org or 315-941-2818.





Black River Watershed Conference June 2-3

Registration is now open for the 15th Annual Black River Watershed Conference, taking place June 2-3, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown. The event kicks off with an evening reception on June 2, featuring light fare, a guest speaker, and plenty of opportunities for connection and conversation. On June 3, dive into a full day of presentations exploring the Black River Watershed - covering topics like culvert replacements, lake browning, water quality monitoring, invasive species, winter climate, and more. Registration is \$50, which includes breakfast and lunch. The evening reception is free to attend. Register here: [tinyurl.BRWC2025](https://tinyurl.com/BRWC2025). For questions, contact Jillian at jillian@tughill.org or 315-785-2406.

Fort Drum Day at the Capitol

The annual Fort Drum Day at the Capitol in Albany was held on Wednesday, May 7, co-hosted by Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton and Senator Mark Walczyk. Fort Drum leadership and community organizations joined together to demonstrate the importance of Fort Drum to the North Country, the State of New York, and the entire country, both in terms of economic impact and national defense.

The 10th Mountain Division's Brigadier General Joseph Escandon, Command Sergeant Major John Folger, Colonel Matt Myer and Chaplain Colonel James Lester, a Color Guard and the 10th Mountain Barbershop Quartet represented Fort Drum. Both the State Senate and Assembly enjoyed ceremonial openings by Fort Drum officials, and many meetings were held throughout the day.

An expanded roster of community organizations displayed this year, including Advocate Drum, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, Development Authority of the North Country, Drum Country, Carthage Central School District, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, Jefferson Community College, Indian River Central School District, Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, and Watertown Family YMCA.



Fort Drum soldiers display equipment used by the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. Photo courtesy Advocate Drum.

RACOG Meeting May 22

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) will hold its next board meeting on Thursday, May 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wilna Municipal Building, 414 State St., Carthage. During the meeting, the RACOG student board will present their ideas and solutions on various topics to the RACOG board. Representatives from the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency and Naturally Lewis may also be in attendance. For any questions or further information, please contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or (315) 681-5023.



Fourth Annual RACOG Economic Visioning Summit



The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) recently held its fourth annual Economic Visioning Summit on April 30. The event was well attended and provided valuable insights and updates on various initiatives and projects impacting the region.

Presentations covered key topics such as transportation initiatives, educational and student initiatives, a grants overview, local government updates, and economic development updates. Additionally, there was a fun moment for a game, providing attendees with a brief but engaging activity amidst the informative sessions.

Speakers from several organizations presented, including Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, Jefferson County Planning, Lewis County Planning, Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, Naturally Lewis, and the NYS Tug Hill Commission.

The event also facilitated networking opportunities for municipalities and other organizations during a lunch break, encouraging further discussion and collaboration on regional development initiatives. For questions regarding the presentations or additional information, contact Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, mickey@tughill.org or (315) 681-5023.

Land Use Training in Watertown, June 16, 17, and 23

In collaboration with the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Cornell Cooperative Extension and other regional partners, Pace University's Land Use Law Center is bringing their Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program for Clean Energy to Watertown in June. The focus of the training will be on the intersection between clean energy and land use. The program will address key topics such as:

- the land use system
- dynamics between local and state authorities for siting large scale renewables
- planning and regulatory techniques that balance clean energy development and the protection of natural resources and agricultural lands
- PILOTs, host benefit agreements, and taxation
- Capacity maps
- Battery energy storage systems and fire safety
- Decommissioning
- Public engagement and consensus building tools

The program is being offered free of charge and participants will receive reimbursement for vehicle miles traveled. Additionally, continuing legal education credits for attorneys can be provided. The program can also satisfy the training requirement for local planning and zoning board members if approved by local municipalities. CM credits for planners and credits for code enforcement officers are also being considered. In addition, the law center will provide a high-level assessment of each participating community's land use plans and regulations that identifies any existing clean energy efforts.

The program comprises three full-day sessions from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. scheduled for June 16, 17, and 23 with sessions primarily taking place at Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown. The program includes breakfast, lunch and snacks, and will also include one or more off site visits to projects or sites in the region; additional travel details and logistics will be shared in advance of the program. Contact Tiffany Zezula at (914) 422-4034 or tzezula@law.pace.edu with any questions.

The program serves as a land use retreat for local land use leaders to brainstorm, vision, and proactively plan for their community's future. It is a requirement that participating individuals attend all three of the sessions to complete the program. If you are interested in participating, please register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthCountryLULA.

If you cannot attend this program, but would be interested in a future program, please click here www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureLULAs.

Oswego County Begins New Comprehensive Plan

Oswego County is developing a new county-wide comprehensive plan to guide the county's future growth, development, and investment. This long-term planning document will help shape priorities around infrastructure, housing, economic development, environmental sustainability, and quality of life. The plan is designed to be community-driven, with input from residents, businesses, and local leaders. With development such as Micron bringing new regional opportunities, it is timely to plan proactively and thoughtfully for growth.

The comprehensive plan will serve as a roadmap to ensure Oswego County grows in a smart, balanced, and sustainable way. It will outline strategies to strengthen the local economy, improve transportation systems, support housing development, protect natural resources, and enhance community services. A countywide steering committee has been formed to guide this effort, with representatives from across Oswego County's towns, villages, and cities.

Public engagement is an important part of this process, and community members will have several opportunities to share their ideas and priorities. A series of regional focus group meetings are scheduled for this May. These meetings will take place May 19 in Schroepfel, May 20 in Minetto, and May 22 in Pulaski, all from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

In addition, specialty focus groups will be held on May 16 at the Oswego County Office Building for professionals in fields such as business, transportation, environment, and health. Community visioning workshops are also planned for June and October. A countywide online survey will be released in the coming weeks to gather additional input, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

The plan will explore key themes including business development, infrastructure upgrades, housing needs, parks and recreation, education, historic preservation, and more. Each focus group and workshop will reflect on how these issues impact different parts of the county. Input collected will directly shape goals, policies, and future decisions. This is an important opportunity to influence how Oswego County grows over the next decade. For more information visit the county website [here](#).

Consolidated Funding Application Opening Soon

The [town of Denmark recently marked the opening of its new salt storage building](#). The Tug Hill Commission was pleased to assist the town with its funding application for the project through the 2023 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

The 2025 round of CFA grant programs will likely be announced very soon this month with the likely deadline at the end of July. Information workshops are already scheduled for both in-person and virtual attendance.

Now is the time to think about all the different grant opportunities that will soon be available through the CFA. These typically include grants to help fund things like salt barns, road salt reduction equipment, parks, snowmobile groomers (every other year – this year is expected to be a groomer year),



Town of Denmark ribbon cutting at new salt storage building.

Wednesday, May 28	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Olympic Conference Center - Lussi Ballroom 2634 Main St., Lake Placid, NY 12946	Register
Thursday, May 29	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Onondaga Community College 4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215	Register
Monday, June 2	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Mohawk Valley Community College 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501	Register
Monday, June 23 (Virtual)	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	CFA Open Office Hours - Jefferson and Lewis Counties	Register

Green Resiliency Grants for Flood-Prone Communities Open

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) is now accepting applications for the second round of its Green Resiliency Grant Program, with \$60 million available to support stormwater management and resilient infrastructure projects in flood-prone communities. This is funded through the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022, which helps municipalities build long-term, storm-ready infrastructure. Grants of up to \$10 million per project are available to municipalities, prioritizing projects that offer significant risk reduction to help communities build storm-ready infrastructure. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m., August 15, 2025, and a public webinar will be held on May 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. to guide interested applicants. More details, including eligibility guidelines and registration, are available on efc.ny.gov/org.

Wastewater Treatment Process Webinar May 29

The Environmental Finance Center Network is hosting a free webinar on Thursday, May 29 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., with presenter Gregory Pearson to discuss control concepts and calculations necessary for wastewater treatment process control. Attendees will learn how to calculate biochemical oxygen demand for wastewater influent and effluent flow, calculate F:M ratios and MCRT's for activated sludge process control, determine the retention time for lagoon wastewater treatment systems, calculate hydraulic and organic loading rates for trickling filter plants, as well as learn to describe the wastewater treatment process steps. Click [here](#) to register.

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