

## Salmon Rivers Summer Meeting in Parish

The Salmon Rivers Council of Governments (SRCG) met on Wednesday, June 25 at the Parish Village Gym, with representatives from all seven member municipalities and staff from the Tug Hill Commission in attendance. Key discussions included updates on the Southern Oswego County Regional Interceptor Sewer (SOCRIS) initiative and National Grid's Upstate Upgrade. Planning is also underway for the joint annual dinner and fall meeting with the North Shore Council of Governments, scheduled for Thursday, September 25 at the North Riding Barn in Cleveland, NY.



*Executive director Katie Malinowski addressing the SCR board.*

The group also addressed ongoing challenges to comply with new dog control regulations from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. Copies of Oswego County's newly adopted short-term rental registration law were shared with members for local reference. Updates were provided on regional efforts to manage Salmon River flow, including potential trail development opportunities, as well as the current status of the Little Salmon River dams.

In addition, members discussed the Pulaski Downtown Revitalization Initiative and emphasized the importance of increasing community participation in the ongoing survey. There was also discussion and interest in encouraging Oswego County to adopt Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing as a tool to support local development. The meeting concluded with a review of follow-up items, including outreach to county officials regarding dog control concerns and finalizing plans for the upcoming September meeting.

## North Shore Council of Governments Meeting in Constantia

The North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) held its summer meeting on Thursday, June 26 at the Constantia Town Hall, with representatives from West Monroe, Constantia, and Central Square in attendance. The meeting began with approval of the March 27 meeting minutes and continued with a full agenda of regional updates and council discussions.

Heidi Tompkins provided an update on the SOCRIS wastewater initiative, sharing the latest information from Barton & Loguidice and Mark Bombardo of Oswego County. A key topic was the upcoming fall joint annual dinner and meeting with the Salmon Rivers COG, scheduled for Thursday, September 25, at the North Riding Barn. An update was also given on NorCOG's transition to a new web domain. While [www.norcog.org](http://www.norcog.org) remains active, the group is in the process of migrating to [www.norcog.gov](http://www.norcog.gov), with full functionality expected soon. Copies of Oswego County's newly adopted short-term rental registration law were distributed for member reference.

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The group reviewed the North Shore Economic Resiliency Study action matrix, highlighting goals and next steps related to housing, infrastructure, recreation, and economic development. Members also discussed revisions to the North Shore logo and progress on a future North Shore Recreation Guide. NorCOG members expressed interest in the Tug Hill Commission's Civic Service Student Activity Program (CSSAP) as a potential opportunity to engage local youth in municipal government.

The meeting concluded with the assignment of action items related to upcoming events, communications, and ongoing projects. NorCOG continues to serve as a strong collaborative council, supporting coordination, planning, and shared initiatives across the North Shore region—which has some exciting opportunities on the horizon!

# Municipal Websites Technical Paper Updated

The commission's *Introduction to Municipal Websites* technical paper has been updated to reflect changes to General Municipal Law Section 300 regarding websites for municipalities of 1,500 population or more, as well as to provide some information about .gov website transitions and new cybersecurity laws and resources. The updated paper is available [here](#) for download.



## LITTLE SALMON RIVER DAMS ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING

Learn about dam removal, including updates on the Little Salmon River dams removal, dam safety, research, monitoring efforts, funding opportunities, and how dam removal can affect aquatic invasive species.

**Tuesday  
August 26**

**Village of Mexico Office  
3236 Main Street, Mexico, NY 13114**

**Start  
4:45 - 5:15 pm**

**Field Trip to Black Creek Dam Removal Site  
5:30-7:30 pm Informational Meeting**

**QUESTIONS?** 

 <https://tinyurl.com/littlesalmonriverdams>

 [jillian@tughill.org](mailto:jillian@tughill.org)



# NYS Archives Webinar July 24

New York State Archives has a webinar titled “Ask Us Anything About Processing and Purging Records” scheduled for Thursday, July 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Processing and purging records, in any format, are essential steps in the records management lifecycle. Records management programs should plan a cycle for transferring and processing inactive records and identifying and purging obsolete records. When faced with mountains of paper or electronic records, getting started may seem daunting. You may wonder where to start, or how to transfer, identify, organize, apply retention schedules, or separate obsolete records from those you must keep.

This webinar combines panelists from the NY State Archives’ Local Government Advisory Services and Scheduling and State Agency Services to answer your questions about processing and purging inactive records, so join Jennifer O’Neill, Maria McCashion and Michael Martin for this live webinar. Questions are welcome in advance so feel free to email questions to [recmgmt@nysed.gov](mailto:recmgmt@nysed.gov) with the subject line “Ask Us Anything” and they’ll answer them during the webinar.

The training is free and registration information can be found on the [workshop registration](#) page. State Archives also has many recorded webinars that are available for viewing at your leisure, which are available on their [webinar](#) page.

# NYS Adaptation and Resilience Plan Webinar July 24

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), Department of State (DOS), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in partnership with other state agencies, are leading the development of a comprehensive New York State Adaptation and Resilience Plan (NYSARP). The plan will establish a framework to enhance climate adaptation and resilience throughout the state. It will develop a collaborative strategy to improve resilience, build adaptive capacity in communities, and create tools and resources to support communities in a changing climate.

The first phase of this initiative is a series of online webinars hosted by DEC, DOS, DHSES, and NYSERDA to provide an overview of the NYSARP process and opportunities for input. All webinars are open to the public and are also recorded. DEC will be hosting the next upcoming webinar on Thursday, July 24, from noon to 1:00 p.m. The webinar will focus on how the agency is helping communities and ecosystems thrive and build climate resilience with presentations from the offices of Climate Change and Environmental Justice, Division of Water, Division of Lands and Forests, and the NYS Bond Act. Register for this [webinar here](#), and learn more about NYSARP and watch previous webinars [here](#).

# Roadway Departure Crashes Workshops July 31 & August 7

Join the NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program and presenter David Orr, P.E., on Thursday, July 31 and Thursday August 7 for two virtual workshops addressing roadway departure crashes. Topics covered in this course include a discussion of engineering countermeasures as well as implementation strategies.

The sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day, and registration is required for each session.

July 31, Day 1: [An Introduction to Combating Roadway Departures](#)

August 7, Day 2: [Proven Countermeasures for Roadway Departure Crashes](#)

There is no cost to attend either workshop, unless Engineering PDH credits are needed. For PDH credits (3 credits per workshop) there is a \$20 fee per workshop. Registration is needed for both workshops to receive 6 PDHs. For more information, please visit the NYS LTAP website [here](#).

# Town Clerks, Planning Boards, and ZBAs Webinar August 5

The NY Planning Federation (NYPF) is holding a Zoom webinar on Tuesday, August 5 from noon to 1:00 p.m. titled ***Town Clerks and their Relationship with Planning Boards and ZBAs in New York State***.

Town clerks perform many functions, all vital to the proper functioning of municipal governing. Their responsibilities often are intertwined with actions related to planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. Tammy Vezzose, NYS Town Clerks Association (NYSTCA) 1st Vice President and town clerk of Huron, and Tracy Villnave, NYSTCA treasurer and town clerk of Lawrence discuss their overall responsibilities and especially how they work with building and planning issues facing their towns. They not only will focus on what they do but also what is not under their purview regarding planning boards and ZBAs.

NYPF member attendees may receive one training hour after the webinar is over by emailing the NYPF office at [nypf@nypf.org](mailto:nypf@nypf.org) and including your name, email address, and municipality/organization. To attend the webinar, use this [link](#), passcode 810297.

# New NY Cybersecurity Law

Governor Hochul signed into law S.7672A/A.6769A late last month, which mandates all municipal corporations and public authorities promptly report cybersecurity incidents and ransom payments to the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). Under the new law, municipalities and public authorities are required to report cybersecurity incidents within 72 hours to DHSES and provide notice of payment of a ransom within 24 hours. The legislation also mandates annual cybersecurity awareness training for government employees across New York starting January 1, 2026. The state will make training available at no cost, and equivalent cybersecurity awareness training may also be provided by other sources

The Association of Towns has a thorough summary of the new section of General Municipal Law [here](#), as well as an informational video [here](#).

## \$100 Million NY BRICKS Funding Available



Funding is available from the new \$100 million Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids and Seniors (NY BRICKS) capital grant program. This program is aimed at supporting municipalities and nonprofit organizations in building or renovating community centers that promote physical health, mental well-being, and community connections for youth and older adults.

NY BRICKS offers grants between \$250,000 and \$15 million to acquire, design, construct or reconstruct facilities, provide major renovations, improvements, and modernization or rehabilitation of community centers. Priority will be given to projects in underserved communities, as well as those offering affordable services like childcare, eldercare, and mental health counseling.

The Request for Applications (RFA) for funding is posted at [dasny.org/BRICKS](https://dasny.org/BRICKS) and [parks.ny.gov](https://parks.ny.gov). The application period for the NY BRICKS capital grant program opened on July 14, and applications must be submitted by August 15, 2025. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than November 1, 2025. Applications will be evaluated on characteristics of projects' need, impact, and viability. NY BRICKS grants will require applicants to provide a 20% matching contribution towards the overall project cost.

## DOT Accepting Master Plan Comments Until July 28

The NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has released the draft of its [Transportation Master Plan 2050](#), outlining a long-range vision to guide the development of equitable, safe, sustainable, and resilient transportation systems across the state. The plan addresses a wide range of priorities which include:

- Modernization of aging infrastructure
- Expansion of multimodal transportation options
- Improvements in transportation equity and accessibility
- Emission reductions and climate change mitigation
- Road safety enhancements and Vision Zero principles
- Freight mobility and economic development

These priorities will help shape future investments and policies. The draft plan is available for public review and comment through July 28, 2025.

## Oswego County Comprehensive Plan Survey

Oswego County is updating its comprehensive plan – a strategic document that will outline the county's long-term vision, goals, and policy priorities over the next 10 to 20 years. As part of the plan update, the county wants to hear from local government officials, residents, business owners, and stakeholders through this [survey](#), by September 30, 2025. This plan will help coordinate land use, economic development, transportation, housing, environmental protection, and more. The comprehensive plan serves as a foundation for:

- Zoning and land use regulations
- Infrastructure planning and capital investments
- Grant applications and funding decisions
- Intermunicipal collaboration
- Sustainable growth and preservation efforts.





Paul Baxter was launched into retirement at Taft Bay Park in Constantia last month. Thanks to all who attended the event, and special thank you to Buckingham Markets for their food donation. Photo credit Jim Peck.

## DEC Launches "Snapshot NY"

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in collaboration with the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University, has announced [Snapshot NY](#), a citizen science program that allows the public to participate in wildlife monitoring through the deployment of trail cameras. The project will help improve the way DEC monitors and manages more than a dozen wildlife species.

The high-quality data collected through Snapshot NY will help DEC continue to make informed decisions, improve the effectiveness of wildlife conservation and management strategies, and track changes in wildlife populations over time.

To become a volunteer for Snapshot NY:

- *Access to land:* Volunteers are encouraged to place trail cameras on private property across NY. For the project, the state has been divided into ~4,500 grid cells, with a goal to get a camera in as many cells as possible. Those without access will need permission to set up a camera on nearby public land.
- *A trail camera:* Use your own trail camera (preferred) or apply to borrow a trail camera through the Snapshot program. Trail cameras detect heat signatures and motion and snap photos of passing animals.
- *Access to internet and a willingness to upload photos:* Volunteers download the Snapshot NY app and periodically upload images (about once every two weeks) to the Snapshot NY website, including GPS coordinates, time, and date to contribute to the statewide dataset.
- *Create an account:* Volunteers can create an account on the Snapshot NY website and select one of the survey blocks to deploy a trail camera. If your chosen block is already reserved, DEC strongly encourages participants to consider selecting a block on nearby available public lands or to sign up for the waitlist for the preferred block.

## NYCOM Fall Training School September 15 -19, Lake Placid

The New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) will hold its fall training school in Lake Placid September 15 through 19. Several concurrent sessions will be held on a variety of topics, including municipal finance, understanding vital records, local government 101 and 102, special events insurance, open meetings law, first amendment, and more. Registration information and a full agenda are available [here](#).

The early registration discount deadline is Friday, August 22 and online registration deadline is Friday, September 12.

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To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org).

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