



Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives on the region's councils of governments.

TUG HILL COMMISSION AT 35 YEARS

On Tuesday, September 25th the Tug Hill Commission commenced a celebration of the Commission's 35th anniversary at the Beeches in Rome, New York. The dinner featured keynote speaker Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets. In addition, former Commission executive director Ben Coe and current executive director John Bartow presented a PowerPoint chronology of the Commission's history.

Over the course of the next year the Commission, with the five councils of government, will undertake several activities to celebrate and evaluate the Commission's efforts in the region. Finally, in the Fall of next year the Commissioners will honor another round of Tug Hill Sages at the annual dinner. On behalf of the Commissioners and staff we all want to thank our communities for their input and support as we look forward to partnering with you all in the coming year.

SANDY CREEKS ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH WRAP-UP

The initial Stakeholder Outreach portion of the Sandy Creeks Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) initiative came to a close on September 20th at the Adams Town and Village municipal building. With about 30 stakeholders and staff in attendance, our consultant, EcoLogic, led the group through a presentation of their findings. Seven small focus group meetings were held over the summer with over 50 stakeholders par-

ticipating. The stakeholders were asked to identify what they valued most about the Sandy Creeks watershed, what threatened those values, and what could be done to reduce or eliminate those threats. Responses to those questions centered around very distinct topics which included development pressure, increasing land values, conflicting land uses, water quality, the state of the dunes and beaches and conflicting recreation uses.

EcoLogic's final report should be available by the end of October. Additionally, their findings will be folded into the Baseline Conditions Report and Strategy being developed for the Sandy Creeks watershed, which will be used to guide the implementation of EBM in the near future. Recommendations on how to continue stakeholder participation into the future will be included in the strategy.

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN GEARING UP

The Black River Watershed Plan, which is being funded with monies by two Environmental Protection Fund grants to the Town of Greig and a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant to the Tug Hill Commission, as well as by Senator Griffo and the Black River Advisory Committee, is, at long last, about to get under-way. A comprehensive Request for Proposals was sent out this month for the two year project, with work scheduled to begin soon after the first of the year.

The Black River watershed spans Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida counties. The Black River, a designated Blue-way Trail, is

a major destination for scenic viewing, fishing and water-based recreation, including kayaking and rafting, which are significant contributors to the local and regional economies in the Tug Hill and Adirondack regions. The river is a major tributary of Lake Ontario and also serves as the drinking water supply for the City of Watertown and Fort Drum.

The planning process will include building community consensus, watershed characterization, inventory of existing conditions, identification of problems and opportunities, identification of land and water use controls and institutional arrangements for water quality management, and identification of specific resource protection and management needs. Preparation and implementation of the River watershed management plan will advance the protection and restoration of water quality and ensure compatible land use development, helping to protect the river's scenic and natural resources.

Preparation of the Black River watershed plan will be coordinated by the Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District. The plan will be prepared through consultant services procured by the Town of Grieg and overseen by a Project Advisory Committee, which will include numerous agencies and stakeholders from each of the Black River counties.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAM

The Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board is spearheading an effort to evaluate the feasibility of a PDR program for Jefferson County. The Board recently hired American Farmland Trust (AFT) to deliver a product and process that incorporates leading ideas from around New York to create a PDR program that is appropriate for Jefferson County. Funding for this process is being provided by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, with matching funds from the county. Project tasks include an evaluation of other county PDR programs, outreach to the farm community, and the development of project

review criteria. AFT will also create a binder that will include sample documents need-ed for implementation of the PDR program, should the county choose to pursue the program. This evaluation project should be completed in the spring of 2008.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER IN TURIN

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council held its fall dinner meeting on September 27, 2007 at the Candlelight at Snow Ridge in Turin. Fifteen of the sixteen member towns were represented. After an excellent buffet dinner, the council reviewed and accepted the proposed budget and goals for 2008. Tug Hill Commission Executive Director John Bartow and Planning Director Phil Street gave those present an overview of the Tug Hill Reserve Act 'Special Areas' Definitions project that Commission staff has been working on for the council. The project will now be turned over to the council's executive board for review and refinement. After their review it will go to the member communities for their input and then be made available to all Tug Hill Commission area communities that wish to designate 'special areas' within the framework of the Reserve Act.

In other business, the council passed a resolution in support of the proposed Tug Hill Aquifer Study and another resolution asking the Governor's Commission on Local Government Efficiency to recognize Tug Hill's uniqueness and ongoing cooperative efforts.

The next council meeting will be held in late April or early May 2008.

WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON: "USING STATE ARCHIVES RETENTION SCHEDULES"

Whether it is water retention or records retention, do things ever get just a bit sluggish and tight? Packing on a few extra unwanted pounds and retaining obsolete records beyond their retention periods have a lot in common. They

waste time and energy, bog you down, and they take up too much space.

On Wednesday, October 10th from 9 a.m.- noon, Kent Stuetz will be presenting a workshop focusing on use of retention schedules. The NYS Archives develops such schedules to help local governments efficiently dispose of records they no longer need to keep AND to keep all of the things they legally need to hold on to for as long as necessary.

This workshop will:

- Explain how to use State Archives' retention schedules effectively;
- Describe how the State Archives develops retention schedules;
- Show how to create office retention schedules specific to the needs of a single office;
- Examine options for disposing of records

After this workshop, participants should be more adept at identifying appropriate retention periods for records and be better able to devise systems for managing records disposition. This workshop is a huge crowd pleaser!

Intended Audience: Everyone in local and state government who creates, uses, stores, or disposes of records.

This workshop will be held at the Westmoreland Town Hall on Station Road, just off the NYS Thruway exit 33 between Utica and Syracuse.

Please register online at our website: http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshop_sDetailServlet?owner=LG&cat=season&subject=Fall

Fax in your registration to 315-793-2782 . . . or

Leave a message at the Utica State Archives Office telephone number 315-793-2780.

LUCA TRAINING SCHEDULED

FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

LUCA, the Local Update of Census Addresses, is the **only opportunity** for local governments to review and update the Census Bureau address lists. By participating in the 2010 Census LUCA Program, you can help improve the Census 2010 count for your jurisdiction. When you participate in the program you will have the opportunity to review and update the Census Bureau's address list or submit your own local address list to the Census Bureau; and review and update the legal boundaries and features on the Census Bureau maps for your area.

The Herkimer-Oneida County Comprehensive Planning Program and has scheduled a training session to be held on **Thursday, October 18, 2007 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Trenton Municipal Center, 8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld, NY.** You will need to register by October 15th to ensure there will be enough materials and handouts. You can register by either: **E-mailing Dale Miller at dmiller@ocgov.net (please place LUCA TRAINING in the subject line) or calling the HOCCPP office at 315-798-5710 to register the names of attendees.**

The focus of the training will include: Assistance in understanding the best LUCA option for your community; an in-depth presentation of Option 1, which allows you full access to Census Files; training on how to complete all phases of Option 1; information on the assistance HOCCPP will be providing for Herkimer and Oneida Counties, including mapping of census blocks; use of aerial photography to count units; block count data; identification of potential "at risk" units in your municipality; database management tips; and general assistance.

In order to assist your community in the upcoming LUCA process, you will need to have a representative, preferably the point person from your community that will serve as the contact source for all LUCA activities, at this important training. Local officials from other counties are also invited to attend.

NOCCOG TO HOLD ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will hold its yearly fall meeting and dinner at the Franklin Hotel, South James Street, Rome on Thursday, October 25th. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m. A business meeting will follow with the election of officers for the NOCCOG executive board for 2008 and adoption of the budget 2008. The circuit riders will be presenting a slide presentation of various events, municipal projects and points of interest in NOCCOG towns and villages in 2007. The meeting is also an opportunity to reflect on the past year's accomplishments for NOCCOG and member communities.

The cost of the dinner is \$17.00. Checks should be made payable to the Franklin Hotel. Reservations may be made by contacting municipal management consultant Gerry Ritter before October 19th at 392-2260 or by e-mail at GJRitter01@aol.com.

LOCAL LEADERS INSTITUTE UNDERWAY

The 2007-2008 Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute kicked off on Saturday, September 22nd with a tour of the region highlighting a variety of projects while exposing participants to several of the region's communities and natural wonders. On September 26th, participants met over dinner at Boonville's Hulbert House to receive an overview of key issues affecting the region and to learn more about the Commission's history and structure. Future sessions will focus on the environment, economy, public engagement, and leadership styles.

Those enrolled in this year's Local Leaders Institute include: Stephen Carpenter, Vienna town councilman; Larry Dlugosz, interested citizen from Lowville; Charles Gilkey, Town of Constantia planning board chair and deputy supervisor; Jennifer Harvill, natural resource specialist with the Tug Hill Commission;

Marilyn Holman, Vienna town councilwoman and deputy supervisor; Frank Kogut, interested citizen from Martinsburg; Gerry Ritter, NOCOG Circuit Rider; and Gary Trombley, Wilna town councilman.

UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

First, remember that the deadline for the Shared Municipal Services Program is December 14, 2007. Detailed information was provided in an earlier issue of Tug Hill Times. SMSI grant workshops are scheduled for October 9th at SUNY Potsdam's Local Government Conference and for October 17th in Syracuse. For more information, contact the Commission office at 1-888-785-2380, or check the Dept. of State's website at www.dos.state.ny.us (go to "Local Government Services").

The deadline for the next round of funding for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (including Blueway Trail funding) is November 30th. A workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24th from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at the Cicero Town Hall. For more information, go to: <http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/request.html>, or call the Commission office at the above number.

The Office for Small Cities has announced upcoming workshops for the 2008 round of Community Development Block Grants for housing, wastewater, water, or economic development projects that primarily serve or benefit low and moderate income populations. The nearest grant application workshop is October 17th at the State Office Building in Watertown (1st floor) from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Although the deadline is not yet announced, it typically falls in early April. For more information, check their website at: www.nysmallcities.com.

SALMON RIVER ASSESSMENT PROJECT TIMELINE EXTENDED

The Salmon River Watershed Natural Resources

Assessment has received approval from the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service for a later completion date of December 31st of this year. Successful workshops held this spring and summer generated a host of ideas that are now being pulled together in one document by project partners. A draft of the full report will be released in November for public review, and public meetings will also be held that month to answer questions and obtain further feedback on the assessment. For more information, please contact Linda Gibbs at 315-785-2380, or (1-888-785-2380 toll free in region) or gibbs@tughill.org.

RACOG AND LOWVILLE TO HOST WALKABLE COMMUNITY FORUMS

The River Area Council of Government (RACOG), in cooperation with the Tug Hill Commission, is hosting a series of community workshops in the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage that will build upon revitalization initiatives to interconnect the downtown & waterfront areas to existing trails. Mark Fenton, a leading advocate and recognized authority on walking and its impact on community health and wellness in the United States, has been invited to meet with local residents, officials, professionals, students, interested parties and school representatives on October 9th from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building. Participants will review approaches used in other communities across the nation to build sustainable, livable, walkable communities and participate in a short walking tour with Mr. Fenton, to point out his observations and recommendations.

An evening workshop is also scheduled on October 9th from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Carthage Central High School to review community information and discuss implementation strategies to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. Mr. Fenton will emphasize the importance of walking and biking as a solution to improving our health, environment and economy.

On October 10th, local officials and community leaders will join in a “Community Leader’s Breakfast” from 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at the Village of West Carthage Community Room to conclude the series of workshops. Mr. Fenton will review comments from the public and provide a summary of recommendations to advance next steps.

After the breakfast meeting in Carthage, Mr. Fenton will head to Lowville and follow a similar approach. After touring the village he will meet with a cross-section of local leaders from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. at Lowville Academy and Central School. He will then address the general public at 6:30 p.m., also at the school.

On Thursday, October 11th, he will wrap up his visit with a leader’s breakfast focused on implementation strategies for projects and programs to improve pedestrian safety and enjoyment.

