



December 2, 2011

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Please visit our website:
www.tughill.org



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 of the region's communities.

New Web-Based Mapping Application - Take a Look!

The Tug Hill Commission is currently testing a new web mapping cloud application, available free through ESRI. Your feedback is important, so we created a basic map for you to look at online. Please go to <http://www.tughill.org/services/natural-resource-management/> to view our Tug Hill Aquifer app. When you click on the aquifer, a window will appear enabling you to access information about the aquifer. This interaction is an improvement to the static maps you normally see online. This online mapping service only requires that you have Internet access to take advantage of it.



The services (www.arcgis.com) make it easy to share maps publicly or within private groups, enhancing our ability to share information and collaborate on projects. Please let us know your thoughts as we continue to look into this for other application opportunities. We look forward to hearing your feedback. You can contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2389 or by email mickey@tughill.org.

December 21st Commission Meeting

The next Tug Hill Commission "Commissioners' Meeting" will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Commission office at the State Office Building in Watertown, NY. **The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.**

Lyons Falls BOA Steering Committee Meeting

The Lyons Falls Brownfield Opportunity Area project Steering Committee will have its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 5th in Lyons Falls. The Phase 2 Nomination Study is nearing completion and the Committee hopes it can be finalized in February of 2012. For more information about the project, please visit <http://lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com>.

FEMA Map Modernization Program

The New York State DEC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been working on a program to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in New York State. The preliminary Flood Insurance Study and accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) have been prepared for municipalities in **Oneida and Oswego Counties** and are currently being reviewed by local codes enforcement officers, who usually serve as flood plain administrators and other local officials. These newly revised maps are in a GIS compatible county-wide format, including digital ortho-photo base mapping and updated topographical data.

FEMA recently forwarded the preliminary copies of the study with accompanying maps to the Chief Elected Official and Floodplain Administrator for each municipality. Informational meetings were held the last week of November for local officials and codes officers. The purpose of the meeting was to explain and present the results of the Preliminary FIS and DFRIM to the community, to explain the appeal and protest process, and to receive comments on the study from community officials. Information on the implications of flood insurance requirements on local residents was also discussed.

FEMA and NYSDEC will also be hosting a public open house for residents of the impacted communities at a late date. Upon completion of the appeals period, communities will be required to legally adopt the new maps in order to maintain compliance with National Flood Insurance program requirements.

Save the Date for the 2012 NYS GIS Conference

The NYS GIS Conference has been moved to the Spring. It will be held **May 15th and 16th** at the On-Center in **Syracuse**, NY. There will be an App Garden, which will give participants the ability to play around with different applications on their smartphones, tablets, or computers. Also, there will be a Technology Petting Zoo. This is your chance to get your hands on new geospatial technology devices and try them out, just watch out for the goats! There will be workshops available on the first day and different presentations on the second day. For more information you can go to www.esf.edu/nysgisconf. Hope to see you there!

Public Meeting on Oneida Lake and Oneida River Public Access

Oswego County will hold a meeting on public access sites along the Oneida Lake shoreline and the Oneida River on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hastings Town Hall, 1134 US Route 11, Central Square, New York.

Oswego County has received a grant to conduct an inventory and analysis of public access sites along the Oswego and Oneida River corridors, which will include an examination of sites along the shorelines of Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake within Oneida County. Oswego County is working with the staff of Barton & Loguidice, P.C., on the first stages of this project, and public input is sought on these issues. For more information, please call the Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning at (315) 349-8292.

DEC Accepting Comments on Water Withdrawal Rule Changes

Three public information meetings (see below) will be held in December on proposed regulations to protect New York's waters, including the Great Lakes, by requiring users of significant volumes of water to obtain a state permit before withdrawing the water. The comment period for the draft water withdrawal regulations concludes on **January 22, 2012**. For more information or to make comments, contact Gina M. Fanelli at (631) 444-0482 or gmfanell@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Proposed amendments here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/78258.html>.

December 6 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM

NYS DEC Region 3 Office

New Paltz, NY

December 8 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM

West Henrietta Fire Station 6

West Henrietta, NY

December 12 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM

NYS DEC Central Office

Albany, NY

2011 Trash Bash

Three and a half miles of shoreline along the Black River were cleaned up during the 2011 Black River Trash Bash earlier this fall. Nineteen volunteers took part in the event, held in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy's Worldwide Beach Cleanup Day. To read more about the Ocean Conservancy and to view the final report, go to <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/marine-debris/international-coastal-cleanup-11.html>. In New York, this event is coordinated through the NYC Chapter of the American Littoral Society, which provides trash bags and data cards used to compile the volunteers' findings. Data cards are sent to the Ocean Conservancy and data is included in the annual report at the site listed above.

Along the Black River, over 300 pounds of trash were bagged and properly disposed of at 5 locations along the River including one in Watertown, one in the Town of Greig, two in the Village of Lyons Falls and one in Boonville.

In Boonville, members of the Adirondack Communities Advisory League (ACAL) cleaned 2 miles and brought in over 100 lbs of trash, including a burned up and smashed television and over 80 beverage bottles. At the lower boat launch in Lyons Falls, the South Lewis Service Organization, from the South Lewis School, brought 9 volunteers that picked up 100 pounds of trash in a quarter mile span. They reported finding the tub from a washing machine and a fireplace tool set. At the upper boat launch in Lyons Falls, four Lyons Falls Alive members hauled in 60 pounds of trash including a rug and several diapers. At the Glenfield boat launch in the Town of Greig, Nichelle Billhardt of the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and her six year old son, Aiden, collected 20 pounds of trash including a garden hose. And finally, in Watertown, the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust hauled in 10 pounds of garbage including over 30 cigarette butts or filters and a pair of socks. For more information about the American Littoral Society, go to <http://www.alsnyc.org/cleanup.htm>.

The Tug Hill Commission wishes to thank all the volunteers and trash haulers that participated, especially those that braved torrential downpours in order to complete their task! A great debt of gratitude is owed to White's Lumber in Watertown for providing work gloves to the volunteers and to Nirvana in Boonville, which provided bottles of water for the workers. The NYS DOT also provided trash "grabbers" to help ease the physical labor. We appreciate everyone who participated and donated their time and goods. If you would like to participate in future Trash Bash events, please contact Jennifer Harvill at the Tug Hill Commission jennifer@tughill.org or 315-785-2392.

Last Chance - Register for Project Review Training

There is still time to register for the training session on subdivision review, site plan review and special permits by Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Philip Street at the West Monroe Town Hall, 46 County Route 11, West Monroe, New York, **Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.**



Sponsored by the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments and the Tug Hill Commission, this two hour training session will provide an overview of the process of reviewing subdivision proposals, site plan proposals and special permits. The intended audience is planning board members, ZBA members, and other municipal officials who wish to gain a better understanding of project reviews by planning boards.

Preregistration is requested for this training opportunity to make sure that there are adequate quantities of any handouts and meeting materials. Please preregister by calling the Tug Hill Commission offices at its toll-free number, 888-785-2380 or by e-mailing the Commission at tughill@tughill.org. This session is good for two hours credit for planning board and ZBA members needing training hours.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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(Electronic versions appear in full
color!) Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

The NYS Tug Hill Commission's
23rd Annual
Local Government Conference
will take place
Thursday March 29, 2012
at
Jefferson Community College

DEC Extends Hydrofracking Comment Period to January 11

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced Wednesday at its public hearing in Manhattan that the public comment period on its proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing for natural gas has been extended from December 12, 2011 to January 11, 2012. The extension puts the total length of the comment period at 126 days. Comments may be submitted online at www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.html or on paper to:

dSGEIS Comments
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-6510

Records Management Grants Awarded

Various communities in the Tug Hill Region were recently awarded funding from New York State Archives under the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) program. Tug Hill Commission staff provided assistance in the preparation and submission of six Records Management Grant applications, four of which were successful.

The **Town of Orwell** will receive \$9,045 for the construction of a fire-safe storage area for their inactive records. The town plans to create a more efficient and secure space to house 273 cubic feet of boxed records on steel shelving units. Included in the project is the organization and re-filing or purging of records and the development of records management policies and procedures. The **Town of Williamstown** will be awarded \$13,346 to develop an inactive records management program including a new storage area. They plan to organize and re-file or purge approximately 252 cubic feet of inactive records and develop policies and procedure to ensure long-term success of their program. The **Town of Camden** and the **Village of Lyons Falls** will receive \$21,514 and \$15,653 respectively to implement a records management program by conducting inventory and planning projects. Both projects will include a thorough inventory of all municipal records, compiling and organizing all the records to be retained, the creation of an inactive records storage area, and development of a needs assessment and records management plan.

Other successful applications in the region are the **Village of Boonville**, awarded \$7,061 for files management, and the **Village of Lowville** for \$2,660 to advance their inactive records management program. Applications for funding in the next round are due on February 1, 2012. Communities interested in applying for a Records Management Grant should contact your area Circuit Rider or Commission staff at 1-888-785-2380.