



December 22, 2011

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.

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop for Construction Site Contractors and Operators

January 19, 2012

8:00 am - Noon

Breakfast and Registration Begin at 7:30 am

at the

Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown, NY

This FREE Workshop is sponsored by the
Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District
With assistance from the NYS Tug Hill Commission

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TO CONTACT THE
TUG HILL
COMMISSION:

Phone toll free within
the region:
1-888-785-2380
or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org

Please visit our
website:
www.tughill.org



This workshop provides the required training for contractors and site inspectors to comply with the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-10-001). All those responsible for the installation, construction, repair, maintenance or the inspection of erosion and sediment control measures or the construction of post-construction stormwater management practices at SPDES-permitted construction sites in New York State are required to attend a DEC-endorsed 4-hour training course every three years. Construction Site Inspectors who are not licensed as a PE or LA or credited as a CPESC are also required to attend.

This workshop is being offered Free Of Charge, but pre-registration is requested by contacting the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380 or jennifer@tughill.org.



Tug Hill Timberlands Meeting

The Tug Hill Commission hosted a meeting on December 19th at the Albion/Altmar Joint Municipal Building to discuss forests and industrial timberlands on Tug Hill, their importance to the Region and specifically, the sale of Harden's 9,500 acres of timberland. The purpose of the meeting was to make stakeholders, which include municipal officials, sportsmen, environmentalists and recreationists, aware of the sale and to discuss any concerns they have regarding the change of property ownership. Some of the points raised include the burden that the 480a tax exemption puts on landowners and the possible disruption of leases held by sportsmens' clubs on Harden's property. The Commission will be doing some further information gathering and may reconvene this group sometime later in the winter or early spring.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Calendars

With over 1,000 photos submitted from more than 100 photographers, the annual Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Calendar Photo Contest has once again exceeded expectations. Calendars are available to purchase for \$10 each throughout the region at places including the NYS Zoo at Thompson Park, Watertown; The Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Lowville; The Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce, Watertown; Carpenter's Hardware & Paint, Camden; and The Photo Shoppe, Rome. Calendars are also available to purchase directly from the land trust office; contact Janelle Castro at 315-779-2239 or email tughilloutreach@nnymail.com to order calendars.



(Shipping will be charged to orders placed through the land trust office). The winning cover photo was taken by Lewis County photographer, Glenn Miller. Glenn lives in Lowville with his wife, Denise and their children. His cover photo is a beautiful shot of the Moose River in Port Leyden.

Watch the Mail for Your Registration Brochure

For the NYS Tug Hill Commission's
23rd Annual

Local Government Conference

Thursday March 29, 2012 at Jefferson Community College

Brochures will be mailed in early 2012

Or you can Visit our Website at <http://www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-2012/>
to download a copy!

New Comprehensive Plan in the Works for Camden

The Camden Village Planning Board has recently begun work on a new comprehensive plan. The board is currently reviewing demographic and land use trends and preparing a community survey to be released in early 2012. Among the many items to be addressed in the plan are the preservation of the downtown area and the study of possible land uses at the Village periphery.

Tug Hill Alumnus Robert Stegemann to head NYSDEC Region 5

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens recently announced that Robert Stegemann will join the Department as Regional Director for the eastern Adirondacks (DEC Region 5), citing Mr. Stegemann as an "exceptional environmental steward" with an "impressive record." Mr. Stegemann past served the Tug Hill Commission as senior policy analyst. Congratulations, Bob!



Zoning Board of Appeals Basics Workshop Held at Parish

Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street and Jean Waterbury conducted a training session on Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Basics to an audience of more than a dozen local officials on Monday, November 21 at the Parish Village Gym. In support of the Commission's continuing commitment to make essential training resources readily available to local governments, the workshop offered attendees a handout which included sample ZBA bylaws and administrative forms, in addition to the informative presentation. Attendees included ZBA members and town and village board members from throughout Oswego County.



Applications are now available for the 2011-2012 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program and the Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant Program.

Local Government Efficiency Grants are competitive grants to local governments that help reduce municipal expenses and property taxes by helping local government entities plan for and implement new service delivery efficiencies. Under the Local Government Efficiency Grant program local governments may apply for:

- Planning assistance for a local government consolidation or dissolution, a functional consolidation, a city or county charter revision that includes functional consolidation, shared or cooperative services, and regionalized delivery of services;
- Implementation assistance for a local government consolidation or dissolution, a functional consolidation, a city or county charter revision that includes functional consolidation, shared or cooperative services, and regionalized delivery of services; or
- Planning and Implementation assistance for a local government consolidation or dissolution, a functional consolidation, a city or county charter revision that includes functional consolidation, shared or cooperative services, and regionalized delivery.

Municipalities can receive a maximum of \$200,000 in cumulative funding, which includes up to \$25,000 for planning. Applications must demonstrate an examination of financial savings, return on public investment, and management improvements resulting from project implementation. Applicants are required to provide matching funds equal to 10% of total project costs. All grants are reimbursement grants. In order to receive full funding, the awardees must demonstrate that the project has received all appropriate public consideration, including mandatory or permissive referenda where required.



The *Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant* is a noncompetitive grant that provides funding to study, plan for and/or implement the restructuring of local governments subject to General Municipal Law Article 17-A. The goal of the Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant Program is to reduce municipal expenses and property taxes through government re-organization or alternative actions if re-organization is not a feasible or desirable option, or will not reduce expenses. Eligible local governments are villages, towns and special districts. The maximum grant award is \$100,000, with \$50,000 maximum for a study; \$25,000 in expedited funds for petitioned local governments; and up to \$50,000 for planning or implementation of a municipal re-organization.

The submission deadline for the *Local Government Efficiency Grant* is 4:00 p.m. on March 21, 2012. Deadlines for the *Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant* are 4:00 p.m. on first Wednesday of each month except for January, where the deadline is the first Thursday. Questions about the grant program should be directed to the LGE Program Manager, as indicated in the application instructions.

If you need assistance with scoping out a potential project or working through the application, please call the Commission.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Mailing address:
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th
Floor of the
Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Fax: 315-785-2574
E-mail: tughill@tughill.org
Web: www.tughill.org

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ESRI GIS Licensing for K-12

New York State and ESRI have reached
an agreement to provide GIS licensing
for grades K-12. This agreement will run through July 31, 2014.
ESRI software will be available to public and non-public schools,
home schools and local chapters of recognized national youth pro-
grams. School districts and clubs will be able to use these licenses
for non-commercial uses, like bus routing and facility management.
The NYS GIS Association spearheaded this effort.



If you would like more information on this, go to http://nysgis.org/Docs/ESRI_GIS_Licenses_K-12.pdf or contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission. Mickey is the NYS Association Regional Coordinator for the Tug Hill region and can be contacted at (315) 785-2389 or by email at mickey@tughill.org. The NYS GIS Association can also assist schools and municipalities with meeting geo-spatial technology training needs. Please send your request to Mickey.



*Best Wishes for a Bright and Peaceful Holiday
and a Very Happy New Year!*

From your friends at the Tug Hill Commission:

*John, Phil, Jean, Katie, Matt, Carla, Mickey,
Jennifer, Kathy, Felicia, Paul, Gerry, Jeannie,
Sue, Harlan, Kay and Kayla.*

Snowy Boonville



Recently, climate experts released their annual predictions about the probability of a white Christmas. Northern Oneida County's Boonville is second, behind Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, on the list from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell. Pinkham has a 95% probability of an inch or more of snow on the ground on December 25, while Boonville comes in second with a 94% chance. Other New York locations mentioned are Syracuse and Oswego at 68%, Binghamton at 64%, Buffalo at 62%, Ithaca at 60%, Rochester at 58% and Albany at 50%.

With just a dusting of snow on the ground, there are still a few days for Boonville to have a White Christmas again this year.