



July 11, 2014

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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.

Resource Guidebook Series for Local Officials

Syracuse University's Environmental Finance Center is creating a Resource Guidebook Series to aid local officials in various aspects of rural municipal governance and assistance in NYS. The following guidebooks are currently available on their website: (*Comprehensive Plan Development, Succession Planning, Grant Writing, Capital Improvement Planning, and Zoning Board of Appeals.*) The final guidebook in the series, Planning Boards, will be available soon.

To order free hard copies of the publications, contact Khris Dodson at: kdodson@syracusecoe.org.

The guides can be downloaded at: <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/sub.html?skuvar=7>.

Fall Planning and Zoning Training Requests

The Tug Hill Commission is getting ready to schedule fall training for local planning and zoning officials seeking to fulfill their four hours of annual training requirements. The Commission staff would be happy to schedule two-hour evening training events around the hill on request of local officials, either as individual or multi-town events. Typical training has been on zoning board of appeals procedures and appeals; site plan review, special use permit and subdivision review procedures; and SEQR. If you have a request for training in your area, please contact your local circuit rider.

Hydrofracking Regulations Upheld

In two decisions handed down in June, the NY Court of Appeals upheld the right of local municipalities to regulate the practice of hydrofracking under their authority to enact zoning regulations. Zoning prohibitions by the towns of Dreyden and Middlefield were challenged under the claim that the supersession clause in the State Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law preempted local authority. The court decided that because the supersession clause did not specifically include a preemption of zoning, municipalities were free to use zoning to regulate and prohibit the practice. Although there has been no expressed interest in hydrofracking in the Tug Hill Region, many municipalities will be relieved that this regulatory option is available to them should they ever desire to use it.

Relatedly, hydrofracking continues to be banned by NYS while environmental review takes place. More information on that is available at NYS DEC's website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/46288.html>.

ISPZ Signs Installation Underway



Keep your eyes open as Invasive Species Protection Zone (ISPZ) panels are installed at trailheads around the core of Tug Hill. The picture to left was taken at the East Branch of Fish Creek fishing access site on Osceola-West Leyden Road, where the Department of Environmental Conservation installed the aquatic themed panel.

More information about the Tug Hill ISPZ can be found here:

<http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Tug-Hill-ISPZ.pdf>

and

<http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Tug-Hill-ISPZ-Report-2014-PDF.pdf>.

SU-EFC Releases New Guides in 2014 New York State Guidebook Series

Syracuse University/Environmental Finance Center has created a Resource Guidebook Series to aid local officials in various aspects of rural municipal governance and assistance in New York State. The following guidebooks are currently available on the SU-EFC website: Comprehensive Plan Development, Succession Planning, Grant Writing, Capital Improvement Planning, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The final guidebook in the series, Planning Boards, will be available soon.

To order free hard copies of publications, contact Khri Dodson at kdodson@syracusecoe.org or download the guides at <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/whatsnew.html?skuvar=157>.

Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute July 13-17

CMCI (Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute) is a premium educational opportunity provided by a partnership between the City and Village Clerks, the Town Clerks Association of the State of New York, New York State Association of Clerks of County Legislative Boards and Cornell University's Community and Regional Development Institute. CMCI will offer a Basic Training and a Masters Training from July 13-17 at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

CMCI will also offer the one-day program for elected officials and for clerks who either want to know what the Institute is all about or who need just a few more hours of training to qualify for their certification.

For more information, training schedules and to register visit the [CMCI website](#).



Save the Date!

Potsdam LGC Planned for Tuesday, October 14, 2014

23rd Annual Potsdam Local Government Conference to be held at Kellas Hall, SUNY Potsdam. The conference will run from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Register by September 30th for \$40. Workshops planned for assessors, board members, budget and finance, code enforcement, community development, municipal clerks, planning and zoning, and public works. For more information: www.potsdam.edu/localgovernment.

“Utilizing GIS for Precision Agriculture” Webinar Recording NOW on YouTube

For those who were not able to sit in on the “Utilizing GIS For Precision Agriculture” webinar that was put on by the NYS GIS Association, it is now on YouTube. Here is the link to it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6Ev6TnCjE>. Jill Stanford provided a brief overview of John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group and the uses of GIS in Precision Agriculture products at John Deere. Jill provided examples of how spatial data is collected in the field with sub-inch accuracy GPS positions along with machine and agricultural sensors.

The position data is used both inside the cab during field operations such as planting and spraying to reduce double planting or overlap spraying areas. It is also used in the cab for real-time feedback regarding equipment and crop performance. In the office, maps of the field operations are generated and can be used to create management zones that can be used to significantly optimize product placement by varying rates applied within a field for more precise management.

Jill also discussed some recent industry efforts to standardize data exchange in the Agriculture industry. For more information you can contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission by phone (315) 785-2380 or by email mickey@tughill.org.

2014 Black River Trash Bash

The Tug Hill Commission is seeking volunteers to participate in the 5th Annual Black River Trash Bash. This event, part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup Day, is sponsored in New York State by the American Littoral Society. Our regular participants and organizers include the Adirondack Communities Advisory League, Lyons Falls Alive, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. We also have received donations of water from Nirvana Spring Water and gloves from White's Lumber in Watertown. More volunteers and more sponsors are always welcome!

The 2014 International Coastal Cleanup Day is September 20th. Pick a date and time within a month (August 20 - October 20) of this date to schedule your local event. This is meant to be a Black River Watershed event, so anywhere you have legal access to be along the Black or its tributaries is appropriate.

Contact Jennifer Harvill (jennifer@tughill.org or 315-785-2380) by July 25th if you would like to schedule a date, location and time for your group's local event!

In 2013, 5,954 volunteers, coordinated by the American Littoral Society, cleaned and documented 57,604 pounds of debris along 173.25 miles of New York State's shoreline.

In the Black River Watershed, your contributions over the last four years look like this:

	# participants	weight (pounds) of debris	distance (miles) cleaned	# bags filled
2010	36	735	4.6	49
2011	23	290	3.5	23
2012	57	504.5	6.05	32
2013	29	726	5.75	32
2014				
Running Totals	145	2255.5	19.9	136

Contact us at:

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Email:
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www.tughill.org

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Save the Date! Water Resources Infrastructure: A Critical Piece of Community Development

2014 Community Development Institute

September 17-18
Honor's Haven Resort - Ellenville, NY (Ulster County)

For more information, please visit www.cardi.cornell.edu



**NEW YORK STATE
WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE**
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY



Fall Training Sessions Set for Planning and Zoning Boards

September 23, 2014, 6:30-8:30 in the Jules Center Amphitheater, Room 6-002 at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street Watertown. Sign Regulations will be discussed. The regulation of signs isn't just a zoning issue— when regulating signage, municipalities must be careful not to violate free speech. This session reveals what municipalities may and may not regulate in commercial or non-commercial signage and explores how signage can be regulated for community aesthetics. The session will also address the drafting of a sign control law; the content of local sign control regulations; regulating billboards and other off-premises signs; and eliminating nonconforming or undesirable signs. **RSVPs are strongly encouraged by calling Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email planning@co.jefferson.ny.us.**

September 24, 2014, 5:30-8:30 in the Legislative Chambers of the Lewis County Court House in Lowville. Special Use Permits will be discussed in the first half of this session. Some uses require additional review and should be granted permission only if the application meets certain conditions. These special uses include gas stations, dog kennels, and uses with drive-thru windows. Scenarios in which the special use permit tool is most helpful will be discussed, along with rules local boards must follow for reviewing and approving application for special use permits. The second half of the session will include role-play in a mock meeting and hearing on use and area variance applications. Members of the audience will become members of a mock ZBA, applicants, and members of the public in a role play that illustrates how local officials should and should not conduct public business. A discussion of best practices will conclude the session. **To register for this session, contact Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning at (315) 376-5422 or email skulzer@lewiscountyny.org.**