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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.

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Town of West Turin Adopts Special Areas Map

The Town of West Turin has become the first Cooperative Tug Hill Council Town to adopt an updated Special Areas Map since original maps were adopted in the 1990's. On February 27, 2012, Commission staff gave a presentation on Special Areas and how the new maps had been created to a combined meeting of the Town Board and Planning Board. The Town's wish to review the maps in a simpler and more interactive way led Commission staff to create an online map that users could manipulate by zooming and turning layers on and off, etc. On April 17th, Commission staff presented the Town with an ArcGIS online map and trained them how to use it, using internet access and computers available at the Constableville Library. The Town reviewed the map online and requested changes and corrections. Once the Commission made the changes and corrections, the Town adopted the new map on Monday July 9th.

Several other towns have begun the process of adopting their own revised maps. For general information about Special Areas or procedural questions about how to adopt a new map, etc. contact Phil Street, phil@tughill.org. For technical information about the data on the updated Special Areas maps or to schedule a meeting to go over the map in detail with the town board and planning board (if applicable) contact Katie Malinowski, katie@tughill.org.

Information about the Tug Hill Reserve Act, which gives legislative authority to Special Areas, is available on the CTHC website, <http://tughillcouncil.com/PATH.htm>.

Village of Camden's Survey Results Are In

The Village of Camden's comprehensive planning effort is moving along with the results of a village wide survey recently tabulated. The survey had a very respectable 36% response rate. Ninety percent of respondents reported being either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of life in Camden. Respondents chose "retain and expand viable commercial activity in the village downtown" as the most important factor to the village's future. Concerns raised by the survey were lack of recreation opportunities for adults and lack of public transportation. These results will inform the planning process that takes place over the next several months.



Biomass Crop Assistance Program Informational Meetings

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced a new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) project area for the production of shrub willow in **Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida** and **St. Lawrence** counties. Producers are eligible to receive cost share payments of 75% of establishment costs and annual rental payments to grow shrub willow for biomass conversion to bioenergy. **The signup periods for producers runs from June 18, 2012 through Sept. 14, 2012.** ReEnergy Holdings has agreed to purchase all the willow biomass grown in this program over an 11 year period and use it to produce renewable energy. The 3,500 acres of willow will be planted in 2013 and 2014 to provide a steady supply of this biomass material to the biomass conversion facilities.

Six meetings will be held across the region so farmers, landowners, and/or interested parties can learn more about BCAP, how to enroll and the process of cultivating shrub willow as a renewable energy crop. Additional background about willow biomass crops and the USDA BCAP program can be found at www.esf.edu/willow. Questions about these meetings can be sent to jmalighi@syr.edu.

Workshop Dates:

July 24th – 2:30-4:00 pm @ Public Safety Building, 55 Bare Hill Rd., Malone, NY 12953 and 6:00-7:30 pm @ VFW Post 1231, 34 Gouverneur St., Canton, NY 13617

July 30th - 2:30-4:00 pm @ CCE Jefferson County Office, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY 13601 and 6:00-7:30 pm @ Town Courthouse & Conference Room, 5533 Bostwick St., Lowville, NY 13367

July 31st - 2:30-4:00 pm @ CCE Oneida County Office, 121 Second St., Oriskany, NY 13424 and 6:00-7:30 pm @ CCE Jefferson County Office, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown, NY 13601

Topics Covered at the Meetings will include: How landowners and producers can enroll in the USDA BCAP program; Producers must have a purchasing agreement with ReEnergy Holdings for the willow biomass that will be produced. These agreements will be discussed and the process for setting them up will be explained; and, Willow biomass crop production and economics.

Proposed Galloo Island Power Transmission Line Update

A conference call was held Friday July 6th on the status of the proposed transmission line for the proposed Galloo Island wind farm. Upstate NY Power Corporation, citing low electrical power prices, expiring tax credits and project uncertainty, has asked for another six to nine months of adjournment on their status report to see how these issues may or may not resolve themselves before they move forward.

Several landowners expressed frustration with the length of time Upstate has had to see the project to fruition and to secure a contract or customer for the proposed electricity to be transmitted over the proposed line. The project has been on the table for over three years and landowners and businesses are frustrated by not being able to expand their properties or make land use decisions because of the uncertainty of where the power line could be built. On the call, staff from the Department of Public Service raised the question of whether the company would consider withdrawing their application knowing the company could re-file in the future without prejudice. Also, it was acknowledged that because so much time has passed, materials submitted by Upstate in their application will likely have to be updated if the application again becomes active.

Since the call on July 6th, staff of the Public Service Commission has filed a motion titled, "Department of Public Service Staff's Reply and Cross Motion to Dismiss," requesting that Upstate withdraw its application, without prejudice (meaning a new application could be submitted at any time in the future), due to the concerns raised by

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the landowners regarding the length of time the application process is taking. Correspondence about this case can be found at: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?Mattercaseno=09-T-0049>. A very detailed history of this project can be found in the motion to dismiss filed by the Public Service Commission, which can be found at the aforementioned website.

Commission Assists with Consolidated Funding Applications

Four Tug Hill Commission staffers assisted with the preparation of five Consolidated Funding Applications in various funding categories. The Town of Turin (in cooperation with the Village of Turin) and the Village of Lyons Falls applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to assist with funding for preliminary studies on wastewater treatment plants. The Town of Martinsburg applied to the NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) for improvements to hiking trails throughout Whitaker Park. Included in the proposal are the installation of four scenic overlooks of Roaring Brook Falls located along the trail. The Town of Wilna also applied for funding from OPRHP to contract for professional Landscape and Architectural services to design an interconnected waterfront park at the “Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc Superfund Site” in the Village of Herrings. Commission staff also assisted Celtic Energy Farm with an application to Empire State Development for funds to purchase equipment for willow biomass operations to support ReEnergy and the recently announced Biomass Crop Assistance Program or BCAP, which is also described on the top of page 2.



DEC Adopts Changes for Deer Hunting Regulations

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has adopted rules affecting deer and bear hunting in New York, to implement certain aspects of the state's Five-Year Deer Management Plan. The new rules include longer bow seasons, mandatory antler restrictions in more areas and other deer hunting changes. The adopted changes include:

- Beginning bowhunting season and the regular season for the Southern Zone in Westchester County (bowhunting only) on October 1 and establishing a late bowhunting season concurrent with the late muzzleloader season in the Northern Zone.
- Adjusting the Northern Zone season dates by opening the Northern Zone regular season for 44 days, beginning on the 2nd Saturday after Columbus Day.
- Allowing Deer Management Permits (DMPs, “doe tags”) to be used in all seasons in the Northern Zone.
- Expanding mandatory antler restrictions (3 points on one side minimum) into Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 3A, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W, as called for in the Deer Management Plan.
- Adjusting bear hunting seasons to remain concurrent with deer seasons.



The full text of the adopted regulations is available at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/81317.html. To understand DEC’s rationale for the adopted season changes, and to review DEC’s assessment of public comments on this rulemaking, see www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/deerregapc2012.pdf. Also, the 2012 deer hunting seasons can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28605.html and additional information about mandatory antler restrictions in New York is available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27663.html.

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Thank you!

Clean Energy Conference Drop Box Update

In our last Tug Hill Times, the link to
the drop box containing the presenta-
tions from the Clean Energy Confer-
ence was incorrect. Please use the fol-
lowing link to access the presentations:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/108iu2xy74x73k/Qtjg4ifbzd>

Riverfest Set for August 4th

The Lewis County Chamber of Commerce is once again hosting Riverfest, a paddling event on the Black River from Castorland to Carthage. Complete information on this event, including waivers of liability and T-Shirt order forms are at <http://www.lewiscountychamber.org/events.php>. The Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee will, once again, be hosting trivia questions, which will be posted along the river, for your chance at winning a gift basket filled with goodies from local businesses. Registration, at the Castorland boat launch, is from 8:00 am -10:00 am. If you are planning to attend RiverFest, you are encouraged to **PRE-REGISTER!** You can pre-register by completing the forms online and mailing, faxing or emailing them to the Lewis County Chamber: (315) 376-0326 fax, donna@lewiscountychamber.org, or 7576 South State St., Lowville, NY 13367. Payment must be received in the Chamber office by July 30th, so call with a credit/debit card or stop by with cash. You can also pay with cash or check the day of the event!

USGS Water Data Available in New Format

The NY United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recently made it hydrologic data available in an online mapping format at <http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/eom/>. By tabbing across the top of the webpage users can look at streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation data, among other things, for gauges USGS maintains across the state. Various links can take users to more detailed information as desired. June's data shows that, for example, the Sandy Creek gage at Adams is showing dry conditions with a mean flows of 43.8 cubic feet per section, and an 86% exceedance from normal flow.

Website for Northern New York Waterfalls

For anyone interested in visiting one of the many waterfalls in the North Country, there is an online resources for you at <http://www.nnywaterfalls.com/index.htm>. Waterfalls are listed alphabetically, by river, and by county. If you see that a waterfall is missing, there is a form to nominate an addition.

The website was initially created by David J. Schryver, a math teacher for 33 years in the Edwards-Knox Central School District of St. Lawrence County, New York. From the website: "After retiring in 2006, he started giving some thought to many of the waterfalls in the area. As a resident of the town of Edwards for over 30 years, he knew that there are at least a dozen named waterfalls within 15 miles or so of his home and he had never seen any of them. As he started to explore and research some of them, he discovered that there was very little information in print on waterfalls in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, locally referred to as the tri-counties. There were a few Internet resources available, but even they were limited. Also, it was found that some of the information in print wasn't always completely accurate."