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June 15, 2014



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.

Welcome Back Beth!

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council would like to welcome back Associate Circuit Rider Beth Steria. As many of you know Beth was in a serious car accident in February of this year, suffering numerous injuries. She has been working hard on her recovery for the last few months, and made her first appearance since her accident at the Council's spring meeting on May 22nd. Beginning this month Beth will return to covering her regular meetings in Harrisburg, Leyden, Martinsburg, Turin and West Turin and she will be available to assist the towns with any questions they may have. Beth can be contacted at bethsteria@gmail.com and will have her full contact information to her towns soon. The Council is thrilled with Beth's return to service and thinks that she is one tough lady!

New Water Tower Project for Herrings and Deferiet

On June 11th, local officials from the villages of Deferiet and Herrings held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of a new water tower along NYS Rt. 3A to advance the construction of a new water tower that will support the shared water system. Initiated in 2006, the \$4 million project is part of a 2-phase initiative to provide a reliable source of clean drinking water to residents in the villages of Herrings and Deferiet.

Funded by the Department of State through the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program and US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, the project is a culmination of an 8-year initiative to address contaminated water issues from a 1991 chemical spill at the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. in Herrings and upgrade equipment at 2-well houses in Deferiet. Assisted by Bernier Carr & Associates, the project is targeted for completion by years end.

Watertown Comprehensive Plan Nearing Completion

The Town of Watertown held a public hearing June 2nd on a new comprehensive plan. The plan, developed by a committee made up of planning board members, zba members and other representatives from the community, is intended to prioritize capital investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing zoning and land subdivision controls and will help assure that growth will be in accordance with existing plans for future water, sewer and road development. Key issues in the plan are how the town works on organized development along County Route 202, where a sprawling apartment complex is being built; and how agriculture and development interact.

Black River Watershed Conference Held

The Tug Hill Commission, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6 hosted the Fourth Annual Black River Conference on June 4th at the Tug Hill Vineyards. Around 60 attendees were treated to a warm, sunny day at the Vineyards where they heard presentations from the DEC, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York, the Hudson River Black River Regulating District, the Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Tug Hill Commission, US Army Corp of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Topics of discussion included Stormwater Regulations, Cultural Heritage,

Flow Regulation and Fish Species Distribution. In addition, the group learned about Emergency Stream Response from a panel of local, state and federal experts. After lunch, the group had an opportunity to take a bus tour of four project sites in the Watershed that exemplify how to work in partnerships to get large tasks accomplished. The coach bus, completely funded by the

Beaver River Advisory Council, took around 50 conference goers to view and hear about the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Mill demolition project from Mayor Katie Leindecker and Carrie Tuttle of DANC, the Burdick's Crossing Boat Launch from Supervisor Jerry Reed, Beach's Landing (at Miller's Meat Market) and to Grace-Way Farms where the group learned about manure management from farm owner Marc Larabee. The bus tour was very well received by conference goers who said over and over that there's nothing like seeing a project first hand and hearing about it from those that partnered to get it done. Special thanks go out to all the speakers and tour guides that made the day such a success. We're

looking forward to and already planning the 2015 Black River Watershed Conference, so please get us your suggestions and ideas.

If you would like to review the 2014 presentations, please go to our website: www.tughill.org.

“Precision Agriculture Webinar”

On June 19th, 2014 from 12pm to 1pm, the NYS GIS Association will have a webinar on precision farming that will be presented by John Deere. All are welcome to sit in on the webinar. Below is more information about this presentation:

Webinar: "Utilizing GIS in Precision Agriculture"

Presenter: Jill Stanford, Spatial Data Architect, John Deere

Jill will provide a brief overview of John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group and the uses of GIS in Precision Ag products at John Deere. Jill will provide examples of how spatial data is collected in the field with sub-inch accuracy GPS positions along with machine and ag 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 will also discuss some recent industry efforts to standardize data exchange in the Ag industry.

If the maximum number of attendees is reached for the webinar, then priority will be given to members of the NYS GIS Association. Membership to the Association is only \$10/year.

For more information you can contact Mickey Dietrich, NYS Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or email him at mickey@tughill.org.



JOHN DEERE

Invasive Species Presentations Available On-Line

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) held its first full day training session on Wednesday, June 11th at Wehle State Park in Henderson. Over 70 people heard presentations on a variety of current invasive species topics, including:

- Water Chestnut Status in Central NY and Control Efforts
- Hydrilla in the Cayuga Inlet
- Emerald Ash Borer Status and Control Techniques
- Japanese Knotweed Salmon River Project
- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Outreach
- Giant Hogweed
- Pale Swallow-wort



All presentations are available on the SLELO website at www.sleloinvasives.org, under the "Resources & Links" page. Costs for the day were sponsored by the Wehle Charitable Trust.

Public Meeting Scheduled for Boonville Alternate Route Study

The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study (HOCTS), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in the two counties, has undertaken an Alternative Routing Design Study for the Village and Town of Boonville. A public meeting has been scheduled for June 25, 2014, at the Adirondack High School, 8181 State Route 249, Boonville, NY to present the Alternative Routing Design Study to stakeholders and general public for the Village and Town of Boonville. The overall objective of the Alternative Routing Design Study is to identify and assess alternative routes to reduce, remove, or relocate truck traffic related to the Oneida-Herkimer County Solid Waste Authority Landfill from within the Village of Boonville. An important component of this study will include obtaining input from interested stakeholders and the public regarding potential routing alternatives to help determine whether one of the alternatives is considered to be more preferable than the others.

The doors will open at 6:30pm, with an introductory presentation starting at 6:45pm. The objective of the meeting is to provide project information and learn the community's thoughts on the project. The meeting will allow for identification of concerns from within the community that have not been previously identified. The meeting will include a brief introductory presentation project status to date, and allow ample time for public discussion with members of the project team and steering committee.

All information to be distributed at the public information meeting, is available for review at any time on the project website. This website was created specifically for this project and is being provided to allow for expanded public review and input on the project information. Stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to view the information available at the project website: <http://www.bartonandloguidice.com/HOCTSRoutingStudy.htm>

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Dana Crisino, HOCTS Program Manager, at 315-798-5710 or e-mail dcrisino@ocgov.net.

Wilna EPA Remediation Efforts

Contact us at:

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On June 2nd, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dispatched a Drill Crew to the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. Superfund Site to install 4 additional bedrock wells between the Southwest Corner of the main building and the wetland area. The purpose is to refine the scope of work and to initiate the development of the "Ground Water Remedial Design Study" that will guide next steps in addressing water, ground water, and soil contaminate issues/concerns caused by a chemical spill in 1991 at the old industrial site.

Located in the Village of Herrings, the Town of Wilna acquired the 9-acre property in 2012 to spearhead ongoing remediation efforts and construct an interconnected downtown waterfront recreation park facility. According to recommendations outlined in the EPA "Record of Decision," remediation efforts are expected to cost around \$7 million.

Fiscal Oversight/Red Flags for Fraud Workshop June 16

There will be a workshop on Monday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Village Gym, 2938 East Main Street, Parish, New York on Fiscal Oversight and Red Flags for Fraud. This workshop, presented by the New York State Office of the Comptroller and co-sponsored by the New York State Tug Hill Commission and the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments, is intended to help municipal officials with instituting and maintaining sound fiscal practices for monitoring municipal finances and transactions.

The workshop is available for any interested local official, with a special emphasis on those who maintain financial records, take or receive payments, who are involved in purchasing, or who may act in a fiscal oversight capacity. Further information can be found at <http://www.tughill.org/proj/fiscal-oversightred-flags-for-fraud-workshop/>, or from the link on the Tug Hill Commission homepage, www.tughill.org.

Pre-registration is encouraged for this workshop to ensure adequate quantities of meeting materials. Please pre-register with the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380 or 888-785-2380, or by e-mail at gwen@tughill.org. There is no fee for this training program.

2014 NYS Cyber Security Conference Evaluation

The 17th Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference (NYSCSC '14) and 9th Annual Symposium on Information Assurance (ASIA '14) held June 3-4, 2014 at the Empire State Plaza, had record-breaking attendance, with 1,134 attendees. Recognized as the premier Northeast conference for cyber security education, the event was co-hosted by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office, the NYS Forum, Inc., and the University at Albany's School of Business and College of Computing and Information.

A selection of presentations are available on the website at <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ocs/awareness-training-events/conference/2014/sessions.cfm>.