



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.

June 21, 2013

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CFA Workshops

The Regional Economic Development Council's statewide training workshops will provide an overview of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process and how to access up to \$750 million in economic development funding from agency programs through one application. Additionally, there will be informational breakout sessions on specific areas of funding available for economic development projects.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
6/27/2013	12:00 - 2:30 pm	Cazenovia College
6/28/2013	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Dulles State Office Building
7/10/2013	2:00 - 4:30 pm	Cayuga Community College
7/10/2013	9:00 - 11:30 am	SUNY Cobleskill
7/17/2013	2:00 - 4:30 pm	Fulton Montgomery Community College
7/24/2013	9:30 am - 12:00 pm	LeMoyne College

The training workshops are open to local economic development officials, municipalities, non-profits, businesses and members of the public.

For further information or to register visit: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/genericcfa/2013-cfa-workshops>

OSC Webinar June 27th: Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) will be conducting a webinar on the "Fiscal Stress Monitoring System: Overview, Tools, and Resources" on Thursday, June 27th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For course description and registration information, access the following link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/473843062>

Join OSC for a discussion of the Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System and the OSC resources that are available to you. Participants will learn about how the System was developed, the different financial and environmental indicators utilized to identify stress conditions, and most importantly, the package of tools and resources available to help local officials manage through this tough economic climate. OSC's self-assessment tool demonstration will show you how you can easily access the entity level data upon which the System is based, run comparisons to select peer groups, and generate out-year projections. OSC will also tell you more about the enhanced risk assessment process that can help direct more tailored services to your local community. There will also be an opportunity to submit questions throughout the webinar.

Once you have successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation e-mail that includes a link to join the webinar on June 27th. Audio for the webinar will be broadcast through your computer and you will need to use your computer's speakers or headphones. To achieve the best audio quality, the headphones are highly recommended.

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USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program

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The Community Facilities Program provides loans and grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural towns and villages of up to 20,000 in population. USDA Rural Development is committed through its Community Facilities Program in ensuring that essential facilities - such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools and libraries - are readily available to all rural Americans. Direct loans can be made to applicants who are unable to obtain commercial credit. Community Facilities Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Grant funding limitations are based on population, income, economic feasibility and availability of funds.

Eligibility: Loans and grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties and special purpose districts, as well as, non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed facility. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge or improve public facilities; to purchase equipment; and to purchase fire/rescue/police vehicles. Interest rate is 3.5%; maximum term is 40 years.

Funding: Loans - \$25 million annually - no minimum or maximum loan amount; Grants - \$250,000 annually -- can range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 depending on eligibility and the total project cost.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis

Contact: Michael Mannigan, Area Specialist
michael.mannigan@ny.usda.gov

Website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NYHome.html>

NYS Comptroller Holds Fiscal Stress Seminars, Releases Stressed Communities List

The New York State Comptrollers Office recently held two Local Government Leadership Institute events titled "Leading the Way: Changing Course to Avoid Your Own Fiscal Cliff." One of the two workshops was held in Watertown. The workshops detailed the efforts of Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office to develop a system to identify municipal entities under stress, in an effort to be able to identify and avoid developing fiscal problems. Tug Hill Commission Executive Director John Bartow moderated the Watertown workshop's afternoon session on strategies for coping with fiscal stress.

The Comptrollers Office has subsequently released a list of counties, towns, cities and villages under fiscal stress. While no Tug Hill communities appear on the list of 24 stressed communities, 124 entities statewide (out of 1,043) have not yet filed the fiscal reports that the stress rating system uses as its source for data. In addition to the 24 identified as stressed and the 124 with incomplete data, there are 18 additional communities listed as "under review."

The Comptrollers Office reports that "The municipalities found to be in stress share a number of common characteristics, such as low fund balance, a continued pattern of operating deficits and inadequate cash on hand to pay their bills."



The Comptrollers Office has a web page on fiscal monitoring at www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/lists.htm .

The list of 24 stressed communities is available at www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/stress_list.pdf .

To look up your community, go to <http://www1.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/fsi1a.cfm> .

Parish to Host Presentation on Village Dissolution Issues

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The town and village of Parish will host a presentation by Tug Hill Commission Executive Director John Bartow at their next joint meeting, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at the Parish Village Gym, 2938 East Main Street, Parish, New York. Mr. Bartow will share information about village dissolution overall and the recent Tug Hill region experience with village dissolution in the village of Altmar in Oswego County.

The village of Altmar ceased existence May 31, 2013 in response to a voter-initiated petition for dissolution. At their joint meeting in June, the Parish town and village boards voted to invite Bartow to brief them at the July meeting on lessons learned through the Altmar dissolution process.

The experience with village dissolution in Altmar demonstrated some of the practical difficulties with the village dissolution process when initiated by voter petition. Mr. Bartow will review some of the challenges presented by the process, and outline some of the alternatives available for towns and villages seeking to increase efficiency and help keep operating costs under control.

This presentation, and the Parish joint town/village board meetings, are open to the public. The town and village of Parish hope all interested will attend so that all may be equally informed about the details of this important topic.

NYSDEC Considers ATV Connector Trail Plan

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted a well-attended public meeting to receive comments on a proposed plan to connect ATV trails in Oswego County through the Chateaugay State Forest, with over four dozen in attendance. The Oswego County ATV Club has asked to use segments of an existing snowmobile trail and abandoned road on the southern portion of Chateaugay State Forest as part of their club trail system. This trail would connect Stone Quarry Drive with Dam Road in the town of Orwell. Comments at the public meeting were supportive of the concept.

The five page, 419 kB trail plan proposal can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/regions_pdf/chatatvpl.pdf .

Comments on the proposal may be submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Attn: Daniel Sawchuck, Salmon River Fish Hatchery, 2133 County Rte 22, Altmar, NY 13302 or e-mailed to reg7info@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Comment must be received by July 8, 2013. The proposal will undergo environmental review, public comments will be reviewed, and the NYSDEC will prepare recommendations prior to drafting a Final Plan/Determination.

Extensive information about the draft ATV Connector Trail Plan can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90727.html and at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/regions_pdf/chatatvpl.pdf .

Turin Boat Launch Ribbon Cutting

The Turin Boat Launch Ribbon Cutting was held June 19. The boat launch is located along the Black River near Burdicks Crossing Road bridge. Town Supervisor Gerald Reed Jr. credited the Town of Turin Highway workers for much of the work, while the Lewis County Highway Department, Town of Martinsburg and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District also contributed to the project. Supervisor Reed thanked the Iroquois Gas Transmission Inc. for the \$9,900 grant that funded the project, the Tug Hill Commission for assisting with the grant application and the NYS DEC for providing help with permitting and signage.



Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

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

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

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NYSDEC Holds Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan Public Meeting

The state Department of Environmental Conservation held public meetings on its proposed Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Eastern Lake Ontario on Wednesday, June 5 during the day and evening at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar, New York. The department defines the Eastern Lake Ontario Unit as including Altmar, Chateaugay, Sandy Creek and Trout Brook State Forests along with adjoining conservation easement lands along the Salmon River. It totals 6,275 acres of state lands in the towns of Albion, Boylston, Orwell, Richland and Sandy Creek.

The Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan is a plan to guide DEC management actions for the Unit toward providing healthy, sustainable and biologically diverse forest ecosystems. The state will accept comments on the draft UMP for 30 days following meetings ending July 8, 2013. Comments can be sent to Dan Sawchuck at NYSDEC, Salmon River Fish Hatchery, 2133 County Rte 22, Altmar, NY 13302, or e-mailed to reg7info@gw.dec.state.ny.us.



Free GIS Workshop (Limited Seating)

On July 8th, 2013 Dr. Van Hoesen the Community Mapping Lab Director for Green Mountain College in Vermont, will be providing a free workshop on Quantum GIS. This will take place at Carthage Central High School.

Quantum GIS (QGIS) is a free GIS desktop program that can be used for many different geospatial related activities. The first part of the workshop from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm will be going over the basics on how to use the program and access data. From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Dr. Van Hoesen will be seeking feedback from the group on what things they would like to be able to do with the program. He will then show the group how to accomplish those tasks. He will also take a little time to show some of the different tools that are available to users during this portion of the workshop. One of which, could be the QGIS Cloud tool that allows you to easily publish an online map for others to see.

If you are interested please contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission (315) 785-2380 or mickey@tughill.org to register. There will only be 20 seats available for the workshop. We are notifying local governments and other organizations in our region first and then it will be opened up to anyone within New York State if seats are still available.

We will be looking at providing future training opportunities on different applications, programs, etc. throughout the year.