



**March 14, 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.

## Hawkinsville Dam Update

The Hudson River-Black River Regulating District held its March 11 meeting in Boonville. Over twenty areas officials and residents were present to ask the board members and staff questions on the evaluation of the Hawkinsville Dam and the proposed alternatives to bring the dam into compliance with state dam safety regulations. One of the alternatives mentioned in the past was the removal of the dam. Residents spoke about the importance of the dam to the community, residents who live near the dam, and wildlife in the area.

An engineering firm, Kleinschmidt, has been hired as a consultant engineer for the project. The evaluation by this engineering firm will explore both remediation/repair and removal of the dam and spillway. To further the objectives of the evaluation, a natural resources/wetland assessment, field work, and data gathering will need to occur. Kleinschmidt's team of engineers will be continuing last fall's work with the topographic, bathymetric, and wetland surveys once the snow is gone and better weather arrives.

The January 2014 summary submitted by the consulting engineer states that the results of the hydraulic modeling indicate that the bridge abutments (Hawkinsville Road), which are located downstream of the dam, will significantly affect the elevation of the water in the river. The hydraulic model shows that the restriction of flow caused by the narrow opening at the bridge will control the elevation of the river, immediately upstream of the bridge, during flood events. The influence of the bridge abutments on the water surface elevation near the Hawkinsville Dam suggests that the SDF should be revised and the hazard classification should be changed. Kleinschmidt recommends that Hawkinsville Dam be reclassified as a Class A hazard dam (lower hazard potential than current classification of "B") and that the SDF be reduced from 21,450 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the 100-year flood, or 14,300 cfs. The Regulating District is making a formal request for the DEC Dam Safety to consider the recommendation and to reduce the SDF and hazard classification. The hazard reclassification and the reduction in the SDF will likely minimize the effort needed to remediate the dam.

If you have any questions concerning this project you may contact the Regulating District's Chief Engineer, Robert Foltan, at 518-465-3491 or visit: <http://www.hrbrdd.com/HawkinsvilleRemediationandRemovalStudy.html>

## Tug Hill Commission to Meet

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Commission offices in the Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, 6th Floor Conference Room, in Watertown, NY. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, discussion and review of major projects and activities in the region. This meeting is on the eve of the Commission's 25th Annual Local Government Conference to be held at Jefferson Community College on March 27th. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

# Forestry Placements Available

The Tug Hill Commission has a limited supply of paper placemats (pictured below) for use at local eating establishments. Produced several years ago, these placemats highlight the importance of NY forests, and include some children's activities on the reverse side. If you are interested in receiving a supply of placemats, email the Commission at [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org).

Find More New York Forestry Information:  
[www.dec.state.ny.us/](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/)    [www.cce.cornell.edu/](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/)    [www.rcdnet.org/](http://www.rcdnet.org/)



**Forests of New York**

New York Forests grow three times more wood each year than is harvested, lost to insects, disease or natural mortality combined

The New York forest is a renewable resource. In fact, the New York forest today is 23% greater than it was in 1953! That's an increase of over 3.5 million acres from farm to forest.

**New York Land Area By Type**  
(30 Million Acres)

Forestland	61%
Farmland	16%
Other Non-Forest (mostly urban/suburban)	23%



**Productive Timberland**  
15.5 million acres  
Total NY Forestland  
18.5 million acres

**Reserved Forestland**  
3 million acres



**New York Forest Industry Facts**

55,200 New Yorkers employed in forest products industry (a payroll of just under \$2 Billion)

\$3.7 Billion contributed annually to state gross product

\$8.2 Billion in shipments of forest products from New York annually

\$1.6 Billion Forest-based recreation & tourism expenditures annually

\$280 Million value of timber sold by landowners annually



**Ownership of New York's Timberland**  
(over 500,000 individuals and families)

85% Private  
8% Public  
7% Forest Industry

See Reverse For Forestry Fun

Produced by Greater Adirondack and Black River-St. Lawrence Resource Conservation and Development Councils in cooperation with New York State Dept. of Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and International Paper Company

## Tug Hill Aquifer Update Meeting April 7

All interested individuals are invited to attend a meeting on Monday, April 7, at 7 pm at the Adams Municipal Building to hear an update from the U.S. Geological Survey on the Tug Hill Aquifer. The ongoing work is being done to develop a comprehensive assessment of the aquifer's geology, size, water quality and surface water and groundwater interactions. The most recent field work and analysis is being funded by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation matched with USGS funding, and builds on years of work and collaboration among regional organizations including the Tug Hill Commission, the Jefferson and Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the USGS to collect data to develop groundwater-flow models of the aquifer.

Information generated from this study will help DEC, local government, water managers, businesses and homeowners make water-wise conservation-based decisions and ensure safe drinking water supplies, adequate water resources for economic development and healthy aquatic environments.

More information about the Tug Hill Aquifer is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/natural-resource-management/>.

## **JIMI Project Receives “Excellence in Operations Management” Award**

Recently the JIMI project was awarded on “Excellence in Operations Management” award, and was highlighted in an article in the Watertown Daily Times. In that article it stated that the JIMI group was one of ten municipalities nationally to receive this award from the asset management software company Cartegraph.

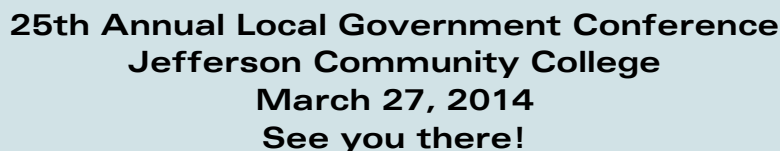
The Cartegraph system can track pavement, water, sewer, signs, storm water, culverts, bridges, labor, equipment, materials, reporting, and in the near future fleet. It also has the flexibility to create custom assets that need management, like cemeteries. It is an all-in-one management system. As stated in the Watertown Daily Times, “The system is capable of doing such small tasks as recording vehicle identification numbers or as complicated as helping municipalities figure out detailed costs for in-kind services when applying for grants.”

Mr. Prieto with the Village of Carthage, who is one of the participants, was interviewed in the article. He stated how he was using it to track snow plowing costs, like how much sand and salt were being used and what their labor costs were for the year. This would allow their DPW department to look for potential savings or efficiencies by having this information. Mr. Prieto is going to be one of the speakers at the upcoming Local Government Conference on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson Community College.

The group has worked hard on this demonstration project, overcoming some obstacles to produce results for their municipalities that will help to increase efficiencies and operations with an asset management system that will give them all the tools they will need. To see this group being rewarded for their efforts is very gratifying to all who have been a part of this project.

The JIMI project concept was started when Pat Mahar from the Town of Denmark came to the Tug Hill Commission looking for assistance in creating an asset management program. This project has created the groundwork for other municipalities to do the same thing. It has been used as a reference in other funding that has come into the area for their projects and it can be used as a model for future funding opportunities. Currently the group is in an Enterprise License Agreement with Cartegraph, so that any other municipality can join the JIMI group within Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission. He can be contacted at (315) 785-2380 or by email at [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).



**25th Annual Local Government Conference  
Jefferson Community College  
March 27, 2014  
See you there!**

## **NOCCOG Towns Complete Official Road Mapping Project**

The Town of Ava adopted its official road map at its March 11 Town Board meeting. All twelve NOCCOG towns have now completed the official road map project with the help and guidance of the Tug Hill Commission staff Phil Street and Mickey Dietrich. Together they spent many hours working with the highway superintendents laying out the project, developing a draft map based on previous information, doing a field review and finally developing the final draft map for the highway superintendent to transmit to the town board along with a letter of transmittal certifying that the map reflects his current assessment of the road system.

This project encouraged towns to map their roads in a geo-referenced format over aerial photography, and formally adopt a road map so that, at least at this point in time, they have an accurate baseline assessment of their road systems, obligations and liabilities.

## Local Clerk Needs Your Vote

### 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

**Assisting Communities  
and citizens for  
over 40 years.**

**Please help us  
reduce our costs  
and let us send you  
this newsletter  
electronically. Send  
an email request to  
gwen@tughill.org  
or call  
1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!**

Local Heroes all across the United States and Canada have been sharing their stories about how they or someone they know have overcome the challenges of living with a disability. Pam Desormo has been nominated as a Local Hero because her friends think she deserves to win a custom Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. Now she needs your vote to win!



Pamela is the epitome of a Local Hero who continues to achieve, persevere, and help others despite her disability. Pam underwent high-risk back surgery in April of 2012. Due to complications from the surgery, Pam was left a paraplegic. She spent two months in the hospital undergoing intense physical therapy and learning how to live from a wheelchair. During this time, the staff members at the hospital were amazed at Pam's determination and positive frame of mind.

When Pam returned home, she adjusted remarkably well to her situation. As she healed from the initial surgery, Pam couldn't imagine **not** being able to work and continue helping others. Thus, she made plans to continue working as the deputy clerk for the Town of Watertown and as a member of her town planning board. With the help of family and friends, Pam has been able to ride to and from work, meetings, therapy, and anywhere she needs to go.

Pam has touched many lives through her ordeal and continues to do so. She is always willing to lend an ear and offer encouragement whenever someone needs it. Many people have been inspired by her courage and never-give-up attitude. Strangers who are facing adversity in their lives have sought her out to tell her how much she has emboldened them to forge ahead. She even continues to impress her surgeon, who never ceases to be amazed with her tenacity. Pam is truly a Local Hero who deserves a modified van not only for herself, but to expand her ability to touch the lives of others!

Now, she needs our help. Go to the website at [www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com](http://www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com), login and vote for Pam. You can vote once every 24 hours. Voting is open from March 11 through May 9, 2014.

## Workshop/Training Opportunities

**Tree Risk Assessment Workshop Syracuse, April 8, 2014 8 am - 3 pm**  
Sponsored by the NYS Arborists, NYSDEC, and NYS Urban Forestry Council. The program will cover risk tree indicators, tree biology and decay, wind load, and will teach the standardized and systematic process for assessing tree risk to promote the safety of people and property. Educational credits for Certified Arborists and Nursery Landscape Professionals offered. All municipal staff responsible for tree care are encouraged to attend. \$100/person before March 25. Visit: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/ucf2014isawkshp.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ucf2014isawkshp.pdf) for information.

**NY Statewide Preservation Conference, Rochester, April 24-26, 2014**  
Sponsored by the Landmark Society, Preservation League of NYS and Preservation Buffalo Niagara. Early bird registration \$75 by April 1.  
Visit: <http://landmarksociety.org/conference/> for information.