



March 15, 2013

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Commissioners Meet with Assemblyman Butler
- File Management Workshop in Lowville
- Eastern Oneida Lake Natural Gas Project
- Comptroller's Local Government Leadership Institute
- Website List Problem Bridges
- CTCH Executive Committee Meets
- NorCOG Meets
- SRCG Meets
- Web-based GIS Solution
- www.open.ny.gov Web-site Launched

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Congratulations!!!

KALIE GERENSERBRADY

*Winner of a **FREE** registration to the 2013 Local Government Conference. Please call our office for your registration.*

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.

Commissioners Meet with Assemblyman Marc Butler

On March 8th the Tug Hill Commission Members met with Assemblyman Marc Butler, 118th Assembly District. As a result of Legislative redistricting in 2011, Assemblyman Butler picked up 5 Northern Oneida County Towns in the NOCCOG portion of Tug Hill – Boonville, Trenton, Steuben, Western and Lee. The meeting was the first chance to brief Assemblyman Butler on the Commission, NOCCOG and the region. Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush was instrumental in setting up the meeting and was also in attendance.

In addition to Commission Members, NOCCOG Circuit Riders Gerry Ritter and Sue Martin were able to discuss issues key to all five NOCCOG towns represented by Assemblyman Butler. Assemblyman Butler joins Assembly Members Barclay and Blankenbush and Senate Members Griffo and Ritchie in representing the Tug Hill region.

File Management Workshop in Lowville March 19th

Not all filing systems or equipment were created equal. Take a look across the room at your filing cabinets. What do you see? Nasty old top-tab equipment that hasn't really changed much since the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand? Have you ever wondered if the productivity and efficiency of your office might be enhanced were you to sweep away the ancient equipment and top-tab cheese wagon that is passing for a filing system? Is it time to think about a change?

On Tuesday, March 19th from 9 a.m. to noon, Kent Stuetz will be presenting the State Archives' Files Management workshop in the Lowville Town Hall in Lewis County. The workshop is free and open to all who would like to learn more about modern active files management.

Discuss will include: new options for office filing equipment that doubles the storage per square foot of floor space; the marvel of end-tab filing, including color coding; demonstration of a nice system that was developed by a local town to greatly enhance access to their active files; and how to assess your current filing system and identify how this will yield greater productivity and efficiencies.

If you or other individuals from your organization would like to attend please follow the link below to our workshop webpage where you can scroll down near the bottom of the list to the Files Management workshop in Lowville on March 19th and register. It is important to register so that we can get you information about workshop materials that you will want to print and bring with you to the show. You may find additional workshops listed that you would like to attend in CNY or statewide - you are welcome to attend as many as you like, and they are all free of charge. Any questions, please contact Kent at (315)452-5909.

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>

On March 4th a meeting of local leaders and business representatives was held in Sylvan Beach with representatives of National Grid regarding potential extension of natural gas service to Sylvan Beach and Camden. Tom Lewis from the International Wire Group provided background on the project, which goes back several years with his focus being on securing natural gas service to the Village of Camden to provide significant cost savings to the manufacturing facility that International Wire operates in the Village. In addition the meeting covered other possible extensions to Constantia and the Parish area in Oswego County.

National Grid representatives presented information to the attendees. Extension of gas services will not be a single phase approach and would likely take several years to complete.

Customer surveys have been completed in Sylvan Beach and Constantia, and it is clear that the majority of people want access to natural gas. The estimate is that by using natural gas in place of propane or fuel oil, every house will save at least \$1000/year.

Chuck Gilkey, Supervisor from the Town of Constantia, shared that he has done some homework in his area and that the two schools there have spent on average \$100,000/year on other heating fuels. He has worked with the town assessor and has identified hundreds of residential units that could be serviced along Route 49. He has also spoken with several business owners that have all been positive about the prospect of hooking up to natural gas.

Running natural gas main from the 13/31 intersection to Camden is a distance of approximately 26 miles and would cost approximately \$26 million. The initial comparison of cost and revenue shows a \$12 million gap in funding. The timeline to do all the phases displayed on the map is in the 10 year range. There is an assumption made that 75% of the residences that will have access to the gas line will hookup. The cost for homeowners to convert their appliances is approximately \$200 if they currently use propane; more if they currently use fuel oil.

Regarding Parish, there is an approximately 25,000 foot extension need from existing gas main on that side of the county to reach the Village of Parish.

There was discussion about how to get creative in financing this project. One example mentioned was St. Lawrence Gas in Franklin County, which added a surcharge to the new customers added to the natural gas service to help cover the construction costs.

National Grid would like to do more analysis on a load basis. A survey of potential customers in Camden is definitely needed, and anything done on the grassroots level to increase support and visibility of this project is recommended. The Commission will continue to work with businesses, local leaders and National Grid on possible projects that could proceed.

Comptroller's Local Government Leadership Institute

In Partnership with Hofstra University and Cornell University's Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI), the Office of the State Comptroller created the Local Government Leadership Institute in 2009. The Institute provides local government officials with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, leadership, and decision-making skills. The goal of the Institute is to bring together officials across various classes of local government in a venue designed to increase dialogue and regional collaboration on common concerns.

OSC has issued a "Save-the-Date" for two Leadership Institutes across the State, June 12, 2013 in Watertown and June 19, 2013 in New Paltz. The focus of the 2013 Institutes will be on Fiscal Stress. More details regarding time and location are forthcoming soon.

Addressing diverse issues requires pragmatic leaders who can make informed decisions on the increasingly complex array of challenges facing their communities. The training and instruction received by Institute participants will not only enhance leadership skills and networking opportunities at the local government level, but will also serve as a foundation for a more efficient State government.

Website Lists Problem Bridges

A website dedicated to providing information about problem bridges nationwide has recently been updated at www.saveourbridges.com. An interactive map allows the user to zoom into their area of interest and then click on any listed bridges for more detail. The map is based on data issued by the Federal Highway Administration in 2009.

The Executive Committee of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council held a meeting February 28th at the Redfield Municipal Building. Following review of the minutes and the financial reports, the members heard updates on the towns from Circuit Rider Angie Kimball, and Associate Circuit Riders Kay Chapman and Jeanne Wooding. John Bartow and Phil Street from the Tug Hill Commission also reported on the ongoing Road Mapping and Special Areas projects. Data has been gathered in most of the CTHC towns for the Road Mapping project and several maps are currently being made. Martinsburg has recently reviewed their map and are moving forward with the adoption process. West Turin is leading the way with the Special Areas update as they have approved their updated map. Five other Towns have either met with the Tug Hill staff or will be meeting with them soon to begin this process. If you haven't heard about these projects as yet, you will be hearing about them soon from your Circuit Rider.

There was also a discussion on the core forest, which will be discussed further at the CTHC Annual Spring meeting. Details were discussed about the Spring meeting which is currently scheduled for April 25th at the Central Hotel in Glenfield. Details will be going out soon to CTHC Supervisors and representatives so be looking for them.

North Shore Councils of Governments Meets

The North Shore Councils of Governments (NorCOG) recently held their first meeting of 2013. At the meeting, the council conducted election of officers, re-electing Richard Colesante of Constantia as Chairman, and Millard "Mud" Murphy of Central Square as vice-chairman.

In addition to routine updates and administrative matters, the council discussed current issues facing local governments. A major issue in the North Shore area currently is the proposed Central New York Raceway Park proposal in the town of Hastings, located on the east side of U.S. Route 11 south of the village of Central Square. The town of Hastings recently held two public sessions to identify public concerns regarding the raceway park proposal. More information about the proposal can be found at the project's web page: <http://centralnewyorkracewaypark.com>.

The council also discussed prospects for extending natural gas availability in the North Shore area. Tug Hill Executive Director John Bartow reviewed initiatives elsewhere in the region to get natural gas lines extended, and next steps in the process to increase gas line coverage.

Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Meets

The Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments (SRCG) recently held their first meeting of 2013. At the meeting, the council conducted election of officers. Chairman Leon Heagle declined consideration for re-election, as he declined re-election as Mayor of Parish in the March 2013 elections, stepping down effective April 2013. Lawrence Rayder of Amboy, previously Vice Chairman of SRCG, is the new Chairman. Stephen Stelmashuck of Parish is the new Vice Chairman.

In addition to routine updates and administrative matters, the council discussed current issues facing local governments. Tug Hill Commission Executive Director John Bartow updated the council on the status of the commission, and follow-up on last fall's Tug Hill Legislative Summit, at which state senators and assemblymen met with town and village leaders on issues of local, regional and statewide concern. The council discussed the status of recent ownership transfers of large forest holdings in the region and the impact on local governments. Also discussed, was Altmar-Parish-Williamstown School District's sale of its former elementary schools in those three communities, and the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments efforts to assist member municipalities with a productive re-use of those facilities.

New Web-based GIS Solution (GIS Cloud)

The Tug Hill Commission is part of a pilot project with GIS Cloud (www.giscloud.com), whereby the communities within the Tug Hill Region will have free access to all the licensing products for a year. Giving communities a chance to see what the application is like and how it might help their agencies. The Tug Hill Commission will be putting on some web-based training for those communities looking to participate. To see an example of a map you can view a map of Lewis County at the following link: <http://www.giscloud.com/map/89254/lewis-county-map-viewer#>. If you are a community who is interested, please contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or (315)785-2389 to help get you started.

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

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Assisting communities and citizens for over 39 years.



CONGRATULATIONS To all the Tug Hill Trivia Winners

How many downhill ski areas are there in the Tug Hill region and what are their names?

Answer:

Snow Ridge – Turin, NY
Dry Hill – Watertown, NY
Woods Valley – Rome, NY

Winner: Renee Beyer

How many inches of snow did Highmarket get in 2011-2012?

Answer:

129.2 inches

Winner: Rich LeClerc

What Tug Hill towns have the same name as NYS Counties?

Answer: Lewis, Steuben

Winner: Kalie Gerenser Brady

www.open.ny.gov - Website Launched

15 counties, 22 cities, 25 towns, and seven villages – totaling 69 localities – to participate in new transparency website

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Wednesday, March 14th that 64 more local governments across the state have signed up to share their data on www.open.ny.gov, a new and comprehensive data transparency website – just three days after its launch at the start of Sunshine Week, a national initiative designed to raise awareness about the importance of open government. With five localities already sharing data on the site, Wednesday's announcement means that 69 localities statewide have now signed up to participate in open.ny.gov.

The website at www.open.ny.gov provides user-friendly, one-stop access to data for the first time from New York State agencies, localities, and the federal government. It features economic development, recreation, health, and public services information in a format that is retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by commonly used web search applications.

The website has been offered as a resource to localities across the state, which will give citizens unified access to government data and help local governments cut down costs and improve efficiency in addition to increasing transparency. [Open.ny.gov](http://open.ny.gov) can help local governments by fostering research, promoting informed decision-making, and enhancing collaboration based on public data. It also provides localities with increased technical capacity to make their data public. The State will provide assistance to all localities that choose to use the service.

At Monday's launch, five local governments – the Counties of Essex, Oneida, Onondaga, and Suffolk as well as the City of Albany – had already begun sharing their data on the website. Only three days later, an additional 15 counties, 22 cities, 25 towns, and seven villages have signed up to join open.ny.gov and share their data with the public. Following Wednesday's announcement, the state Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) will now work with the 64 new partner localities to post their data at www.open.ny.gov. New data will be available on a rolling basis.

Local governments interested in participating in open.ny.gov can send an email to opendata@its.ny.gov.

DEC Data Available to View in Google Earth

Much of DEC's data can be viewed for free on Google Earth. Most recently, DEC added a layer of data for impaired waterbodies applicable to MS4's. Other data layers include boat launch sites, DEC lands, and bird conservation areas. Users must have Google Earth installed on their computer, which is a free application.

More information is available on DEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/42978.html>