



**May 2, 2014**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- USGS Looking for Willing Homeowners
- Grant Webinars Available
- Consolidated Funding Application Materials Available Online
- Black River Watershed Conference, June 4
- Black-Moose Kayak Event, May 16-18
- Barneveld's Award Winning Water System
- Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Round Open

**May 11, 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.

## USGS Looking for Willing Homeowners

At the April 7, 2014 Tug Hill Aquifer meeting in Adams, the USGS outlined study results and planned fieldwork in 2014. One of those activities is to develop a water-table map across the northern and central parts of the aquifer. In 2013, water quality samples were collected in 23 wells across the central and northern part of the aquifer and these homeowners agreed to allow USGS to measure water levels in their wells this coming summer (June-July). There are some gaps across the aquifer where water-level data are needed, and USGS is hoping that homeowners might assist in filling in these 'gaps'.

In order to use a well, USGS needs to know:

1. Where the well is located (Map & Area and street address)
2. How deep it is (in feet)
3. Whether the well is finished in bedrock or in sand and gravel
4. Is the well easily accessible for measurement?

Accessible means both where the well is located on the property, and how easy it would be to remove and replace the well cap when USGS does the measurement. USGS staff would likely visit the well before the actual day of measurement to make sure they can access the well and measure the water level. When they do the measurement, they will leave a card so homeowners know they were there and what the depth to water was for the homeowner's records.

If you would be interested in participating in this vital series of water-level measurements, please contact Ben Fisher at USGS by either calling (607)-266-0216 ext. 3018 or emailing at [bfisher@usgs.gov](mailto:bfisher@usgs.gov).

The general areas of interest are along Route 11 between Adams and Adams Center; Route 11 between Pierrepont Manor and County Route 87; along County Route 122/22 in Ellisburg and Sandy Creek; between County Routes 48 and 50 in Sandy Creek/Orwell/Richland, and areas northeast of the former Village of Altmar. More specific maps of the areas USGS is particularly interested in can be viewed on the Tug Hill Commission's website here: [http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Well\\_access\\_letter\\_Tug-Hill\\_aquifer\\_study\\_041814.pdf](http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Well_access_letter_Tug-Hill_aquifer_study_041814.pdf)

Call Katie at the Tug Hill Commission if you have any questions.

## Grant Webinars Available

The NYS Grants Reform team has scheduled a series of instructional webinars for users of the new Grants Gateway system, which is the primary outlet used by New York State agencies to post funding opportunities.

The webinars are for potential applicants and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. until May 29. For a list of webinars and instructions for participating go to: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/hregrantwebinar.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hregrantwebinar.pdf).

# Consolidated Funding Application Materials Available Online; Applications Due June 16

Governor Cuomo announced this week that the next round of funding through the Regional Economic Development Councils is available. Some of the programs that Tug Hill municipalities and organizations have utilized in the past include:

***NYS Council on the Arts*** – for the study of and presentation of the performing and fine arts; surveys and capital investments to encourage participation of the arts; to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the state; and to promote tourism by supporting arts and cultural projects.

***Community Development Block Grant Program*** – for small communities with a specific community or economic development need within one of the following areas: (1) Economic Development, (2) Small Business Assistance, (3) Public Infrastructure, or (4) Public Facilities.

***New York Main Street*** - provides resources to invest in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts. A primary goal of the program is to stimulate reinvestment and leverage additional funds to establish and sustain downtown and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

***OPRHP – Municipal Grant Program*** - acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.

***NYS DOS – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program*** - planning, feasibility, design, or marketing of specific projects, construction projects, to advance the preparation or implementation of strategies for community and waterfront revitalization through any of the following grant categories:

Preparation or Implementation of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Redeveloping Hamlets, Downtowns and Urban Waterfronts

Planning or Constructing Land and Water based Trails

Preparing or Implementing a Lakewide or Watershed Revitalization Plan

***NYS DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant*** - assist municipalities with a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$65,000 or less with the engineering and planning costs of CWSRF-eligible water quality projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 (with a 20% required local match) will be provided to finance activities including engineering and/or consultant fees for engineering and planning services for the production of an engineering report.

***EFC Green Innovation Grant Program*** - improve water quality and demonstrate green stormwater infrastructure in New York through: Permeable pavement; Bioretention; Green roofs and walls; Stormwater street trees; Construction or restoration of wetlands, floodplains, or riparian buffers; Stream daylighting; Downspout disconnection; Stormwater harvesting and reuse

***NYSERDA – Cleaner Greener Communities Program, Phase II Implementation Grants***

Up to \$5 million available for communities to adopt support comprehensive planning, zoning amendments, predevelopment technical assistance for projects, all to prepare a community, region, or project for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Up to \$25 million for community-scale sustainability projects that are innovative and transformational in their contributions to advancing sustainable development

***NYS DOS – Local Government Efficiency Program*** – for local government reorganization, functional or service delivery consolidation, city or county charter revisions that include functional consolidation, cooperative service agreements, and establishment of regional service delivery mechanisms.

Training sessions on this grant opportunity should be announced shortly. Call the Commission for more information.

# Black River Watershed Conference – June 4

The 4th Annual Black River Watershed Conference will be held from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Tug Hill Vineyards, 4051 Yancey Rd., Lowville, NY. The cost is \$25. Sign in begins at 8:00 a.m.

Morning Session - 8:30 a.m. - Noon, topics include:

- The Black River Fishery - Dick McDonald, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- 2010 Census and New Stormwater Requirements in the Watertown Urbanized Area - Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission; Jacob Ambrose and Christine Watkins, Jefferson County SWCD
- Hudson River Black River Regulating District - Role in Flow Regulation on the Black River - John Hodgson
- Cultural Heritage Along the Black River; Jill Breit, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York
- Panel Discussion on Stream Management
- Lunch - Noon -1:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session -1:00 - 4:00 p.m. New this year the afternoon session will be a bus tour which includes:

- Lyons Falls: Sewer Systems Upgrades, Mill Site Efforts, Recreation - Carrie Tuttle, Development Authority of the North Country; Mayor Leindecker; Rocky Fawcett, Lyons Fall Alive
- Burdick's Crossing Boat Launch - Supervisor Gerry Reed
- Bush's Landing Lock and Dam
- Farm Tour

For more information contact Carla Luther at 376-6122 or [cluther@lewiscountyny.org](mailto:cluther@lewiscountyny.org).

## Black-Moose Kayak Event, May 16-18

The 5th Annual Black-Moose Kayak Event features the best northeastern whitewater kayaking on the Moose River with the world-renowned class IV-V section the Bottom Moose! The Moose River also has whitewater for all abilities – from class II-III on the Middle Moose for the beginner/intermediate paddler to highly experienced class III-IV on the Lower Moose.

Whitewater Challengers Rafting Company is offering a discounted raft trip for family members on Saturday, May 17 on the Middle Moose – a fun class II-III whitewater trip. Minimum age is 8 and reservations are required. Email [wcmoose@frontiernet.net](mailto:wcmoose@frontiernet.net) or call 315-369-6699. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$17 for children 8-12 years. Meeting time is 1:00 p.m. at the shop on Route 28, 4 miles south of Old Forge.

Adirondack Exposure will offer a free guided whitewater kayak trip on the Middle section of the Moose for beginner/intermediate paddlers as well (must have whitewater experience) on Saturday May 17. Paddlers must have their own gear and have some paddling experience. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at shop on Route 28. For questions or information, email [scott@adirondackexposure.com](mailto:scott@adirondackexposure.com) or call 315-335-1681.

Mountainman Outdoor Supply Center in Old Forge, will be holding their “Paddlefest” during this same weekend – they will have vendors and demonstrations about all sorts of kayaking (whitewater, flatwater, even stand-up paddle boarding!).

Camping will be available Friday and Saturday at Riverside Park, 6904 Laura St., for \$10/carload and also at the Edge Hotel, 3952 Route 12, at a discounted price.

Weekend activities include:

- A 5K run/walk to benefit South Lewis Student Council is set for Saturday leaving from the park. Registration is \$5 before the event, \$7 the day of the race, and can be arranged by calling Anne Huntress at 348-8632.
- A barbecue will be held at the kayak takeout point on Shibley Road on Saturday and Sunday afternoon for a minimal cost.
- Saturday evening a spaghetti dinner will be hosted by the Fire Department at the park at a minimal fee with live entertainment by Daniel Bradish and a bonfire to follow.
- Sunday a pancake breakfast will be held at St. John's Catholic Church, 5838 McAlpine Street.

Maps will be available of locations for spectators to view kayakers. For more information, call Mrs. Amaral at 719-304-1477.

## Barneveld's Award Winning Water System

During the New York State Rural Water Association yearly conference held in April, the Village of Barneveld was recognized as the Water System of the Year.

The Village of Barneveld has completed an innovative project to improve the system in the past few years. Barneveld's water system is a spring system located about two miles outside of the village and had been deemed "under the surface water". In 2005 the village faced two options –either find a new water source or filter the present water source. The village chose to install a cartridge filter system in 2011, one of the first in the state. The village was able to pay for the system completely out of its own water reserve fund. The total cost of the project was \$471,000.

Doug Smorol, NY Rural Water Association's circuit rider, called the new system an engineering marvel. The original pipeline was hand dug in the 1930's and carries the water two miles from the spring to Barneveld using gravity and saving the village money on not having to use electricity. A new pump at the spring when the filter was installed was part of the recently completed project.

John Sherman, the village trustee who oversees the water system, said the village residents felt it was important to keep their own water system rather than joining larger systems in the area. Barneveld has been recognized in the past for the superior taste of its water. In 2013 in water tasting contests, it came in first in Oneida County, second in the regionals and in the top ten at the New York State Fair.

## Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Round Open: Applications Due June 16

The NBRC federal grant program is available to participating member states, local governments, non-profits, and Native American entities for projects within the NBRC region. In NY, that includes the 14 counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence. Eligible projects must develop the transportation, water, sewer, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure of the region; assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development; provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped; promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and, to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources. This year, projects that promote transportation, utilities and telecommunications will receive extra points in scoring. The maximum grant for any applicant is \$250,000, and projects in all four Tug Hill counties require a 20% match. Approximately \$4.5 million is available in this round of funding.

For more information, see the NYS Department of State's webpage at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/nbrd/> or contact the Commission offices.

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