



**May 6, 2016**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- COG Chairs Meet to Discuss Priorities
- 2016 Black River Watershed Conference Registration Open
- Jon Constable Jr. and Patrick O'Brien Video Clips on Facebook
- Northern Border Regional Commission to Host Webinar, Friday, May 6
- North Shore, Salmon Rivers Councils of Government Meet
- DEC Accepting Applications for Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants
- Tug Hill Commission Meeting
- 2016 Consolidated Funding Application
- Village of Copenhagen Coordinators on Road Project
- Recreation Management Plan Draft Amendment Available for Comment
- Economic Development Seminar
- Tug Hill Commission GIS and GPS Demonstration May 17



# 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.



## COG Chairs Meet to Discuss Priorities

Commission staff and circuit riders met with the representatives from all five Councils of Governments (COGs) last week to discuss COG issues and priorities. Topics discussed included a renewed emphasis on infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, broadband) and ways to continue increasing shared services to achieve efficiencies and cost savings for local governments. All of the councils expressed an interest in holding a combined COG meeting (also referred to as "SuperCOG") this coming fall, to provide opportunities for broader participation by COG member communities in combined discussion and priority-setting. Information on that meeting will be shared later this year.

## 2016 Black River Watershed Conference Registration Open

The agenda and registration information for the 2016 Black River Watershed Conference are available on our website [www.tughill.org/2016/05/04/2016-black-river-watershed-conference/](http://www.tughill.org/2016/05/04/2016-black-river-watershed-conference/). It will be held at Maggie's on the River on June 8th and will feature the ever popular afternoon bus trip, sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council. Please register by May 26!

## John Constable Jr. and Patrick O'Brien Video Clips on [Facebook](#)

Last week, the commission posted a video clip of Pat O'Brien, who was born in Highmarket and spent much of his life in Constableville. He was a logger, trapper, poet and philosopher.

This week, we feature John Constable Jr., who came from a founding family of Tug Hill, a member of the eight ad-hoc "steering councils" appointed to plan the Tug Hill public forums in 1974-75, and one of the first Tug Hill Sages. In this video he talks about his work at Constable Hall, as well as the Macomb Purchase.

# Northern Border Regional Commission to Host Webinar Friday, May 6

On May 6, 2016, the New York Department of State and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC, [www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)) will host a webinar describing the grant application for Federal Fiscal Year 2016. Every year each NBRC state reviews applications submitted from local governments and nonprofit organizations for concurrence with local and regional priorities. **Eligible funding categories include:** Transportation infrastructure; Basic public infrastructure; Telecommunications infrastructure; Workforce and Business Development; Basic health care and other public services; Conservation, tourism, recreation, and open space; and Renewable and alternative energy.

Established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Commission is composed of the governors of the New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the President of the United States. In New York State, the Department of State Division of Local Government Services works with NBRC staff and regional planning organizations to solicit project applications for funding. Program investments can occur in the following fourteen New York New York counties: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence. This webinar will be an opportunity for potential applicants to learn more about the program and opportunity to fund priority community development projects.

To register for this training session go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tc01cc25d6de631e029948399f879ea3a>. Once you are approved by the host, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session.

## North Shore, Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Meet

The North Shore Council of Governments and the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments each met at the end of May, each in advance of the COG leaders meeting with the Tug Hill Commission. Both COGs discussed issues of local, regional, and state significance to bring up at the COG leaders meeting. As this was the first meeting of the calendar year for both of the COGs, each elected officers for 2016. Tug Hill Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski attended the COG meetings and updated them on the Commission's status and the outcome of the 2016 - 17 budget process. Other topics of discussion included upcoming grant opportunities and potential individual and joint applications, and individual municipal activities including water, sewer, and broadband projects pending or in progress.

## DEC Accepting Applications for Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is now accepting applications for federally-funded "Volunteer Fire Assistance" grants. The deadline for application is May 31. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by DEC. If awarded, fire departments will receive 50/50 matching funds up to the amount of \$1,500. Last year, the program provided \$1,500 grants to 262 fire departments. DEC received a federal appropriation of \$400,000 for 2016.

Eligible fire departments include those that serve a single town with a population under 10,000; those that serve multiple communities, one of which is a rural town of less than 10,000 residents; and fire departments in towns with a population of 10,000 or more that meet the requirements listed on the application. Fire departments that receive a grant award must complete all required grant paperwork by October 31, 2016.

For applications or further information about the grant program, contact DEC at (518) 402-8839, or write to NYSDEC, Division of Forest Protection, 625 Broadway 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12233-2560 or, visit the [Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants](#) webpage on DEC's website.

# Tug Hill Commission Meeting

Monday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Pinckney Town Hall, 308 State Route 177, Copenhagen, NY 13626.

## 2016 Consolidated Funding Application

A sixth round of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) will be offered in 2016. For complete information on the CFA and Regional Economic Development Councils **and to register for a workshop in your region**, go to <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>. Some of the opportunities that Tug Hill Communities might be interested in are included below. Please visit [www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2016AvailableResourcesGuide\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2016AvailableResourcesGuide_FINAL.pdf) for details about what programs are available.

### **Community Development: Up to \$55 Million**

**NYS Council on the Arts:** Up to \$5 million for Arts, Culture and Heritage Projects

#### **Homes and Community Renewal**

Up to \$25 million for NYS Community Development Block Grant Program

Up to \$5 million for New York Main Street Program

**Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation:** Up to \$20 million for Environmental Protection Fund Grants

### **Waterfront Revitalization: up to \$20.5 million**

**Department of State:** Up to \$19.5 million for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

**Canal Corporation:** Up to \$1 million for the Canalway Grants Program

### **Energy: up to \$60 million**

**NYS Energy Research and Development Authority:** Up to \$60 million for Energy Efficiency Programs

**New York State Power Authority:** Up to 150 MW for ReCharge New York

### **Environmental Improvements: up to \$40 million**

#### **Department of Environmental Conservation**

Up to \$2 million for NYS DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant

Up to \$26 million for the Water Quality Improvement Project Program

**Environmental Facilities Corporation:** Up to \$10 million for the Green Innovation Grant Program

### **Sustainability Planning and Implementation: up to \$15 million**

**Department of Environmental Conservation:** Up to \$11 million for the Climate Smart Communities Program

**Department of State:** Up to \$4 million for Local Government Efficiency Grants

CFAs must be submitted by **4:00 p.mon July 29, 2016**. Each Regional Economic Development Council will take into account the degree to which the application helps implement the regional strategic plan and aligns with regional priorities. Through their ability to score and endorse projects, Regional Councils will highlight and support the best projects with the potential to generate the greatest economic benefits to their region. State agencies will be awarding priority points to downtown revitalization projects designed to transform communities ripe for development into vibrant neighborhoods where tomorrow's workforce will want to live, work, and play.

## Village of Copenhagen Coordinates on Road Project

Local officials from the village of Copenhagen are coordinating with Lewis County Highway Department and the Regional Office of the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to construct .9 of a mile of Cataract Street from the intersection of State Route 12 and Deer River Road in Lewis County. The project will address storm-water run-off issues while upgrading road construction to accommodate heavy tractors & farm equipment and truck traffic.

The shared \$300,000 project leverages available equipment, DPW work crews and engineering staff to minimize costs while maximizing limited resources. Assistance and support through Senator Griffo's office provided gap funding through the DOT Multi-Model Program to purchase needed materials to complete the project. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2016.

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

*Helping local governments  
and citizens shape  
the future of the  
Tug Hill region,  
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!**

## **Recreation Management Plan Draft Amendment Available for Comment**

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, published a negative declaration in this week's Environmental Notice Bulletin regarding a proposed Draft Amendment to the East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan. The purpose of the amendment is to add additional public access to the unit. A proposed 20 mile, north-south foot/ski trail (also referred to as the Tug Hill Traverse) would cross DEC's East Branch of Fish Creek easement properties, detached Forest Preserve lots and East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest lands. The trail will eventually run between Osceola/West Leyden Road in Osceola to the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area in Montague. Trail construction may require removal of approximately 15-20 trees, brushing and pruning work and construction of six small footbridges.

**Written comments are welcome and will be accepted until May 19, 2016.** The document can be found at [dec.ny.gov/lands/36158.html](http://dec.ny.gov/lands/36158.html). The project is located in the Towns of Lewis, Montague, Osceola and West Turin. Contact Michael Giocondo, NYS DEC - Region Lowville Sub Office, Division of Lands and Forests, 7327 State Route 812, Lowville, NY 13367, Phone: (315) 376-3521, E-mail: [r6.ump@dec.ny.gov](mailto:r6.ump@dec.ny.gov).

## **Economic Development Seminar**

Jefferson County Economic Development will hold the 2016 Economic Development Seminar on May 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1290 Arsenal Street, Watertown. The seminar is recommended for all local officials: Town and Village board, planning and ZBA boards, county legislators, school boards, local development corporations, and interested parties.

### **Topics**

- Principals of Economic Development – Competing in a global environment
- Understanding the site selection process; is your community ready for growth
- Incentives—what matters and why
- Partnering with your economic developers

To register please contact Jefferson County Economic Development at (315) 782-5865 or email [mweir@jcida.com](mailto:mweir@jcida.com).

## **Tug Hill Commission GIS and GPS Demonstration May 17**

On May 17, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Lee Town Hall, the Tug Hill Commission will demonstrate the free GIS services that they have available for local governments within the region, including their GIS Cloud online mapping application, mobile data collecting app and GPS, and the free desktop GIS software called QGIS.

This will be a good session for any local government official or employee to attend, since there will be valuable information for everyone. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Jennifer Armstrong ([jarmstrong@tughill.org](mailto:jarmstrong@tughill.org)) or Mickey Dietrich ([mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org)). You may also call the Tug Hill Commission's main office at (315) 785-2380.