

May, 2014

Dear Tug Hill Aquifer Resident,

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with The Tug Hill Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have been studying the hydrology and geology of the Tug Hill aquifer in order to protect and utilize it. To quote from the Tug Hill Commission –

“Local and state governments, commercial, farming, and individual water users need information to understand how long-term development activities may affect the aquifer and how to sustain this resource in support of future growth and economic development.”

At the recent (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 – see attached maps. In 2013, water quality samples were collected in 23 wells across the central and northern part of the aquifer (green circles) and these homeowners agreed to allow USGS to measure water levels in their wells this coming summer (June-July). As seen on the map, there are some gaps across the aquifer where water-level data are needed, and we hope you might assist us in filling in these ‘gaps’.

In order to use a well, we need 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 and, 4.) Is the well easily accessible for measurement? Accessible means both where the well is located on your property, and how easy it would be to remove and replace the well cap when we do the measurement. We would likely visit the well before the actual day of measurement to make sure we can access the well and measure the water level. When we do the measurement, we will leave a card so you know we were there and what the depth to water was for your records.

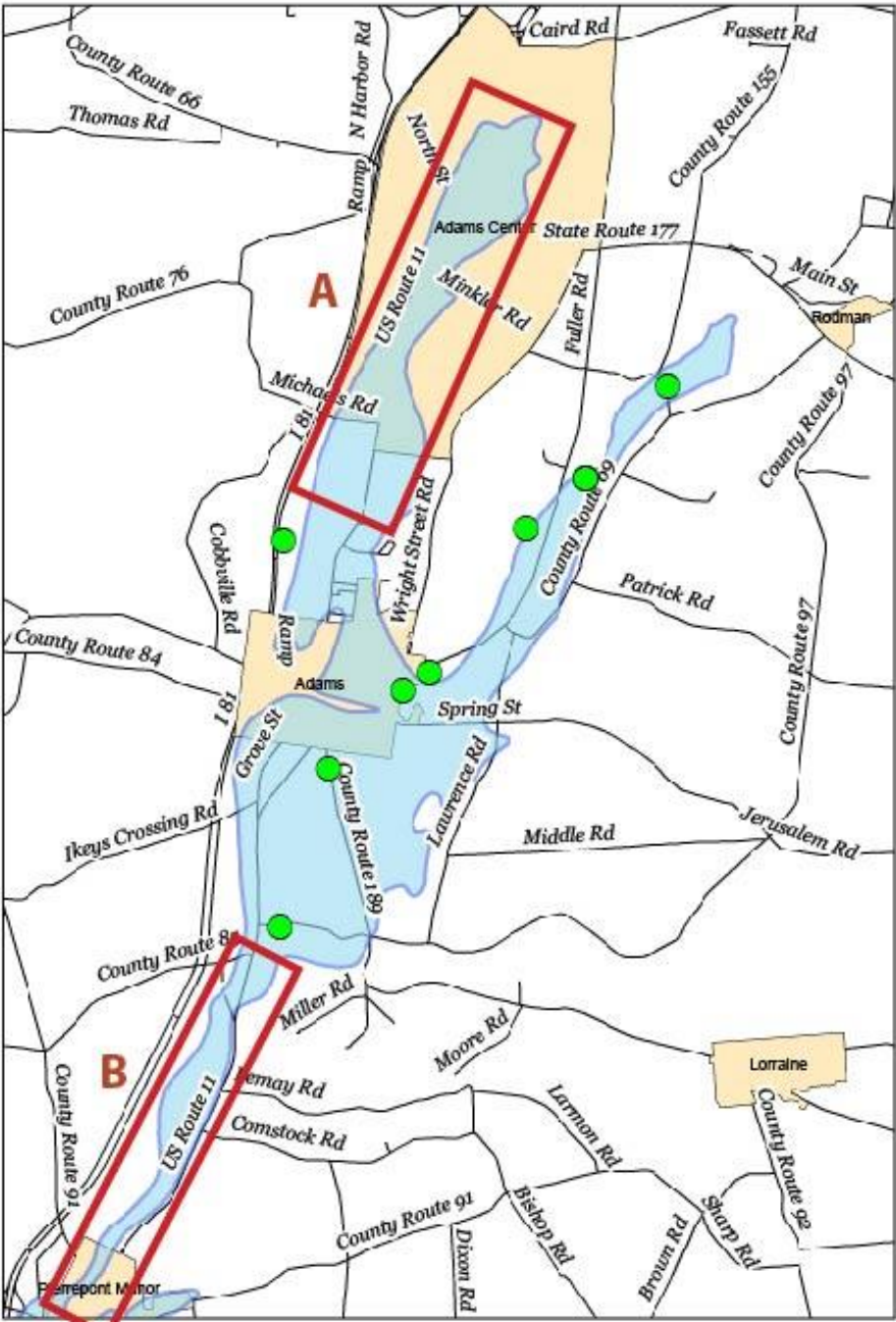
If you would be interested in participating in this vital series of water-level measurements, please contact Ben Fisher at USGS by either calling (607)-266-0216 ext. 3018 or emailing at bfisher@usgs.gov. We will take your well information and then select representative wells in the ‘gap’ areas. If several of your neighbors request to participate, we will only take one well for any particular area as we need good coverage across the entire aquifer, versus a cluster of water-level measurements in one area. Your information will help determine a water table map for the aquifer which will be part of the final published report product. Please be sure to leave a contact phone number or e-mail address!

Thank you for your interest and participation in this endeavor!

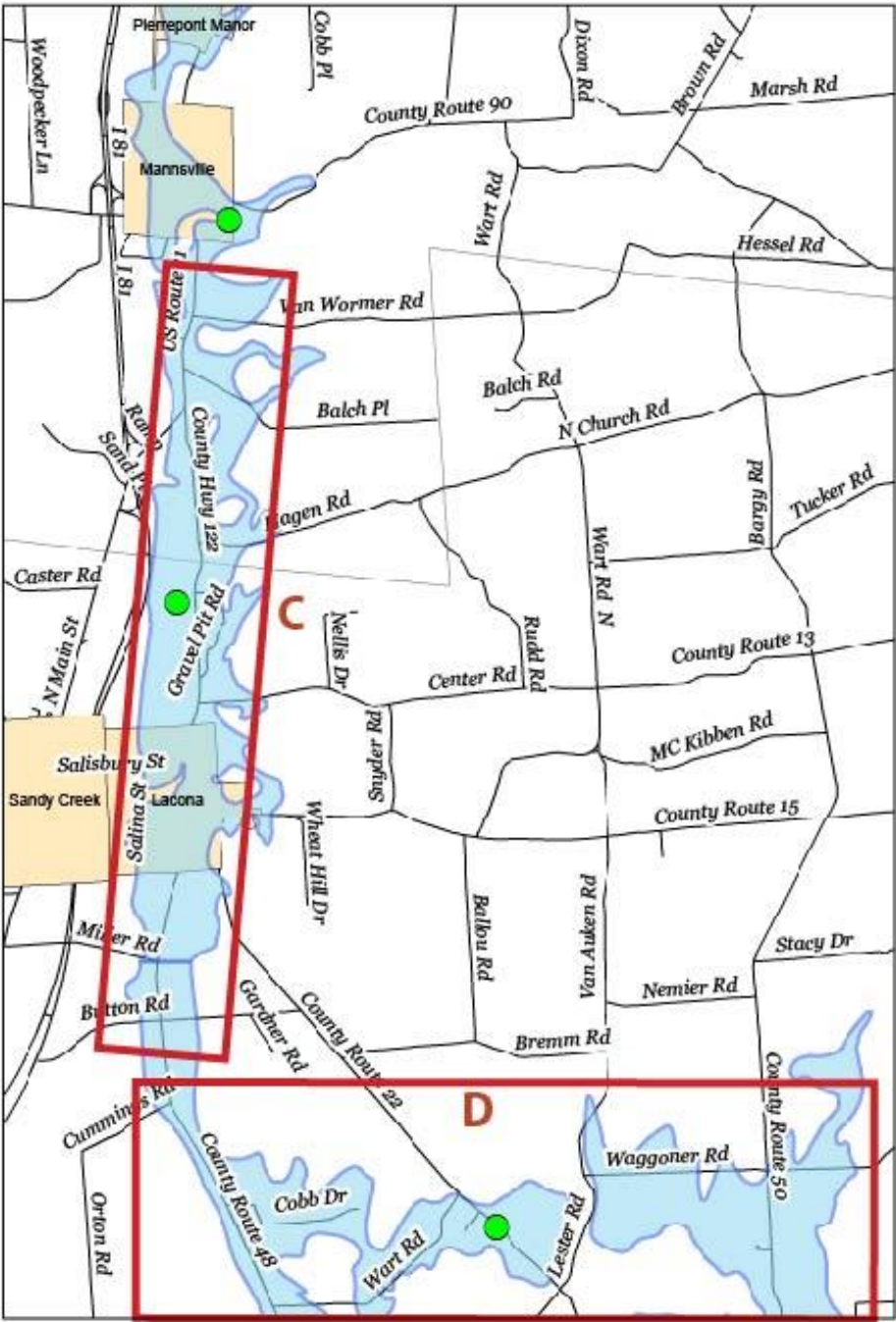
Brian Fisher

US Geological Survey
New York Water Science Center
Ithaca, NY Office

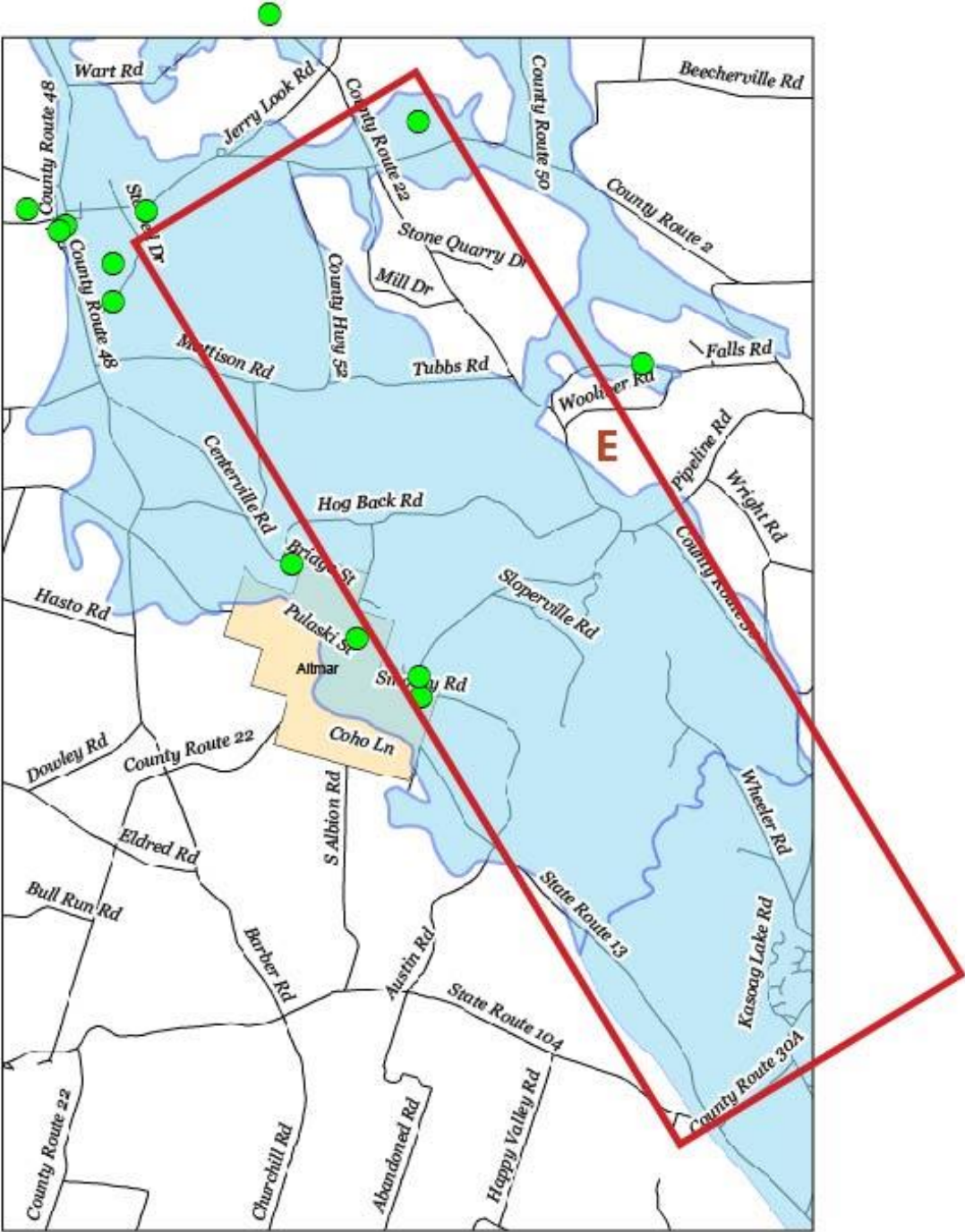
Contact:
bfisher@usgs.gov (607)-266-0216 ext. 3018



Map #1 - Adams Center - Pierrepont Manor - Areas A & B



Map #2 - Mannsville - Lacona - Areas C & D



Map #3 - Altmar - Area E