

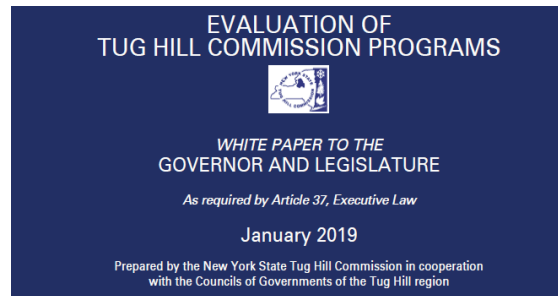
FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Commission Delivers White Paper to Albany

Chairman Jan Bogdanowicz, Commissioner Gerry Ritter, and Executive Director Katie Malinowski traveled to Albany on Monday to begin delivery of the commission's "white paper."

Article 37 of the Executive Law defines the Tug Hill region as a 2,100 square mile, 1 million acre region "lying between Lake Ontario, the Black River and Oneida Lake," encompassing forest, farmland, and waters important to the state. It also establishes the Tug Hill Commission as a non-regulatory state agency that provides technical assistance to the region's towns and villages and to community organizations of the Tug Hill region with the mission of "municipal assistance, conservation, preservation and development in the region." Section 847-e of Article 37 calls for an every five-year report on the results of a survey of local officials "throughout the Tug Hill region in regard to the effectiveness of commission programs."

The full report can be access on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/strategic-plan/>.



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NOCCOG Launches Updated Website

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments has launched an updated, streamlined website to assist our communities with locating contact information, minutes, board details, and training updates. The site, located at www.nocog.org, includes links to other NOCCOG communities and the Tug Hill Commission where additional resources are available.

Phil Street to Present at Rockefeller Institute Briefing

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government organizes an annual *Research and Practice in Progress Briefing on Local Government in New York* briefing at its headquarters in Albany. This year, Director of Planning Phil Street will deliver a presentation based on the commission's new issue paper "Protecting Town Roads from Snow Plowing Demands: A Checklist." It will include information about minimum maintenance roads, which is timely as new bills have been recently submitted by the state legislature, A3724 and S2910.

For more information about the Rockefeller Institute, see <https://rockinst.org/>.

Free Grants Gateway Workshop, March 19

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Place: Howard G. Sackett Technical Center, 5836 NYS Route 12, Glenfield, NY 13343 (Glenfield BOCES)

The Tug Hill Commission, together with Lewis County Planning and Lewis County Recreation, Forestry and Parks, invites you to a workshop covering what you need to know about the NYS Grants Gateway <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>. The workshop will be lead by Ms. Karen Ferguson from NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. A workshop flyer can be found on our website at <http://www.tughill.org/2019/02/07/free-workshop-for-non-profit-groups/>.

The Grants Gateway, which is New York State's online grant application and contract management system, allows you to search for funding opportunities and apply for grants online. Applicants that are awarded grants will use the Grants Gateway to manage their contracts online.

At the workshop you will learn how to navigate the gateway, search for grants and learn how to register and prequalify.

All non-profits must prequalify on the grants gateway before they can apply for NYS grants. Prequalification allows nonprofit vendors to proactively provide required documents, forms, and proof of policies that all State agencies require prior to reviewing grant applications and awarding contracts.

At the grants gateway website <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>, you can find additional documentation, training, webinars, videos, and support.

This workshop, which is free and open to everyone, is geared towards non-profit groups hoping to apply for NYS Grants. You are encouraged to bring your laptop, but it is not required.

To RSVP, please contact Jennifer Harvill (315-785-2392, jennifer@tughill.org) or Casandra Buell (315-376-5919, casan-drabuell@lewiscounty.ny.gov). Light refreshments will be provided.

State Archives Grant Applications Submitted

Commission staff assisted with applications under State Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) program, working with local records management officers to develop projects in the following communities:

- The village of Constableville, a first time applicant, requested \$15,379 to hire a consultant to assist with enhancing the village's records management program. The work includes an inventory to address a records backlog, creation of policy and procedure and adding four new fireproof filing cabinets into the active records workflow.
- The town of Leyden requested \$15,236 for minor renovations to improve an inactive records storage room and to purchase fire proof filing cabinets for use in their historic town hall and highway department.
- Jefferson County Economic Development, another first-time LGRMIF applicant, submitted a shared services application for \$82,028 to remodel a portion of their office to serve as an inactive records storage facility. The request also includes hiring a consultant to assist with an inventory, reorganization and transfer of records to the new storage room.
- The town of Forestport applied for \$17,625 to hire a clerk to help address a backlog of inactive records and to review records management policy and procedure. The request includes the purchase of four fireproof cabinets to improve work flow and better secure the records.

The 2019-2020 LGRMIF deadline was January 28th. State Archives expects to make award announcements later this spring. It is never too early to begin planning for the next application! Please check the State Archives website for upcoming workshops and publications that can help you prepare. LGRMIF information can be found here: http://www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/grants_lgrmif.shtml.

Update on Wind Farm Projects

Deer River Wind (DPS Case Number: 16-F-0267)

On February 6, 2019, Atlantic Wind filed its application for a certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Board). As currently configured, the Deer River Wind Farm will include up to 25 wind towers, taller than originally proposed with associated underground and overhead collection lines, access roads, meteorological tower, operations and maintenance building, collection substation, point of interconnection switchyard, and temporary laydown yard/batch plant. Located in the towns of Pinckney and Harrisburg, it would interconnect via a transmission line in the town of Rodman. \$101,400 in intervenor funding is available to be used to defray expenses for expert witness, consultant, administrative or legal fees. At least 50% of the intervenor funds must be reserved for municipalities.

Roaring Brook Wind (Local Review Process)

NYSERDA recently announced that as a result of its 2018 Renewable Energy Standard Request for Proposals, 20 agreements to develop 1,654 MW of new, clean energy capacity throughout New York State have been approved. This includes Roaring Brook Wind in the town of Martinsburg.

Number Three Wind (DPS Case Number: 16-F-0328)

There has been considerable discussion lately on the project timeline for the Number Three Wind Farm. The developer submitted its Article 10 application in January 2018, and in September of 2018 the application was deemed in compliance. Article 10 establishes a one-year statutory timeframe in which the Board must render a final decision on the permit, meaning by September of 2019, the developer would know if their permit was approved. During the procedural conference in November 2018, parties discussed a number of things, including the timeline of the project, including the filing of written direct and rebuttal testimony, and hearing dates. A date of February 8, 2019 was chosen as the deadline for all parties to file direct testimony and needed information. The proposed project was altered by the developer during this time and reviewers feel that the changes didn't include enough information for the Board to be able to fully assess the environmental impacts of the revised project layout or whether the project conforms with state law. Parties are now discussing an extension in the application timeline, which may alter the September 2019 deadline by which the project is either approved or denied by the Board.

Galloo Island Wind (DPS Case Number: 15-F-0327)

On February 8, 2019, Galloo Island Wind LLC formally withdrew its Article 10 application and is no longer seeking a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the siting board. This is the second time in recent history that a developer has withdrawn its proposed wind farm on Galloo Island.

RACOG Participates in Fort Drum Career Fair

On February 7th, the River Area Council of Governments participated in the Fort Drum Career Fair. The group was focused on helping to educate the soldiers transitioning out of the service on potential positions within local government and ways they can get involved in the communities within which they live. It was a successful day in networking with the soldiers. RACOG was also able to learn about the different programs Fort Drum has available to help soldiers transition into the civilian workforce.



Janet Zando, Mayor, Village of Deferiet

JCC Students Learn About Tug Hill, NY's Great Lakes and Applied Water Quality Science

Jefferson Community College (JCC) professors Joel LaLone and Monica LeClerc recently invited Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator Emily Sheridan to talk to their Interdisciplinary Science and Mathematics class.



Students learned about the Tug Hill region and the Tug Hill Commission, the Great Lakes Program and how water quality data is collected and used by DEC for decision making. Real world examples of how water quality information makes a difference on the ground were highlighted, including:

- JCC's Urban and Community Forestry Grant funding from DEC for completing a campus tree inventory;
- JCC's Green Infrastructure grant from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation that will use vegetation to reduce runoff;
- The completion of town of Boonville's salt storage facility partially funded by DEC, that will prevent salt runoff from going into surface water and groundwater; and
- Consolidated Funding Application funding for the Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District to help local farms install best management practices.

Students from the JCC class will conduct field work later in the semester, collecting and analyzing water quality and macroinvertebrate data from a variety of streams in and around the Tug Hill region. The commission and JCC plan to work together to have the current and historical data collected through this class mapped and analyzed over the summer. Communities and organizations will then be able to use this information to make informed decisions and investments that will protect and enhance water resources.

Contact Us

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www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

SAVE THE DATE

Ninth Annual
Black River
Watershed Conference

DATE: Tuesday, June 4, 2019

PLACE: Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center

KEYNOTE: *The Great Lakes Compact Innovation: A Decade of Lessons Learned* by Peter Annin, Director of the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater

Tug Hill: Shaping the Future of the Region Book Locations

The commission's new book, *Tug Hill: Shaping the Future of the Region*, is available at all public libraries around the region, as well as school libraries. For those interested in purchasing a copy, they can be bought on Amazon (www.amazon.com), at local Kinney stores, from Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (<https://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/shop/>), and at The Gathering Place in Redfield. Additionally, the land trust will have copies available for purchase at their booth at the Local Government Conference on March 28.

