

Job Opening – Senior Planner

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is hiring a **Senior Planner** to assist local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in land use planning, local law development and revision, and general technical support to planning boards and other municipal boards. Work at the Tug Hill Commission allows staff to be involved with a variety of municipalities and organizations. There are also opportunities to be involved in regional and state level policy issues and be a voice for rural communities in New York State. For more information see tughill.org/job-openings/.

Letters of interest and resumes should be submitted to Matt Johnson, matt@tughill.org, no later than Thursday, May 23, 2024.

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Central Square, 3125 East Avenue, Central Square, New York 13036. The public is welcome to attend.

Fort Drum Day Held in Albany

The annual Fort Drum Day was held in Albany on May 7, co-sponsored this year by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton and supported by local legislators Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblymember Scott Gray and Assemblymember Ken Blankenbush. Fort Drum's Deputy Commanding General Brigadier General Matthew Braman and Garrison Commander Colonel Matthew Myer, along with other Fort Drum leadership and soldiers, participated, as well as local community organizations: Advocate Drum, Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Drum Country NY, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, and the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce.

The day is an opportunity for Fort Drum and the tri-county area of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties to share the importance of Fort Drum to the nation, state, and region with Albany leadership. Fort Drum is the largest single-site employer in New York State, had a \$2.5 billion economic impact in 2023, and accounts for 21% of payroll in the tri-county area (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties). The complete [2023 Fort Drum Regional Economic Impact Report](#) and [Fiscal Year 2023 Now You Know](#) fact sheet are both available for download.



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Fort Drum leadership, along with state legislators and community members, at Fort Drum Day in Albany, May 7, 2023. Photo courtesy Senator Scarcella-Spanton.

Minimum Maintenance Roads Law Commemorated with Pen Certificate

The Tug Hill Commission and town of Lorraine were presented with a commemorative pen certificate by James Corl, Legislative Director for Senator Mark Walczyk, at the May 2 Tug Hill Local Government Conference. Sponsored by Minority Leader Barclay and Senator Walczyk, the bill was “an act to amend the highway law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to establishing minimum maintenance roads in designated towns; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.” It became a law on December 8, 2023 as Chapter 690 of the Laws of 2023.

The certificate was signed by Governor Hochul on January 11, 2024.



Left to right: Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission Executive Director; Jan Bogdanowicz, Tug Hill Commission Board Chairman; James Corl, Senator Walczyk Legislative Director; Joe Wasilewski, Lorraine Highway Superintendent.

NYSERDA Energy Code Enforcement Training May 22 and 23

On Monday, May 22, in Gloversville, or Tuesday, May 23, in Syracuse, Newport Ventures will be presenting in person, no cost, NYSERDA Energy Code Enforcement Trainings.

On behalf of NYSERDA, Newport Ventures provides energy code training on various topics across NY state. The Energy Code Enforcement Training supports NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. These are full-day classes which include four hours each of residential and commercial training. Each portion of the class carries four hours of continuing education and learning units from the Department of State. To be eligible for the points associated with the Clean Energy Communities program, both portions of the class must be completed.

The Energy Code is a complex document and one of nine building codes in New York State, which can make implementation and enforcement involved and time consuming. This training focuses on what code enforcement officials need to know about the Energy Code in the context of its practical application on active construction projects.

Completing the training helps to earn recognition and unlock access to grant funding through [NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program](#).

Click [here](#) to register for Gloversville. Click [here](#) to register for Syracuse.

Forestport Boat Wash Training Event May 23

The town of Forestport is gearing up to provide a boat wash and decontamination station this summer, as funded by a 2023 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Invasive Species Grant. The boat wash station was installed with the goal of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The training event for boat stewards and other interested folks will be on Thursday, May 23 at the Forestport Town Hall, 10275 State Route 28. This hands-on training begins at 9 a.m. and should be wrapped up by noon. Scott Jamieson, a state coordinator for the DEC's watercraft inspection program, will be providing information on DEC's programs, as well as training and guidance for the newly hired Forestport stewards and interested volunteers.

If you are involved in a lake association in the region and would like to attend in your volunteer capacity, you are welcome to join as well. There will be both indoor and outside components of this training, so please dress for the weather. Please RSVP by emailing or texting Jennifer Harsig, jennifer@jpiperconsulting.com, or 315-247-4924.

Local Government Conference Presentations Available

Most of the presentations delivered at both the May 1 Infrastructure Roundtable and May 2 Local Government Conference are available on the commission's [website](#).

NYS 2024 Consolidated Funding Application Open

Round XIV of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative was announced earlier this week, including the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), which combines the application process for multiple state agency grants through one application. The full 2024 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) list of available resources is available [here](#), which contains information on programs beyond those listed below. The Consolidated Funding Application is available [here](#). The 2024 CFA application manual is available [here](#). Applications are due Wednesday, July 31, at 4:00 p.m.

Grant opportunities of interest to the Tug Hill Community include, but are not limited to, the following:

[Community Development Block Grant](#): Up to \$25 million to help municipalities with projects that improve communities and benefit residents across the state, including community planning, public infrastructure, and facilities.

[Environmental Protection Fund Grants for Parks, Preservation, and Heritage \(EPF\)](#): Up to \$26 million available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas within the state.

[Local Waterfront Revitalization Program](#): Up to \$13.975 million in matching grants available for eligible villages, towns, cities, and counties along New York's coasts or waterways for planning, design, and construction projects to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

[Market New York Tourism Grant Program](#): Up to \$15 million available for tourism marketing, capital/construction projects, and the recruitment and/or execution of special events, including meetings, conferences, conventions, festivals, agritourism/craft beverage events, athletic competitions, and consumer and industry trade shows.

[New York Main Street Program](#): Up to \$4.2 million available for municipalities and eligible not-for-profit organizations involving projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts.

[Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program](#): Up to \$2 million available for the development or update of comprehensive plans, area plans, or zoning ordinances that incorporate smart growth principles, including promoting efficient and sustainable land development and redevelopment patterns that optimize prior infrastructure investments.

[Climate Smart Communities Grant Program](#): Up to \$17.5 million for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change at the local level and become certified Climate Smart communities.

[Water Quality Improvement Project \(WQIP\) Program](#): At least \$75 million for local governments and non-profit organizations to implement projects that directly improve water quality or aquatic habitats, promote flood risk reduction, or protect a drinking water source.

For recent webinar recordings on some of these programs, follow the link [here](#). To view the 2024 Regional Workshop schedule, see [here](#). Further webinars and workshops will be forthcoming.

Grants Reminder: Disadvantaged Communities and Environmental Justice Areas Mapping

The 2024 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) opened on May 14, and Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Potential Environmental Justice Areas are an important component of many CFA and other grant applications. DACs and Potential Environmental Justice Areas can easily be found using DEC's [Info Locator](#). On the DECinfo Locator website, these map layers can be found under DEC Information Layers -> Environmental Quality -> Public Involvement. Projects that contain or have the potential to positively affect either a DAC or Potential Environmental Justice Area can score higher or be given priority in the funding award process.

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2024

JUNE 13, 9AM-3:30PM
THE VIEW ARTS CENTER, OLD FORGE

Featured Content



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATES

Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton, Oneida, and
Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation
Districts will give updates on new and
developing projects



HYDROELECTRIC DAM RELICENSING PANEL

This panel discussion will explore the Federal
Energy Regulatory Commission's hydroelectric
dam relicensing process



THE IMPACT OF SOLAR ON AG LAND AND STORMWATER

How are ag land and runoff being effected by increased
solar development?



CLIMATE SMART LEWIS COUNTY

The county achieved bronze certification!



KELLER MOHAWK HILL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and Ducks Unlimited project
to restore the Keller Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area

**Breakfast, Lunch, and
refreshments included!**
Cost: \$50 Registration

**Registration begins at
8:30AM.**

**REGISTER
HERE!**

**REGISTER BY
JUNE 3**



Questions? Contact Gabriel Yerdon at 315-785-2387 or gabriel@tughill.org

Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Webinar Series Summary

The Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Webinar Series wrapped up in April following a captivating four-month run. Delving into topics ranging from fisher and American marten to Tug Hill birds and brook trout conservation and genetics, the series featured speakers from organizations like the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, and Trout Power. Drawing an audience of over 230 participants for the live sessions, the webinar recordings on YouTube have garnered over 600 views to date. For those eager to catch up, presentation slides and YouTube links for each webinar are available on the Tug Hill Commission website at tughill.org/services/training/. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who attended and contributed to the success of this enriching series!

Traffic Safety Presentation at Remsen and Holland Patent High Schools

The commission's Traffic Safety Coordinator, Christopher Barboza, recently held and coordinated traffic safety presentations at Remsen and Holland Patent High Schools on May 9, 2024. The presentation at Holland Patent was combined with a presentation provided by Jacy Good and Steve Johnson, advocates against distracted driving, that are coordinated through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee as part of a grant program. The presentation at Holland Patent High School was held as part of their safety day, before prom, and engaged approximately 150 students from ninth through twelfth grades. The speakers also held a presentation at Remsen High School for approximately 50 students from the junior and senior classes earlier that day. The presentations were well received by students and school faculty, with many staying after the presentation to ask questions and thank the speakers for sharing personal experiences.

A photograph of a stream flowing through a forest. In the background, a culvert is visible under a road. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting autumn or winter. The water is clear and flows over rocks in the foreground.

**CULVERT DESIGNS:
CREATING RIGHT-SIZED SOLUTIONS**

FREE ONLINE TRAINING FOR TOWN & COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS

A red square with a white play button icon in the center.

**UPDATED FOR 2024
NOW AVAILABLE ON
YOUTUBE**

A row of logos. From left to right: Trout Unlimited (a fish jumping), Soil & Water Conservation District (a circular logo with a tree and water), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (a logo with the state outline and text), Hudson River Estuary Program (text), Cornell Cooperative Extension (text), and NEIW PCC (a logo with the letters NEIW and PCC).

Contact Us

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YouTube: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/tughillcommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).