

NYS Tug Hill Commission Local Leaders Survey – 2018

369 surveys mailed out on April 17, 2018/236 surveys returned for a return rate of 64%.

Section 1. Local Leader Profile

Your responses to this survey are strictly confidential, unless you choose to share your name at the end. Please give us the following information to help us match responses by geographic area and your involvement in local matter.

1. In what town or village do you live? 70% Town 25% Village

5	Adams(T)	5	Camden(V)	3	Forestport	6	Martinsburg	4	Rodman	5	West Monroe
3	Adams(V)	1	Castorland(V)	3	Harrisburg	3	Montague	2	Rutland	4	West Turin
2	Albion	3	Central Square(V)	2	Hastings	3	Orwell	2	Steuben	2	Williamstown
4	Amnsville	4	Champion	3	Holland Patent(V)	4	Osceola	2	Sylvan Beach(V)	3	Worth
4	Amboy	3	Cleveland(V)	2	Lee	8	Parish(T)	2	Trenton		Do not live in TH region
4	Ava	2	Constableville(V)	8	Lewis	2	Parish(V)	4	Turin(T)		
3	Black River(V)	5	Constantia	4	Leyden	2	Pinckney	3	Turin(V)		
5	Boonville(T)	1	Copenhagen(V)	5	Lorraine	1	Port Leyden(V)	4	Vienna		
3	Boonville(V)	2	Denmark	2	Lowville(T)	4	Redfield	5	Watertown		
3	Boylston	3	Florence	7	Lowville(V)	1	Remsen(T)	1	Western		
2	Camden(T)	4	Floyd	3	Lyons Falls(V)	2	Remsen(V)	2	West Carthage(V)		

Other

City of Watertown (2)	Town of Greig	Village of Pulaski
Village of Carthage (2)	Village of Brownville	Village of Ilion, Herkimer County
Village of Deferiet (2)	Town of Mexico	North Elba, Essex County
Town of Wilna (7)	Town of Madrid, St Lawrence County	Town of Marcellus, Onondaga County
Town of LeRay	Deerfield (County legislator)	City of Syracuse, Onondaga County
Town of Sandy Creek (2)	Town of Dekalb, St Lawrence County	Town of Marcy
Town of Clay	Village of Phoenix	Not in the area
Town of Richland	Town of Scriba (2)	City of Oswego

In what county do you live?

24% Jefferson 26% Lewis 23% Oneida 23% Oswego 3% other

2. Which of the following organizations or groups are you currently a member?

22% town board	9% village board	6% farm or forestry organization
15% planning board	9% economic dev group/chamber of commerce	6% fire company/rescue squad
14% town clerk	7% environmental/historical/land trust org.	5% county governmental agency
12% highway/public works superintendent	7% village clerk	0.5% school/other district board(s)
10% hunting or fishing club	6% outdoor recreation club	12% other
10% zoning board of appeals	6% other town/village official	
10% council of governments	6% county legislator	

Other

Mayor (2)	NYS DEC (3)	Town historian/town BAR
Town supervisor (2)	NYSERDA Board	Town engineer
Supervisor/Library board	American Legion Aux	Boy Scouts (2)
Deputy supervisor	Not for profit (2)	Soil and Water
North Country Clerk/Treasurers Association	Watershed agency	Home consortium
Planner	Work for nonprofit	Cooperative Extension
State agency	Library board, church organization	
Grass roots community group (drug prevention and community improvement, Lewis County – it’s real and it’s local)		

3. How often have you worked with Tug Hill Commission staff (or circuit riders) in the last five years?

51% Frequently 37% Occasionally 12% Not at all

Section 2. Program Effectiveness and Importance

The Commission’s mission is “helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.” Its legislative charge calls for enhancing the region’s environment and economy through work with local governments and organizations. In light of this, please rank the Commission’s programs for IMPORTANCE (in Question 4) and EFFECTIVENESS (in Question 5).

4. How would you rate the IMPORTANCE of the following Tug Hill Commission programs to the future of the Tug Hill region? (Please check () only one for each category.) (E=Essential, I=Important, NI=Not Important, DK=Don't Know)

	<i>E</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>NI</i>	<i>DK</i>
Workshops to increase local officials’ skills including annual Local Government Conference	65%	31%	0.4%	2%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	64%	31%	1%	3%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	59%	37%	1%	2%
Support to groups of communities working together, especially local councils of governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County COG, North Shore COG, River Area COG and Salmon Rivers COG)	57%	38%	1%	3%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	53%	40%	3%	3%
Helping communities protect the environment	52%	41%	2%	4%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, and similar problems	46%	42%	6%	5%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	43%	44%	6%	4%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	39%	54%	4%	2%
Educational programs to increase local citizens’ and children’s understanding of natural and cultural resources	37%	51%	3%	8%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	33%	50%	6%	10%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	32%	52%	7%	9%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	25%	56%	7%	11%

5. How would you rate the EFFECTIVENESS of the following programs of the Tug Hill Commission? (Please check () only one for each category.) (E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor, NEI=Not Enough Info to Rate)

	<i>E</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>NEI</i>
Workshops to increase local officials’ skills including annual Local Government Conference	66%	25%	3%	0.4%	4%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	54%	24%	3%	1%	15%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	53%	32%	5%	0%	8%
Support to groups of communities working together, especially local councils of governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County COG, North Shore COG, River Area COG and Salmon Rivers COG)	50%	32%	3%	0.4%	11%
Helping communities protect the environment	38%	39%	4%	0.4%	17%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	36%	36%	7%	0.4%	20%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	35%	34%	9%	1%	20%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, and similar problems	35%	30%	6%	1%	26%
Educational programs to increase local citizens’ and children’s understanding of natural and cultural resources	28%	39%	8%	2%	22%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	27%	40%	8%	2%	22%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	23%	31%	5%	1%	38%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	22%	26%	7%	0.4%	42%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	21%	26%	6%	2%	43%

6. How would you rate the Tug Hill Commission on the following characteristics? (Please check () only one for each characteristic) (E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor, DK=Don't Know)

	<i>E</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>DK</i>
Cooperation	74%	21%	1%	0%	3%
Expertise	69%	24%	2%	0%	4%
Understanding area needs	64%	26%	4%	0%	5%
Promptness	62%	28%	2%	0%	7%
Objectivity	54%	35%	3%	0.4%	7%
Innovativeness	50%	35%	4%	1%	8%

Section 3. Commission Role

The Tug Hill Commission provides for the future of the region through help to local governments and organizations. It is a provider of information, expertise, and service. It does not regulate. It does not set policy for the region. Please let us know how you feel about this in answering the following questions. (Please check () the **one** answer that best represents your opinion.)

7. **Should the Tug Hill Commission continue its mission? (Mission - Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.)**
 81% *Strongly Agree* 16% *Agree* 0.4% *Disagree* 0% *Strongly disagree* 2% *Don't know*
8. **How important do you feel local control is to your community?**
 84% *Very important* 9% *Moderately important* 3% *Slightly important* 0% *Not important at all* 3% *Don't know*
9. **Does the Tug Hill Commission work to enhance local control?**
 58% *Almost always* 21% *Often* 7% *Sometimes* 0.4% *Almost never* 13% *Don't know*
10. **How important do you think intermunicipal cooperation and planning are to the Tug Hill Region?**
 77% *Very important* 16% *Moderately important* 2% *Slightly important* 0.4% *Not important at all* 3% *Don't know*
11. **Does the Tug Hill Commission work effectively to support cooperation and planning?**
 65% *Almost always* 22% *Often* 4% *Sometimes* 0% *Almost never* 8% *Don't know*
12. **“The Tug Hill Commission provides services which local governments need and cannot afford by themselves.”**
 66% *Strongly agree* 25% *Agree* 0.4% *Disagree* 0% *Strongly disagree* 8% *Don't know*