

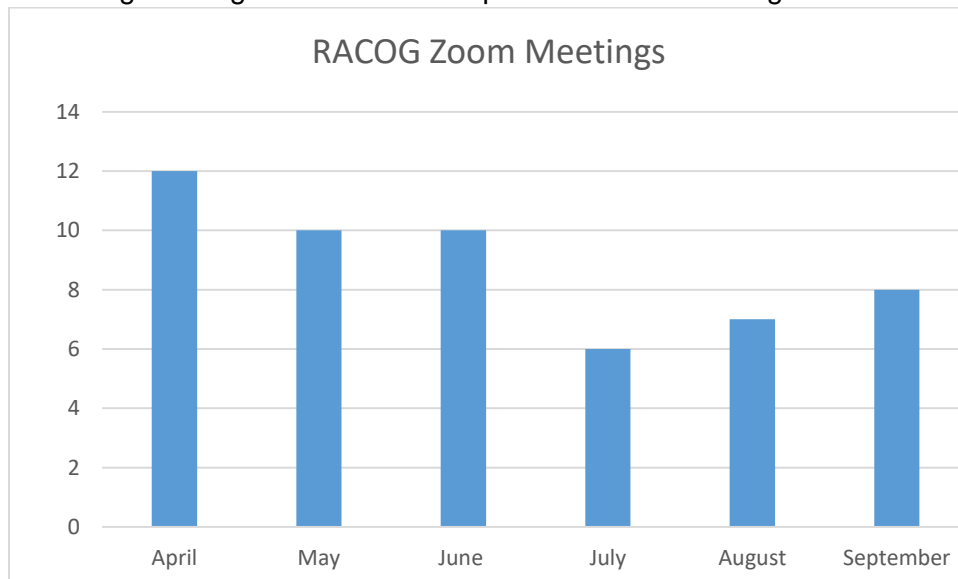


October 21, 2020 - RACOG Report

Presenters: Community Choice Aggregation – Scott Burto (Village of West Carthage) and Javier Barrios (Good Energy)

LED Lighting – The "90% design studies" have been completed. Municipalities are now deciding on whether they will move forward or not with the NYPA project. Jefferson County did approve to add the project to its shared service plan, which may provide a rebate to its participating municipalities. Lewis County is also entertaining the idea for their municipalities. So far the following have approved to move forward with the NYPA project: town of Wilna and villages of Carthage, Copenhagen, Croghan, Deferiet, Lyons Falls, and West Carthage. The town of Champion approved to move forward with National Grid.

Zoom Meetings – The Tug Hill Commission has been providing Zoom meeting capabilities to the municipalities within the Tug Hill Region. Here is a snapshot of Zoom meetings for the RACOG area:



River Area Visioning Economic Summit (Action Item) – This event did not happen due to COVID-19 restrictions. Not sure if this is something the board would like to look at trying to have again in some format? The options would be an online webinar series, an in-person and remote option, or hope that we can accommodate an all in-person session.

Walkable Communities (Complete Streets) – We are still trying to navigate the current COVID-19 restrictions in schools. The Jefferson Lewis BOCES students are still attending class. We are trying to setup a meeting with BOCES to get an update on the status for these projects. The Howard G. Sacket Technical Center is planning on starting on the bike racks in about a month. BOCES has been undergoing construction at both the Lewis County and Watertown locations, so this also may play a factor in timelines.

Fort Drum Internships – I have suspended pursuing further internships right now, until things settle down some. I found it hard balancing things with him and focusing on work I needed to get done during these COVID-19 times.

RACOG Resource Management Plan Update – Our last intern did a bit of work on this. I still have to take what he gave me and combine it into what the other intern had done. We did change the format some, which hopefully will focus more on potential things that impact the region.

Websites – Town of Wilna has asked me to go ahead and setup a website for them. Currently, the towns of Champion, Lowville, and villages of Castorland, Copenhagen, and Deferiet currently utilize the RACOG website service.

ACTION ITEMS

River Area Visioning Economic Summit – Does the board still want me to pursue this? **Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board.*

Future Presenters, Speakers, Issues, and Projects – For open discussion, but what would the board like me to focus on for this year? Are there any regional issues or projects that need attention? Here is a list of some potential presenters/speakers:

- Javier Barrios, Good Energy – Community Choice Aggregation
- Ronald Trottier, Railroad Developer – Update on the status of the pedal cars and scenic railroad.
- Robert Hageman, Jefferson County & Ryan Piche, Lewis County
- Jefferson & Lewis County IDAs
- Jefferson & Lewis County Planning Departments
- Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce & Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
- US Border Patrol – About what you need to know for foreign companies setting up their business in your community and what they will need.
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- Bridges Out of Poverty

Action Needed: *Feedback from the board.*