



April 20, 2021 - RACOG Report

**Presenters:** Clean Energy Communities – Jennifer Perry, ANCA

**Black River Trail/Railroad Bed** – The Metropolitan Planning Organization said they hope to extend the Black River Trail in the future to Carthage. GVT has said they do not have any plans to tear up the railroad tracks from Lowville to Carthage, but they do support non-motorized recreational opportunities. Currently, they have a long-term lease with Ron Trottier for pedal cars. The commission with some RACOG member representatives will meet with Ron Trottier on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Black River Community Action Group** – One of the recommendations from the Blueway Trail plan was to form a “Friend of the Black River” working group. The commission is looking to have an initial meeting of any community members who are potentially interested, to see if this is something worth pursuing. There has been some interest expressed by community members.

**Clean Energy Communities** – There is coordination happening between Lewis County, ANCA, and the Tug Hill Commission on this effort to help those communities that are interested. There are currently grants available for municipalities. Jefferson County Cornell Cooperative Extension is also looking to assist where they can.

**Walkable Communities (Complete Streets)** – An extension was given to Jefferson Lewis BOCES until July 2022 to finish the complete street projects. Lewis County has started a Walkability Action Institute, I am currently sitting on that group. Lewis County has some grant funding to help communities with getting a walk audit done and helping to fund some potential implementation projects from that audit.

**LED Lighting** – All paperwork has been submitted for the NYPA group, just waiting on the public service commission to review.

**Fort Drum Internships** – The one soldier who was supposed to start for us this spring, had to cancel his internship because of surgery on his shoulder.

**Websites** – Working on the town of Wilna website. Currently, the towns of Champion, Lowville, and villages of Castorland, Copenhagen, and Deferiet currently utilize the RACOG website service. Also, a comprehensive plan web page was setup for the Lowville comp plan. [www.lowville.racog.org/compplan2021](http://www.lowville.racog.org/compplan2021)

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**RACOG IMA** – Each member municipality needs to have their boards approve the change to the RACOG IMA to include the village of Lowville.

**Action Needed:** Mayor or Supervisor needs to sign the new IMA and send to Chris Vargulick at town of Champion.

**Future Meetings** – Are there any topics or presenters that any RACOG members would like to see in May? If not, does the board want to wait on the next meeting until September? A meeting could always be called if something comes up that the board needs to address or hear about.

Here is a list of some potential presenters/speakers:

- Jefferson & Lewis County IDAs
- Jefferson & Lewis County Planning Departments
- Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce & Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- Bridges Out of Poverty

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board*

**Associate Circuit Rider** – Is this something the board would like to look into?

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board.*