



January 25, 2023 - RACOG Report

Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference– The local government conference will be at Turning Stone Resort. The conference will start on April 5th with a “Drone Workshop”, followed by a reception. The main conference with training sessions will be on April 6th. <https://tughill.org/lgc2023/>

Membership – The town of Croghan is now a member of RACOG. A board member for the town of Watson recently asked for information about RACOG.

RACOG Regional Promotional Video – CGI will have a draft of the video for the RACOG board by the January meeting.

RACOG Economic Visioning Summit Steering Committee – The steering committee met on January 12, 2023 to look at potential opportunities from the last summit. These meeting notes will be attached to the RACOG board information packets.

RACOG Economic Visioning Summit – The steering committee would like to see the summit happen in 2023. I have started to look at potential places in Lewis County, since the committee agreed it should be moved around. I contacted the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES in Glenfield about using their conference room that can seat about 100 people. Their culinary students could put a buffet lunch on for about \$10/person.

Friends of the Black River – The group will meet again in February. The group is currently working on a mission statement and goals for the group.

LED Lighting – The NYPA project is about ready to be closed out. Final meetings are currently being setup. The LGE grant will start being closed out soon, so those funds will be redistributed to the municipalities upon closure of the grant.

Deferiet BOA & Solar Project – NYSERDA is working on using part of the old mill site in Deferiet for a solar farm. The Jefferson County IDA is assisting with the solar development and other potential development opportunities on the site. Sarah Bullock (Town of Wilna) is working on a BOA (Brownfield Opportunity Area) designation.

Economic Resiliency and Recovery Plan – The towns of Carthage, Wilna, and villages of Carthage and West Carthage are doing a Economic Resiliency and Recovery Plan with the MRB Group.

Wilna/Carthage Joint Comprehensive Plan – Matt Johnson (Tug Hill Commission) presented to the village of Carthage board on January 17th, 2023. He will be meeting with Wilna in February.

Digital Radar Signs – We have interest from the towns of Champion, Lowville, Wilna, and villages of Carthage, Castorland, Copenhagen, Deferiet, Lowville, and West Carthage in getting digital radar signs. Have gotten some quotes on pricing.

3D Printed Zoning Map – The Tug Hill Commission is still working on this pilot project to have Jefferson Lewis BOCES create a 3D printed zoning map for a community.

Community Choice Aggregation – Megan Krowkowski from Lewis County planning is still looking to see who might be interested in this. They do have it open also to other communities in other neighboring counties that are looking to participate.

ACTION ITEMS

Election of Officers – Nominations and vote needed for chair and vice chair.

Action Needed: Nominations & Board Vote

Budget Adoption – Adopt the 2023 budget.

Action Needed: Discussion & Board Vote

Sponsorship for Local Government Conference – This year the bronze sponsorship is \$500. RACOG sponsored at the bronze level last year. The sponsorship did go up from \$250 to \$500. The RACOG logo will be listed in the program and RACOG would get one free Thursday registration. This is currently listed in the budget.

Action Needed: Discussion & Board Vote

Economic Visioning Summit – Does the board want to have the economic visioning summit this year? If so, does the board want to hold the conference at the Howard G. Technical Center conference room with the addition of a lunch? The culinary art students could do the lunch at about \$10/person. One suggestion is to approve the expenditure of up to \$500 for the lunch, which would cover 50 people. Last year we had 38 people sign up and the cost was \$474 without a full lunch. This is currently listed in the budget.

Action Needed: Discussion and Board Vote

Economic Visioning Summit Steering Committee Projects – A question came up on whether RACOG would be willing to help support a project financially and/or be a lead on a potential grant for a project, should the steering committee identify a project that could help the region. They wanted to know, so they could plan on what kind of projects might be possible.

Action Needed: Discussion

Associate Circuit Rider – With the addition of the town of Croghan the circuit rider now has three meetings on the third Monday at 6pm. These communities will only have a circuit rider at their meeting every three months and in some cases four months. Also, in the fall there were a couple of times that Deferiet would like to have had the circuit rider at their meeting, but the circuit rider was already scheduled for Copenhagen. Being at the meetings does allow the circuit rider to understand more of what each communities' needs are and to move projects along faster by being able to answer questions at those meetings. Without being there it can create

delays or missed information that would be helpful in assisting them. A quick calculation of what it would cost for an associate circuit rider, would be around \$15 - \$20/hour, plus mileage. This would be a contracted-out position with RACOG. It would amount to around \$60 to \$70 per meeting depending on how far the associate lives from the municipalities they would help serve. If the associate covered two meetings every month for a year, it would amount to around \$1500 to \$1700/year. Would the board be interested in contracting out for an associate circuit rider or getting more information on the associate circuit rider program?

Action Needed: *Discussion and Board Vote (If Needed)*

Digital Radar Signs – Would RACOG want to purchase one digital radar sign, that could be borrowed by any member municipality depending on availability?

Action Needed: *Discussion and Board Vote (If Needed)*

Future Presenters & Meetings – Khris Dodson from Syracuse Environmental Finance Center is willing to come present to RACOG at future meeting on succession planning and knowledge transfer. Another potential presentation would be to have NYClass (some communities are utilizing them to get a higher percentage rate on their money) present at a future meeting or it could be a webinar presentation for just those interested. Is there interest in maybe having the MRB Group talk about their economic resiliency and recovery plan for Carthage, Champion, West Carthage, and Wilna communities? Would the RACOG board be interested in having one or two meetings a year be dedicated to talking about opportunities and ideas that have come out of the summit and the steering committee? Jefferson County, Lewis County, Tug Hill Commission, and other potential organizations could be invited to that meeting to have roundtable discussions with the group. The steering committee felt this was a way to help improve communication on potential projects.

Action Needed: *Discussion*