

River Area Council of Governments
January 23, 2025

Voting quorum present: T/Champion, T/Croghan, T/Lowville, T/Watson, T/Wilna, V/Carthage, V/Castorland, V/Deferiet, and V/Lowville

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm at the T/Wilna Municipal Building.

Paul Smith and Yvonne Boliver were nominated as Chairman and Vice-Chair respectively. The nominees were elected unanimously.

Motion by S. Storms, seconded by L. Spencer-Smith to approve the minutes of September 26, 2024 as presented. Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Presentations

Jillian Lee presented an overview of the Civic Service Student Activity program and student RACOG board. Eleven students from Lowville, Beaver River and Copenhagen are participating in the program. A second session is scheduled for May and will include visitations to a number of government facilities. The four students on the RACOG board are preparing a survey for their peers to ascertain the priorities of students. J. Jones suggested that the students be invited to present to RACOG.

Ms. Lee updated the Board in regards to the water/wastewater training. BOCES has agreed to offer the course initially as an adult education program. A program for school age students will take 1-2 years to develop and receive authorization from the NYS Department of Education.

Ms. Lee has met with representatives from the V/Carthage to discuss upgrades to the Carthage Park and potential sources of funding.

Jen Harvill reported that Paul Shephard and Patrick Brady are both Associate Circuit Riders. Chairman Smith acknowledged signing contracts with each.

J. Harvill discussed the draft THC 5-year strategic plan and the proposed shared grant administrator. She requested that members review the plan.

New Business

- Board members reviewed the budget as presented and discussed that it may be necessary in the future to raise the dues. Motion by J. Jones,

seconded by R. Mullin to approve the budget as presented. Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- Motion by T. Widrick, seconded by J. Jones to sponsor the Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference in the amount of \$500.00. Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by R. Grunert, seconded by J. Lyng to approve covering mileage and a one-night stay for Paul Shephard to attend the LGC. Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by R. Mullin, seconded by J. Jones to approve the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center as the venue for the Economic Summit and to spend up to \$600.00 for lunch.
- R. Grunert stated that the V/Croghan is interested in joining RACOG. Chairman Smith stated that the Village Board should pass a resolution seeking membership and send a letter to RACOG for consideration.
- R. Mullin requested that RACOG consider rotating meetings between communities.

Motion by R. Mullin, seconded by T. Widrick to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary