



RIVER AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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10 NORTH BROAD STREET
CARTHAGE, NY 13619

AGENDA

RIVER AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

September 25, 2025
6:00 PM

Town of Wilna Municipal Building

Town of Wilna

Paul H. Smith, Supervisor, Chairperson
Sue Storms, Representative

Village of Carthage

Michael Astafan, President
Mark Roberts, Representative
Linda Smith-Spencer, Alternate

Village of Castorland

Heidi Lehmann, Mayor
Robin Grunert, Representative

Village of Copenhagen

Mark Souva, Mayor
Kim Vogt, Representative

Village of Croghan

Keith Bush, Mayor
Dawn Ashline, Representative
Linda Nortz, Alternate

Village of Deferiet

Joe Cook, Mayor
Nancy Dutton, Representative
Bill Dutton, Alternate

Village of Lowville

Danny Salmon, Mayor
Tony Adist, Representative
Tim Widrick, Alternate

Village of West Carthage

Rob Peluso, Mayor
James Smith, Representative

Town of Champion

John Peck, Supervisor
William McMahon, Representative

Town of Croghan

Larry Boliver, Supervisor
Yvonne Boliver, Representative, Vice
Chairperson
John Jones, Alternate

Town of Denmark

Scott Doyle, Supervisor
Peter Jones, Representative

Town of Greig

Robert Johnson, Supervisor
Nichelle Swisher, Representative

Town of Lowville

Robert Mullin, Supervisor
Jake Monnat, Representative

Town of Watson

Jeffrey Hoch, Supervisor
Jeff Lyng, Representative
Shawn Freeman, Alternate

Bold - voting members

- I. Call to order
II. Approval of Minutes for May 22, 2025
III. Presentations
County Updates - Presenting: Ryan Piche, Jefferson County Administrator and Tim Hunt, Lewis County Manager
IV. Reports
A. Circuit Rider Report - Mickey Dietrich (See Attached)
V. Old Business
A. New IMA
VI. New Business
A. RACOG Youth Committee
1. Used to be RACOG Student Board
2. This is now going to be a youth think tank for communities to take advantage of.
B. Civic Service Student Activity Program
1. Classroom October 23, 2025 (need mentors) & May 21, 2026 Field Trip (See Attachment)
2. Meeting with guidance counselors on October 7, 2025
C. Local Government Conference School Participation
1. Lowville Academy responded they would like to send students to the LGC
D. Associate Circuit Riders
1. Updates & Reviews
2. Potential raise for Paul Shepard
E. RACOG Secretary/Treasurer
1. Chris Vargulick is retiring
2. Filling her position
F. Economic Visioning Summit
1. March 19, 2026 - Howard G. Sackett Technical Center
2. Draft outline (See Attachment)
G. Strategic Plan Proposal (See Attachment)
1. Naturally Lewis Grant Funding?
H. Comprehensive Plans
1. Wilna, Carthage, Deferiet, Denmark, Castorland, Copenhagen are almost complete.
2. New Executive Summary & Action Plan Document (See Attachment)
I. Project Summary Sheets
1. Formation of project summary sheets to help share information (See Attachment)
J. Water/Wastewater Operator Training & Needs
1. Are there facilities that would host interns to get their

hours needed?

K. Website/Technology Updates

1. Emails, .gov, and ADA compliance
2. Online calendar of all meetings
3. Facebook page?

L. Hot Topics (Open Discussion)

1. Dog shelters
2. Energy Storage
3. Agriculture Impacts (Chobani, etc.)
4. Other?

M. Anything New From Board Members

VII. Future Meetings & Presentations

VIII. Adjournment

