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## *Announcements*

### **1. Ethical Considerations for Municipal Attorneys, November 8**

The role of local government attorneys is unique, as one client, the town or village, may have many different interests and representation needs within the microcosm of the municipality, be it the planning board, the zoning board, or members of the governing board. The Association of Towns of New York State is offering this free, virtual course on Wednesday, November 8, from 10:00 to 11:40 am. The webinar will explore the rules of professional conduct of particular importance to local government attorneys, including conflicts of interest between current clients, special conflicts of interest for former and current government officers and employees, and the risks and rules regarding copying clients on emails and replying to all. The session will conclude with an overview of the unique stressors for attorneys, grievances associated with these stressors and recommendations and resources to thrive as people and attorneys. The training is worth 2 CLE Ethics Credits.

Click [here](#) to register, or for more information, visit the Association of Town's training webpage, [here](#).

### **2. Explore State and Federal Funding: Municipal Infrastructure Roundtable Discussion, November 9**

The Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, the NYS Tug Hill Commission, Lewis County, and the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) have partnered to present a round table discussion regarding funding opportunities for safe and clean water management, and other possible community investments, from state and federal agencies.

Join representatives from New York State Homes and Community Renewal, New York State Departments of State, & Health, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, and US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development on Thursday, November 9, from 9am - 2pm at the Howard G Sackett Technical Center, Conference Rooms A and B in the back building, 5836 State Highway 12, Glenfield.

There is no charge to attend, but registration is required. You can register by clicking [here](#). Lunch will be provided. Following lunch, individual consultations with representatives will be available to address your specific project funding questions and needs. Additionally, attendees will get a first look at a new quick guide for town boards on special district formation developed in partnership with the NYS Tug Hill Commission.

### **3. Accessing Local Funding Through the IRA and the Environmental Bond Act Webinar**

On Tuesday, November 14, NYS Senator Rachel May and the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources will host an informational webinar identifying state and federal funding opportunities for local governments and similar organizations. The specific areas of focus will be the Inflation Reduction Act and the Environmental Bond Act, and the webinar will feature guest presenter Julie Tighe, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters.



The webinar is open to the public and will begin at 11 am. Those interested in attending can pre-register for the session here: <https://bit.ly/1114localfunding>.

#### 4. Lake-Effect Electrification Presentation, Tuesday, November 14.



Delving even deeper into the atmospheric phenomenon east of Lake Ontario, Dr. Scott Steiger, assisted by twenty-two undergraduate students from SUNY Oswego, recently completed fieldwork across the Tug Hill region for a new Lake-Effect Electrification (LEE) project. This project was unique in the collection of first-of-its-kind data with cutting edge lightening mapping arrays (LMAs), dual-polarization X-band radar, and new balloon soundings. This data will provide meteorologists with a better idea of electrification and total lightning in lake-effect snowstorms, as well as how wind turbines initiate lightning.

Join the NYS Tug Hill Commission and Dr. Steiger on Tuesday, November 14, at 7 pm, virtually or in person, at Sandy Creek Town Hall, 1992 Harwood Drive, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 to learn more about the LEE Project and their initial findings.

To register for this free event, click [here](#) or visit: [tinyurl.com/leehybridwebinar](http://tinyurl.com/leehybridwebinar). Or call the NYS Tug Hill Commission office at 315-785-2380.

#### 5. DEC Announces Availability of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Funding

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is now accepting applications for Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funding to help rural fire departments protect public safety and natural resources. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by DEC Forest Rangers. Fire departments will receive 50/50 matching funds up to \$2,500, a \$1,000 increase from last year. In 2022, the program provided \$1,500 grants to 444 fire departments.



Only expenses directly related to wildland firefighting suppression efforts are eligible for funding. These include the purchase of portable pumps, portable backpack pumps, hand tools, fire hose, approved lightweight fire-resistant clothing, hard hats, turnout gear, portable radios, generators, and dry hydrants.

Eligible fire departments are those that serve a single town with a population under 10,000, those that serve multiple communities, one of which is a rural town of less than 10,000 residents, or fire departments in towns with a population of 10,000 or more that meet the application requirements.

For applications and additional information about the grant program, click [here](#), or visit the DEC webpage regarding the grant, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>. Or contact the DEC by calling 518-402-8839.

#### 6. No Cost Technical Assistance to Develop and Implement a Drinking Water Source Protection Program



The NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) announced the availability of free technical assistance for municipalities to protect their public drinking water sources through the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\)](#). Up to 30 volunteer communities will work with technical assistance providers to develop programs that

proactively protect public drinking water sources. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

The deadline to apply for the program is Tuesday, November 14 at 4 p.m.

## 7. The New York Planning Federation Second Annual “Last Chance Training” December 2

The New York Planning Federation will provide a second annual “Last Chance Training” to help planning and zoning board members meet their annual four-hour training requirement. The online training will be held Saturday, December 2, from 10 am - 2 pm. A link for the session will be provided upon registration.



There are four one-hour sessions which include:

- *Safeguarding Water Resources Through Local Wetland and Stream Protections*, with Ingrid Haeckel and Emily Svenson
- *Whose Role is it Anyway: The Interplay Between the Governing Board and Planning and Zoning Boards*, with Katie Hodgdon
- *Motions, Criteria and Decision-Making Guidelines*, with Mark Schachner
- *Public Engagement Tools*, with Diana Smith

To register, email [nypf@nypf.org](mailto:nypf@nypf.org) by November 29<sup>th</sup>, with your name, email address and municipality. There is no cost for the training for Planning Federation members, but \$50 for nonmembers.

For more information on the New York Planning Federation, check out their website at [nypf.org](http://nypf.org).

## 8. Newly Elected Officials Training, Wednesday, December 6

Join the NYS Tug Hill Commission and the Association of Towns of New York State as they present a free webinar on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 pm geared for newly elected officials, but relevant to all municipal board members.

Presenters Sara Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi will cover a multitude of topics, including conflicts of interest, codes of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oaths of office, and first meeting preparation. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers at the conclusion of the webinar.

For more information, or to register, click [here](#), or call the Tug Hill Commission 315-785-2380.



## 9. Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Holds Annual Meeting



James Genovese, Commissioner,  
Oneida County Department of  
Planning

A big thank you to all that attended the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) Annual Meeting on October 26, at the Woods Valley Ski Area in Westernville. Nearly 90 local government officials attended the event, including NYS Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, (Dist. 117) and Dana Onley, representing Assemblymember Marianne Buttenchon (Dist. 119). Also present were NYS Tug Hill Commission Chairman Jan Bogdanowicz and Commissioner Gerry Ritter, Tug Hill Commission Executive Director, Katie Malinowski, and Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, Jennifer Harvill. Oneida County Legislators Steve Boucher (Dist. 6) and Steve DiMaggio (Dist. 17) attended as well.

Chair Bob Sauer called the meeting to order and read his annual report. The current officers were re-elected to the executive board; Bob Sauer will remain in his position as Chair, John Dorion returns as Vice-Chair, Betsy Mack will continue as Fiscal Officer, and directors Tom McDonald and Larry Mierek will also continue to serve on the board. The 2022 minutes were approved and the 2024 budget was passed. After which, there was a brief update on the NOCCOG GPS Mapping Program.

The keynote speaker was James Genovese, Commissioner of the Oneida County Department of Planning and Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (Regional Planning Board). James gave a brief rundown of what the Regional Planning Board is, and does, as well as ways in which the Planning Department works with local municipalities.

