Executive Committee
Robert Sauer, *Chair*
Thomas McDonald, *Vice-Chair*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*
Pamela Dibble, *Director*

Municipal Projects Coordinator
John Healt
(315)941-2818
jhealt@tughill.org

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Announcements

Wastewater Cybersecurity Webinar, April 2

Join the NY Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) on Thursday, April 2, from 1:00 -2:00 pm, as they present *Wastewater Cybersecurity: DEC's New Regulations and What They Mean for Municipalities.* This no cost webinar will discuss the current cybersecurity threats facing the water and wastewater sector and their potential impacts. Also covered will be an overview of the wastewater cybersecurity, and related regulations, recently adopted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and how these new rules affect municipalities. The session will end with a discussion of the SECURE grant offered through the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and how these funds can help support compliance. Click here for more information or to register.

Engineering Rural Water Projects: Navigating New USDA Rules and Regulations Hybrid Workshop, April 9

Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center and representatives from USDA Rural Development on Thursday, April 9, from 9:00am to 1:30pm for a no cost, hybrid informative training. During this session, participants will hear directly from USDA Rural Development staff about recent program and bulletin updates, engineering report and contract document requirements, and environmental review considerations associated with USDA-funded projects. Learn how engineers, municipal and utility staff, local government officials, and other community leaders, can successfully partner to deliver safe drinking water, strengthen stormwater management, and maintain reliable sanitary sewer systems through USDA Rural Development programs.

USDA Rural Development offers a range of funding opportunities to support essential drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure for rural communities across New York State.

In-person attendance at 727 E Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13210 is encouraged, but virtual attendance can be provided upon request. To attend virtually, please indicate so on the registration form. Lunch is provided!

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Solar, Battery Storage, and the Local Review Process webinar, April 23

Join the MRB Group and Hancock Estrabrook on Thursday, April 23, from 6-7pm, as they present their third, no cost, training session of the year, *Soaking Up the Sun - Solar and Battery Storgar and the Local Review Process.*

New York State's regulations, and specifically those that allocate local authority are constantly evolving. How can planning boards, zoning boards, and local development staff address the growing popularity of solar energy solutions, while protecting the quality of life of your community? This session focuses on best practices for local regulations regarding solar and battery storage projects, and how to navigate the state's regulations on large scale alternative energy developments.

To register for this webinar, click here. For more information, or to view the 2026 Municipal Bootcamp Program, visit the MRB Group Bootcamp webpage.

Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund Accepting Grant Proposals for 2026

The Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund, at the Northern New York Community Foundation, is accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations that serve Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville residents.

The fund was established in 2018 to support programs, projects and initiatives that broadly impact the quality of life in the three communities. The Northern New York Community Foundation administers this permanent, charitable legacy fund that makes annual grant awards. Up to $60,000 in grant funding is available.

To be eligible for Community Foundation grants, nonprofits must be classified as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS. Other entities may be eligible depending on the request.

The deadline for submitting a proposal for consideration is 5:00 pm, April 24, 2026. Grant applications are managed through the online Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) portal.

For grant guidelines, or to learn more about this funding opportunity, click here, or contact Max DelSignore, Community Foundation Assistant Director, max@nnycf.org or 315-782-7110.

EFC Grants Due May 15 and June 12

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has announced $5.5 million in grant funding available through two programs to help communities protect and modernize water and wastewater infrastructure. Three million is available to help fund initial water quality capital project planning. This grant may fund up to 80% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of $100,000 per project. Grant applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on June 12. Additionally, there is $2,500,000 available to help protect water and wastewater systems from evolving cyber threats. This grant will cover up to $50,000 for cybersecurity assessments and up to $100,000 to implement cybersecurity upgrades. Grant applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 15

Kubota Hometown Proud Grant Program

Once again, Kubota is putting $500,000 directly into local communities, awarding 10 grants of $50,000 each, to nonprofit organizations with meaningful local projects. Each grant includes $25,000 in cash and $25,000 in Kubota equipment. Organizations must be located within 50 miles of an authorized Kubota dealer for hometown projects and initiatives.

The online application portal opens April 1 and closes May 7, 2026. Click here for more information.

USDOT Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Webinar Series

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will host informational webinars for the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant opportunity. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the SS4A competitive grant program with $5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Approximately $1 billion is still available for the next funding round.

Use the links below to register for the upcoming webinars.

SS4A Implementation Grants, April 7, 1:30-3:00 pm
   This webinar offers a general overview of the SS4A Grant program, with a focus on how to apply for SS4A Implementation Grants. Click here to register for the Implementation Grant webinar

SS4A Action Plans, April 9, 1:30-3:00 pm
   This webinar offers a general overview of the SS4A Grant program, with a focus on how to apply for SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grants to develop or update Comprehensive Safety Action Plans Click here to register for the Action Plan webinar.

SS4A Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities, April 14, 1:30-3:00 pm
   This webinar offers a general overview of the SS4A program, with a focus on how to apply for supplemental planning and demonstration activities as part of either SS4A grant type – Planning and Demonstration Grants or Implementation Grants. Click here to register for the Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities webinar.

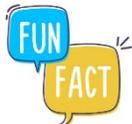The deadline for applications is May 26, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

NOCCOG Global Positioning System (GPS) Mapping Program

GPS mapping services are offered to the municipalities of the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) at no charge. NOCCOG contracted employees will work with department heads or representatives to determine what data is to be collected and mapped. Collected information will then be provided digitally and can be updated at any time.

Most departments routinely manage vital infrastructure equipment (culverts, signs, valves) and other non-vital items (park equipment,) noting the maintenance, age, and replacement schedules. GPS service enables municipalities to efficiently collect and store this information, manage, analyze, and deliver data on demand for a streamlined workflow. This offers municipalities the ability to integrate this information, making their record keeping accurate and up to date.

For information on how GPS mapping may be beneficial for your municipality, contact John Healt at (315) 941-2818, or email jhealt@tughill.org.

New York State has 933 towns and approximately 532 incorporated villages. These municipalities are part of a complex local government structure that also includes 62 cities and over 7,300 town special districts.

Towns: *Annsville ~ Ava ~ Boonville ~ Camden ~ Floyd ~ Forestport ~ Lee ~ Remsen ~ Steuben ~ Trenton ~ Vienna ~ Western*

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NYS Tug Commission Hill MetroCount Program

Once again, the Tug Hill Commission is offering its MetroCount system to the municipalities in the Tug Hill region. The unit collects vehicle data for a section of road, providing insight into traffic flow and volume. The system can produce detailed speed reports and monitoring vehicle traffic, including axle-based classifications, gap and headway, as well as direction.

Deployment and analysis of the MetroCount roadside unit is available at no cost for any municipality. Commission staff will work with interested communities and set up the unit as directed. Data collection usually lasts about a week. The staff will then retrieve the unit, analyze the data and present a report to the municipality. Collected traffic data can be used to generate traffic summaries, histograms, and other filtered reports.

For more information contact Christopher Barboza, chris@tughill.org or 315-785-2389, or Maria Covey, maria@tughill.org, or 315-785-2384.

NYS Tug Hill Commission & Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) How do they work together?

Support   Services   Guidance

NOCCOG

COGs (Independent Entities)

Municipal Advisor

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Associate Municipal Advisors

Councils of Governments (COGs)

COGs are independent units of local government created through intermunicipal agreements signed by all member communities.

They are governed through by-laws, budgets, and policies adopted by their respective executive boards, and are an integral partner in the delivery of the commission's programs and services.

A COG seeks to collectively represent its communities by working on region-wide projects and issues.

COGs contract with associate municipal advisors to support the full-time municipal advisor who works for the commission.

Municipal Advisor

Each COG is served by one full-time municipal advisor who helps share good ideas between communities and helps individual towns and villages take advantage of a more regional perspective to enhance their communities.

Municipal advisors also help communities identify and solve problems and, when more specialized assistance is needed, call upon commission staff for help in land use planning, finding grants and loans for community improvement, and providing technical assistance and training opportunities for local officials.

NYS Tug Hill Commission (Commission)

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is a small, non-regulatory state agency charged with "helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region."

The commission staff is currently made up of ten Watertown-based staff and four circuit riders/field staff, focusing on natural resources, land use planning, and community development.

Staff are ready to help when municipal advisors call them with questions asked by a municipality within a COG.

The commission provides free services to municipalities within a COG.

Municipalities within NOCCOG

Towns: Annsville, Ava, Boonville, Camden, Floyd, Forestport, Lee, Remsen, Steuben, Trenton, Vienna, Western

Villages: Boonville, Camden, Holland Patent, Remsen, Sylvan Beach