

Executive Committee

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Thomas McDonald, *Vice-Chair*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
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Announcements

NOCCOG participates in 2026 Local Government Conference



The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments was very pleased to be part of the recent Local Government Conference held April 20 & 21, at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center. Traditionally, NOCCOG municipal members are very well represented, which justifies staffing a table in the main vendor area. Throughout the day, representatives from NOCCOG communities, as well as other areas in and around Tug Hill, spoke with Mike, Mark, or Bob on the services offered by NOCCOG.

This year’s conference included numerous sessions on relevant topics and hosted over 650 attendees.

Highway School Registration Now Open



Registration for the Annual School for Highway Superintendents, held in Ithaca, June 1-3, is open. The annual training, also known as “Highway School,” is open to anyone involved in local road work, not just superintendents. Each year, the event brings together more than 700 local roads professionals from across New York State for two and a half days of training and education and is sponsored by the New York State Association of Towns, NYSLTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program, as well as various statewide vendors. Some of this year’s topics include asphalt specifications, culvert design, shared services in practice, work zone safety, prevailing wages, equipment inspections, and much more. Various state departments will also be available through the training.

Click [here](#) for more information, including lodging and the full agenda, or [here](#) to register.

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

Villages: *Boonville ~ Camden ~ Holland Patent ~ Remsen ~ Sylvan Beach*

Environmental Finance Center Network Webinars

Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center for three, no cost webinars in May, each geared for small drinking water and wastewater systems. Click [here](#) for more information on the sessions, or on each highlighted session to register.



[Preparing for a Financial Audit](#), May 12, 11:00 am

This training provides board members, clerks, operators, and local officials with a practical, plain-language guide to preparing for a financial audit. The session focuses on the fundamentals of governmental accounting, understanding financial statements, strengthening internal controls, and avoiding common audit findings.

Participants will learn what auditors look for, how to organize records efficiently, how to maintain capital asset and debt schedules, and how to build financial practices that support long-term sustainability and eligibility for state and federal funding programs, including State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans.

[Community Engagement in Stormwater Planning](#), May 19, 1-2:00 pm

Comprehensive stormwater management planning can play a pivotal role in enabling communities to address stormwater management challenges and goals strategically, leveraging staff time and budgets to achieve the biggest impact in protecting the health and safety of residents, properties, and public assets. Community engagement is a critical component of this process, enabling utilities to tap into local knowledge around stormwater management issues, align this process with other priorities or complementary initiatives, and create a foundation for long-term, robust community engagement effort around stormwater. This webinar will share resources and highlight the experience of communities in incorporating community engagement throughout the planning process.

[Discover Water Infrastructure Funding Opportunities & Experience the 2026 Funder Games](#), May 26, 1-3:00 pm

Dive into the world of state and federal funding for clean and safe water infrastructure and other essential community projects in this interactive session. Participants will hear directly from representatives from key state and federal agencies, learn how co-funding programs work together, and gain practical insight into preparing for upcoming grant and financing opportunities.

The session will also feature the Funder Games, an interactive exercise set in the fictional Town of Calamity Falls, where participants will work through real-world funding scenarios alongside agency representatives. This hands-on experience is designed to help attendees better understand funding pathways, navigate common challenges, and build confidence in advancing infrastructure projects.

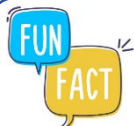
The Impact of Wetlands on Development webinar, May 28



Join the MRB Group and Hancock Estrabrook on Thursday, May 28, from 6-7pm, as they present their fifth, no cost, training session of the year, *Water, Water Everywhere -The impact of Wetlands on Development*.

Wetlands are among the most critical ecological assets in any community. New York State has taken a proactive stance on regulating development impacts that could threaten the environmental value of these key areas. Evolving regulations and best practices will drive review of projects with potential wetlands impacts. This session will overview the current regulatory landscape, and local government responsibilities related to development review.

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



The town in New York with the largest population is the Town of Hempstead, with over 780,000 residents, located on Long Island. The town with the smallest population is the Town of Redhouse, in Cattaraugus County, with 38 residents.

NYAOT Rural Communities Council Webinar, May 28



The New York Association of Towns is preparing to launch a new Rural Communities Council, designed to bring rural town officials together around the issues that matter most to their communities. The council will serve as a forum to share challenges, exchange practical solutions, and elevate rural perspectives within our work. By connecting similarly situated communities across the state, it will create a direct line between rural officials and NYAOT, helping address real-world needs and highlight best practices, with the goal of strengthening the NYAOT's advocacy, programming, and overall support for rural towns.

Click here to [register](#). A recording will be shared if you are unable to attend this event. Member towns are also encouraged to sign up for the [Rural Communities Council mailing list](#).

DOJ Extends Public Entities' Compliance Deadline for ADA-Related Website Accessibility

The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) extending state and local governments' compliance deadlines for its 2024 web accessibility rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) from April 22, 2026, to April 26 of 2027 or 2028.

The DOJ issued final regulations under Title II on April 24, 2024, covering state and local governments and their instrumentalities (such as public secondary schools and universities) requiring that virtually all web content and mobile applications (or apps) be accessible to people with disabilities. The regulations were set to go into effect beginning on April 24, 2026.

Under the IFR, state and local government entities with a population of at least 50,000, the compliance date is extended to April 26, 2027. Entities with a total population of less than 50,000, or any special district government, has a compliance date of April 26, 2028. The DOJ's final regulations have specific requirements for ensuring web content and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities.

Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments to ensure their services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. Title II applies to all services, programs, or activities of state and local governments, from adoption services to zoning regulation to public education. This includes the services, programs, and activities state and local governments offer online and through mobile apps.

The IFR sets specific technical standards, known as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), that state and local governments must follow to meet their obligations under Title II for web and mobile app accessibility. The regulations apply to web content that a state or local government provides or makes available, including when a state or local government has an arrangement with another organization (such as a private web developer who provides or makes available web content for them). For example, if a county's web page lists the addresses and hours of operation for all county parks, that web page must meet WCAG accessibility criteria even if a local web design company made the web page and updates it for the county.

Exceptions to the accessibility regulations cover:

- Archived web content
- Pre-existing conventional electronic documents (such as pdf documents)
- Content posted by a third party where the third party is not posting due to contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with a public entity
- Individualized documents that are password protected
- Pre-existing social media posts

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BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING TRAINING FOR SMALL TOWNS WITH LAIRD PETRIE



THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 9 AM TO 5 PM
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 8 AM TO 4 PM

TAILWATER LODGE
52 PULASKI STREET, ALTMAR, NY

Cost

\$125 per person includes morning coffee and lunch Day 1, light breakfast and lunch Day 2, and printed materials.

Accommodations

Tailwater Lodge has reserved 5 rooms on June 18 at \$122 per night plus tax for attendees. Contact Tailwater at (315) 298-3434 and give the agent Group Code TUG618.

Registration

www.tughill.org/upcoming-workshops
Credit card payments taken online, option to send check or voucher as well.

REGISTER NOW

Scan the QR code to register



Spots are limited, register early!

No refunds, must register no later than June 10, 2026.



Prior to retiring in 2021, Laird worked as a municipal auditor for the Office of the NYS Comptroller in Syracuse for 27 years, where he conducted and supervised audits of local governments and school districts in an eight-county region of Central NY. Laird served as the technical assistance coordinator and conducted numerous training sessions for both OSC staff and local officials.

Before joining OSC, Laird worked as a Tug Hill Commission circuit rider in the 1990's for a 14-town council of governments and attended town board meetings and provided training and technical assistance when requested. Since retirement Laird has provided technical assistance and training to towns and villages in a four-county area through a contract with the Tug Hill Commission.



LAIRD PETRIE
MUNICIPAL CONSULTANT

Workshop Details

NYS laws require local governments to adopt annual budgets that establish appropriations as a means of providing control over amounts that may be expended. The Office of New York State Comptroller (OSC) requires local governments to utilize an accounting system that provides for the integration of the annual budget into the accounting records to provide control over authorized expenditures. In addition, local government accounting systems must be operated on a fund basis allowing for a segregation of revenues and expenditures intended to carry on specific governmental activities or attain certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. For these reasons, it is imperative that officials responsible for developing budgets and maintaining accounting records are knowledgeable about these regulations and restrictions.

Because towns often contain villages and special districts within their boundaries which constitute separate tax bases, their budgets and accounting systems are significantly more complex than that of other local governments. Accounting schools offered by OSC are open to officials from all classes of local governments and school districts and therefore these schools adopt a “one-size fits all” approach to teach budgeting and accounting to attendees that generally have vastly different budgeting and accounting requirements. As a result, it is difficult for instructors to focus on the needs of one type of local government such as a town. This two-day training is designed specifically to address the unique budgeting and accounting needs of towns.

Due to the large amount of material that will be presented and the short amount of time available to present it in, attendees should possess a basic knowledge of double-entry accounting. However, upon registering for this training, basic double-entry accounting reference material can be provided in advance of the training to assist in obtaining this prerequisite. A more comprehensive training manual will be provided to all attendees at the beginning of Day One.

Note: Although this training is designed to meet the unique budgeting and accounting needs of towns, much of what will be covered will also be applicable to the budgeting and accounting needs of villages.