

Member Communities

<u>Towns of</u>	
Adams	Rodman
Boylston	Turin
Florence	West Turin
Harrisburg	Williamstown
Lewis	Worth
Leyden	
Lorraine	
Martinsburg	
Montague	
Osceola	
Pinkney	
Redfield	
<u>Villages of</u>	
Adams	
Constableville	
Lyons Falls	
Port Leyden	
Turin	

Website: tughillcouncil.com



Executive Committee

ROGER TIBBETTS, *Chair*
DOUGLAS DIETRICH, *Vice Chair*
CARLA BAUER, *Secretary*
IAN KLINGBAIL, *Director*
STEPHEN BERNAT, *Director*
PAULETTE WALKER, *Director*
FRAN YERDON, *Director*

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CTHC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 11/25/2025

The meeting was held at the Redfield Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Roger Tibbets. Also present for the meeting were Steve Bernat, Director; Ian Klingbail, Director; Paulette Walker, Director; Fran Yerdon, Director; and Angie Kimball, Circuit Rider with Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission Executive Director joining by phone.

Minutes: The minutes of August 22, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed by the Committee. A motion was made by F. Yerdon (Osceola) and seconded by S. Bernat (Harrisburg) to accept the minutes. All were in favor (see attached minutes).

Reports: A) Financial Report – Chairman R. Tibbets (Rodman) presented the financial report as of October 31, 2025. Year-to-Date Carry Over - \$30,768.68; Receipts to date - \$13,710.60; Distributions to Date - \$15,128.33; Net Funds Available - \$29,350.95. Chairman R. Tibbets (Rodman) mentioned that he didn't see the necessity of keeping the Watertown Savings Bank (WSB) savings account (current balance 28 cents) open. A motion was made by P. Walker (Boylston) and seconded by F. Yerdon (Osceola) to accept the report as presented and to close the WSB savings account. All were in favor (see attached report). The proposed dues structure going forward, and the circuit rider comparison were reviewed as well (see attached).

B) Reports of Towns – A. Kimball (CR) presented the report of the Towns and reviewed the pertinent information for each (see attached reports).

Tug Hill Topics: A) COG Growth and THC Budget: Katie reported the additional requests to join the Tug Hill COGs keep coming in. RACOG has had the Town of Greig join and the Town of Sandy Creek is asking to join Salmon Rivers COG, both of which are out of region municipalities. Additionally, from within the region, the Town of Hastings is talking about joining NorCOG and the Village of Black River is talking about joining RACOG. She will continue to meet with state legislators with our community numbers and our budget. As the Governor has requested flat budget requests, she will try and get more funding for the budget into the one house budgets. If we can get more money into the budget, we will most likely need another circuit rider.

B) Roads: She talked about the contract with the Ken Ayers law firm who has been working on some road issues for the Commission. There are a couple of outstanding items on the list they are working on – the transfer of roads from town to county and logging in winter on minimum maintenance roads. They are working on distilling the information into an easier form in a new road paper.

C) 480a: Jen Harvill (THC) went to a conference last month on forest related topics, where one of the main topics was 480a. There is a pending bill (Senator May/Assembly Kelles) to reduce the acreage and add conservation easements. There is a municipal reimbursement in the bill, but it is a very convoluted process. The bill is currently in committee. They ran the numbers with the newly proposed system and did some calculations. Using the 2024 figures, the reimbursement to towns alone would be \$4.5 million. They are tracking the bill and continue to track the issue.

D) Leona Chereshnoski Retirement: Leona has submitted her letter of retirement, December 8th will be her last meeting. She has been a commissioner for about 40 years. She reported that she expected Mike Yerdon to step down soon as well. Jackie Hobbs, Leona's daughter, has her resume to be considered as a new Commissioner in at the Assembly now.

E) Planning Updates: Zoning updates are ongoing in Leyden, Rodman and T/Turin. The Rodman comp plan will be done soon. Williamstown zoning has stalled recently.

Old Business: **A) Sharing Associates with other COGs:** There is an opportunity to share Rod Campbell with Salmon Rivers and NorCOG with a meeting-to-meeting contract. The committee was in favor of offering him the meeting-to-meeting contract. RACOG is also talking to a new possible person, Bev Swernik, who sent us a resume after we hired Denali. There is a possibility that she could cover meetings for both COGs as well, so stay tuned.

B) Any other old business: Roger read a thank you card from Beth Steria-Rush for the retirement gift and contracting with her for so many years (see attached).

New Business: **A) Spring Meeting** – Tentative dates of 4/29 or 4/30 were selected. A. Kimball will check dates and pricing from Steak and Brew, Tim Fargo, the Tug Hill Hideaway and Florence Hotel.

B) Proposed Associate Contracts for 2026 – The committee reviewed the proposed contracts for Christine Healt and Denali Dietrich for 2026 and approved them to be offered to the Associates. A. Kimball (CR) will verify the end date of Denali's contract as either August or the end of the year. She will be going out of town for a new four-year college and not be in the area, potentially after August. That means that we will be searching for a new associate this spring/summer most likely.

C) COG Chairs – Priorities for 2026: The committee would like to see a super COG letter of support for 480a reforms/issues and for support for more funding for the Commission's budget.

D) Election Results: A. Kimball (CR) gave the committee a list of the election results for the CTHC towns and villages (see attached). There were lots of changes this year and it looks like we will have at least 10 new Supervisors and Mayors. It should be an interesting beginning to the year.

C) Any Other New Business – none

With no more business before the committee a motion was made by F. Yerdon (Osceola) and seconded by P. Walker (Boylston) to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. All were in favor.