

Member Communities

Towns of

Adams
Boylston
Florence
Harrisburg
Lewis
Leyden
Lorraine
Martinsburg
Montague
Osceola
Pinckney
Redfield

Rodman
Turin
West Turin
Williamstown
Worth

Villages of

Adams
Constableville
Lyons Falls
Port Leyden
Turin



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 Spring Dinner Meeting Minutes 04/30/2026

The meeting, held at the Tug Hill Hideaway in West Leyden, was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairman R. Tibbetts. Roll Call of Towns showed 15 towns and one village in attendance for the meeting with representatives from Constableville, Florence, Harrisburg, Lewis, Leyden, Lorraine, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, Pinckney, Redfield, Rodman, Turin, West Turin, Williamstown and Worth present. Also present as guests were five Tug Hill Commissioners, four members of the Tug Hill staff, and 10 other guests for a total attendance of 50 people. Introductions of attendees and roll calls were completed and then a break was taken for dinner. The meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from September 18, 2025, were reviewed (see attached). A motion was made by D. Dietrich (Martinsburg) and seconded by E. Hayes (West Turin) to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

Reports: Financial Report – A copy of the Financial Report as of March 31, 2026, was presented by Chairman R. Tibbetts (Rodman) for review by members (see attached). Year-to-Date Carryover: \$26,740.96; Receipts to Date: \$3,825.49; Distributions to Date: \$3,194.58; Current Net Funds Available: \$27,371.87. Following review, a motion was made by S. Wendt (Constableville) and seconded by J. Ayotte (Osceola) to accept the report as presented. All were in favor. The proposed dues structure through 2031 was also presented for review by members (see attached).

Election of Officers: Slate of Officers: Roger Tibbetts, Chairman
Doug Dietrich, Vice Chairman
Carla Bauer, Secretary
Stephen Bernat, Director
Ian Klingbail, Director
Paulette Walker, Director
Fran Yerdon, Director

The slate of officers was presented as above. There were no nominations from the floor after three requests. A motion was made by T. Thisse (Martinsburg) and seconded by D. Zagurski (Lewis) to close the polls and have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers as presented. All were in favor.

Speakers: Andy MacDuff and Rob Ripp from NYS DEC Region 6 spoke about natural resources topics. Mr. MacDuff, the Natural Resources Supervisor for Region 6, spoke about several recent updates and changes to regulations including proposed changes to the mineral resources regulations which are out for comment until June 16th. He also talked about proposed changes to the cool water sportfishing regulations including shortening the season dates for several species, eliminating the special size and creel limits on certain water bodies and changing other size and creel limits for other waterbodies in Jefferson County. There are also pending changes to the regulations regarding deer hunting including increased doe permits in certain areas, changes to the amount of doe tags which can be consigned to a different hunter and a new system for a second buck tag. He provided information on changes to the season dates for fisher and marten trapping and concluded with the latest news regarding the DEC wetlands classifications and how they will be regulated.

Mr. Ripp, the Regional Forester for Region 6, reported on the extent of forested land in New York which is held in private ownership and the history of the Real Property Tax Law 480a program. He discussed the requirements for owners enrolled in the program and the benefits of the program to landowners and the economy of the area. He then talked about the current efforts to reform the program to streamline administration and improve compliance and forest management with better communication and more flexible plans. He discussed the timeframe for the regulatory changes and when these changes will affect the currently enrolled properties. The current changes do not address the municipal reimbursement issue and the impacts on local governments from the program, as these are regulatory changes and those changes will require legislative changes.

Both Mr. MacDuff and Mr. Ripp were asked several questions by the audience, and the Power Point presentations are available on the CTHC website.

Tug Hill Commission topics: K. Malinowski (THC) reported on the following subjects:

a) State Budget – The budget is still not approved. The issues that are still holding up the process are proposed changes to car insurance recoveries, possible changes to the Climate Law, taxes in New York City and proposed changes to Tier 6 of the NYS Retirement System.

b) COG Expansion and Staffing Issues – The number of towns and villages that have joined COGs from outside the region is still increasing and the new municipalities fall under the Commission's Outside Region policy. They are currently not getting full coverage by the Commission that an inside the region municipality does due to staffing constraints. The Commission would need an increase in funding allowing for increased staff to provide any more extensive help to these and other additional communities.

c) Road Issues Updates – Lorraine is working through the process to re-adopt their low volume and minimum maintenance road local laws following the state legislation. Turin is partially through the new process to adopt minimum maintenance roads and Worth will be starting soon. Montague has a pending bill in the state legislature to be added to Highway Law 205c with Lorraine and Redfield's bill on this subject is pending and should be proposed soon.

d) Planning Updates – Matt Johnson (THC) provided updates on the work the Tug Hill planning department has been doing with the CTHC towns and villages. Zoning work is going on in Lewis, Leyden, and a first-time zoning law in Williamstown; and Worth is working on a comp plan that they will be helping with. The mini comp plans have all been adopted, and

they are posted on the CTHC website. He also mentioned that they are available for training for planning or zoning boards at any time. They have been working on a low-density zoning paper which should be done by July.

Old Business: **a) Associate Circuit Rider Search (again)** – Denali will be leaving us at the end of summer, as she is going to be starting a four-year college in the fall. That means that we need to find another new Associate Circuit Rider, so pass the word.

b) Any other old business – None

New Business: **a) Proposed Work Goals for 2026-** The proposed work goals for 2026 were presented, with no changes from the 2025 goals (see attached). A motion was made by E. Hayes (West Turin) and seconded by S. Wendt (Constableville) to approve the goals as presented. All were in favor.

b) IMA renewal and proposed changes – The IMA needs to be updated as it expires at the end of December of 2026, a draft of the new agreement was presented for review. While we are updating the IMA anyway, there are a few changes to clarify language to match what we do with the fiscal agent and officer and to add a records management agent (see attached draft) which are proposed.

c) Bylaws and Executive Committee Guidelines proposed amendments – Draft copies of the bylaws and executive committee guidelines were presented for review. The changes were mainly wording changes regarding the fiscal and records management officers and other minor wording; and to make the two documents consistent (see attached documents).

d) COG letter – increase funding for Tug Hill Commission – Jan Tighe the chair from Salmon Rivers COG had sent a letter regarding the need for more state funding for the Commission and that she felt the COGs should send letters to the Legislature and Governor to request that the Commission's funding be increased. She sent a proposed draft resolution, both of which were read by A. Kimball (CR) to the attendees (see attached letter and resolution).

e) Any other new business - None

Supervisor's and Mayor's Topics: Nothing further was offered

With no other business before the Council, a motion was made at 9:02 pm by D. Zagurski (Lewis) and seconded by S. Wendt (Constableville) to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.