

**Organization** River Area Council of Governments  
**Board** Executive Board  
**Date and Time** Tuesday, January 26 2016 at 7:00 PM  
**Place** Village of Carthage Municipal Building, 120 S Mechanic St.,  
Carthage NY 13619  
**Contact** [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-  
2900  
**Minutes**

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**River Area Council of Governments  
January 26, 2016**

**Members present:** B. Ferguson, D. Leary, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, S. Storms, and  
R. Vary

**Absent:** S. Burto, and M. Bigness

**Others:** K. Amyot, M. Corriveau, K. Jordan, K. Malinkowski, C. McLaughlin, and  
P. Street

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of  
Allegiance and introduction of members D. Leary and S. Storms.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Vary to approve the minutes for May, 19, 2015  
as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried. Chairman McIlroy asked K. Amyot to  
provide copies of the operational policy developed for the Twin Village swimming pool.

**Reports**

Kevin Jordan, Carl McLaughlin, and Mary Corriveau, representing FDRLO, updated  
Council members regarding a proposal, presented to the public last year, regarding the  
search for a missile defense site. Fort Drum is one of three sites still being  
considered. They informed the members that a draft EIS (Environmental Impact Study)  
will be prepared to determine possible impacts. The EIS would have a 45-day public  
comment period prior to finalization. The EIS will only study the local impact and will not  
determine the need for or location of the proposed missile defense site. One possible  
impact that was discussed was the closing or re-routing of Route 3A. Supervisor P.  
Smith stated that the closing Route 3A either in total or in part would adversely affect  
the Town's revenues since the closure would substantially increase the distance that  
Town plows would have to travel to reach County roads that the Town currently  
contracts to plow. The added distance may make the plowing contract infeasible thus

causing the Town to lose revenue. Members questioned the traffic impact if the road closed. Mr. Jordan stated that those issues would be identified in the EIS.

K. Amyot summarized a report on 2015 projects including the Crown Cleaners site cleanup, the West Carthage trailhead project, and the operation of the Twin Village pool.

Supervisor Bruce Ferguson stated the Town of Champion is considering an update to the Town Comprehensive Plan and questioned whether any of the other RACOG communities wanted to participate at this time. Supervisor Smith discussed a number of projects in the Town of Wilna that are incomplete at this time therefore he would like to wait to update their comprehensive plan. Phil Street, Director of Planning for the Tug Hill Commission, stated that the Commission could assist a community with an update and recommended working on community plans individually.

Supervisor Ferguson reported that the Town had recently signed a contract with Jefferson County and the Wilna-Champion Transportation Association (WCTA) to finalize County funding for the past few years. The WCTA is financially fragile and has no reserves for either bus replacement or major repairs. Supervisor Smith recalled that he does not receive a budget from WCTA so the Town was unaware of the Association's financial status. Mr. Smith questioned alternative ways that support could be provided including assistance with fuel purchases and equipment repairs. Chairman McIlroy will attend the next WCTA meeting to gather information and members agreed to meet with the WCTA to discuss ways to maintain this vital service.

K. Amyot introduced Katie Malinowski who has been appointed by the Tug Hill Commission as their new Executive Director.

P. Street discussed a proposal that is being studied by the Town of Wilna and the Villages of Carthage and Deferiet to organize a Joint Planning Board.

### **New Business**

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by B. Ferguson to nominate W. McIlroy as RACOG Chairman. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by B. Ferguson, seconded by R. Vary to nominate P. Smith as RACOG Vice-Chairman. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Vary to nominate Christina Vargulick as RACOG Secretary/Treasurer. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

C. Vargulick presented the preliminary 2016 RACOG budget. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Vary to approve the budget as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by B. Ferguson to sponsor the THC Local Government Conference as the \$200 level. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by B. Ferguson, seconded by R. Vary to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
Christina Vargulick  
RACOG Secretary