

**River Area Council of Governments  
September 18, 2018**

**Members present:** M. Bigness, B. Ferguson, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, P. Smith, S. Storms, R. Vary, and J. Zando

**Absent:** S. Burto, R. Laribee, A. Peck, and T. Stewart

**Others:** J. Der and P. Street

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 6:00pm at the T/Wilna Municipal Building, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by R. Schell, seconded by M. Bigness to approve the minutes of June 19, 2018 as presented. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mickey Dietrich, Circuit Rider, reported on the following: activity related to R. Trottier project; deadlines for internship applications; presentation from Troy & Banks scheduled for October meeting; Community Resource Plan; and Fort Drum outreach.

Motion by M. Bigness, seconded by J. Zando to canvas communities to assess intern needs. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Schell to proceed with development of the Community Resource Plan to promote the COG as a whole and include information regarding each component community. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

W. McIlroy reported that the Chamber of Commerce is reaching out to Fort Drum. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by S. Storms to authorize M. Dietrich to coordinate a presentation from Fort Drum. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Board agreed, by consensus, to authorize M. Dietrich to finalize the draft Black River Navigation report.

**Presentation**

Jason Willets, NY Alerts, conducted a web based training session regarding publishing notifications for the public. The public may register at <https://alert.ny.gov> to receive the alerts.

**New Business**

The Council reviewed a request from the Town of Denmark to join the River Area Council of Governments. R. Schell noted that the T/Denmark provides a bridge between the original RACOG communities and the Town of Lowville. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Schell to admit the Town of

Denmark as a member of the River Area Council of Governments. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

W. McIlroy reported that the base of the Veterans Monument on State Street needs to be repaired at an estimated cost of \$58,000. The Village has a balance of \$12,000 remaining from an earlier monument support campaign. Mr. McIlroy requested that RACOG submit an application for a DASNY grant to secure funds for the monument repairs and request assistance from the Tug Hill Commission to write the grant. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by J. Zando to support the DASNY application for the repair of Veterans Monument. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Storms, seconded by P. Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

*Christina Vargulick*  
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RACOG Secretary