

**River Area Council of Governments
December 4, 2018**

Members present: J. Der, F. Fazio, B. Ferguson, W. McIlroy, R. Schell,
P. Smith, T. Stewart, S. Storms, R. Vary, and J. Zando

Absent: S. Burto, M. Bigness, R. Larabee, and A. Peck

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

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by R. Vary to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018, as presented. Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mickey Dietrich, Circuit Rider, distributed a written report and discussed the following: topics for upcoming meetings; pending LED lighting analysis, and; approved internships.

Presentation

AmberLee Clement, Fort Drum Employment Readiness, discussed efforts by her agency to work with families transitioning to the local area who are looking for employment.

Brian Jackson, DOL Disabled Veteran Outreach, discussed efforts through the NYS Department of Labor to help all veterans with skill matching and employment placement. He encouraged businesses and municipalities to advertise vacancies through the Department of Labor. He also stated that 30-40% of separating and/or retiring service members stay in the area.

Lorrie Guler, Fort Drum Transition Services, discussed a mandatory program for all retiring/separating service members to provide employment information, financial planning, and benefits.

New Business

- M. Dietrich distributed a draft RACOG brochures. Members discussed various approaches to the brochure including a generalized information to support the area; a brochure to attract economic development, and; a brochure to document RACOG achievements and shared services as per the mission statement. B. Ferguson questioned the purpose of the brochure. W. McIlroy stated that he see the purpose of the brochure as information to distribute to new residents. Members also discussed including more historical information and J. Zando emphasized including

Fort Drum. No consensus was reached. M. Dietrich will continue to work on the draft document.

- M. Dietrich questioned if any board members were interested in attending an LED lighting tour. No members were interested. P. Smith stated that he would like information regarding what other communities consider the pros and cons and things they would do differently.
- M. Dietrich provided information regarding the 2009 Tug Hill resident and Landowner Survey. He also discussed a request from the Tug Hill Commission for financial support to conduct a 2019 survey and to offset the estimated cost of \$21,000. Motion by R. Schell, seconded by James Der to contribute \$1,000 to the survey project. Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- Motion by R. Schell, seconded by T. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary