

**River Area Council of Governments
September 17, 2019**

Members present: J. Der, B. Ferguson, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, T. Stewart,
and S. Storms

Absent: M. Bigness, S. Burto, F. Fazio, R. Larabee, A. Peck, P. Smith,
R. Vary and J. Zando

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

Motion by R. Schell, seconded by S. Storms to approve the minutes of May 21, 2019, as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

M. Dietrich submitted the Circuit Rider report and updated the Council on a number of ongoing projects including:

- THC Strategic Plan – K. Malinowski will present the plan at a future meeting.
- Intern – Introduced Fort Drum intern Cpl. Jeong Park.
- Street lighting – Distributed information from Jessica Waldorf, NYPA. A decision regarding the grant application is expected in December.
- Walkable Communities – J. Waterbury distributed a draft complete streets policy for adoption by communities seeking grant funds through THC to enhance safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users.
- Black River Navigation – Presented report and map.
- Resource Management Plan – Presented draft report for review and comment.
- Black River Kayak event – Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce was unable to secure an adequate number of volunteers to hold an event this autumn.
- Future topics – Council members agreed to invite NYSDEC to present information about the Climate Smart Community certification process at the next meeting.
- Meeting site – Council members agreed to hold meetings at the V/Carthage with occasional location alternatives.
- Email – Issues that some communities had with racog.org email have been resolved. A security update was applied.

Presentation

- Blue Zones Project – D. Gunderson, CAH, invited members and the public to a presentation by Nick Buettner at the Carthage Central School on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 3-5:00pm.
- BOCES – BOCES administrators, Tracy Gyoerkoe, Joanne Witt, and Paul Mooney, discussed opportunities for students to interact with communities and provide integrated design and technical advice and construction assistance for a variety of potential projects including, but not limited to, bike racks, kayak racks, benches, and signage. Communities would be responsible for the cost of materials. Students would benefit from the interaction with officials and an opportunity to learn and practice their career based skills. Communities interested in participating should contact Jean Waterbury, THC, to discuss available funding.

New Business

- M. Dietrich presented requests from the Villages of Copenhagen and Castorland to become members of RACOG. B. Ferguson questioned if a growing membership will raise any issues. M.Dietrich reported that his GIS responsibilities will be lessened giving him additional time as circuit rider. Motion by B. Ferguson, seconded by J. Der to accept the Villages of Copenhagen and Castorland as RACOG members. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- R. Schell reminded members about a minimum maintenance roads meeting scheduled for October 24th. J. Waterbury invited members to a water/wastewater meeting on October 29th.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by W. McIlroy to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Christina Vargulick
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RACOG Secretary