

**River Area Council of Governments**  
**September 21, 2021**

**Members present:** J. Der, B. Ferguson, W. McIlroy, R. Schell, P. Smith,  
S. Storms, C. Terrillion, K. Vogt, T. Widrick,  
and J. Zando

Others: M. Dietrich, M. Johnson, and M. Price

Chairman McIlroy called the remote meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Circuit Rider report**

- The Fort Drum intern has met with local historians to compile a list of historic sites along the Black River. GYMO will perform the mapping work.
- Matt Price, ANCA, is available to work with communities in regards to clean energy initiatives. V/Castorland has performed a walking audit.
- A meeting will be scheduled the Jeff/Lewis BOCES regarding complete streets projects. A meeting with DOT provided information regarding the feasibility of highway features that might be implemented in the future.
- Some communities have completed submittals for closing with NYPA to begin the change-over to LED lighting. R. Schell and K. Vogt discussed the insurance requirements set by National Grid.

**Other Discussions**

- R. Schell reported that Lewis County has set aside \$450,000 in ARPA funding to provide grants for facades and streetscapes. He questioned if BOCES was equipped to construct 40-50 bicycle racks. M. Dietrich responded that he did not believe they could but would ask at the meeting.
- Chairman McIlroy reported that he attended a presentation about the Black River trail. The current plan is to extend the trail to the V/Black River. Future plans include an extension to Evans Mills and Fort Drum and eventually along the river to Great Bend.
- Chairman McIlroy questioned if there was interest in the communities going through NYPA for LED street lights, to form a commission to discuss issues and to consider doing RFP's on their own for pricing. Matt Price stated that ANCA could assist. J. Zando indicated that the V/Deferiet would be interested but that she did not wish to be on the commission. Chairman McIlroy requested that the Circuit Rider distribute an email to determine any interest.
- M. Dietrich reported the Tug Hill Commission will host virtual town/village board meetings (ZOOM) but does not have the staffing to support planning, ZBA, etc. though they would be willing to set up the meeting and

turn it over to a municipal host. The Commission has been authorized to fill three vacant positions.

- M. Dietrich suggested that the Council may want to consider an associate circuit rider position. The associate would attend meetings in the absence of M. Dietrich. Associates in other COG's are paid at a rate of \$18/hour plus mileage. B. Ferguson stated that it is not necessary for the Circuit Rider to attend all meetings and suggested that M. Dietrich contact a community if he knows he will be unable to attend to ask if they need someone at the meeting to avoid the additional cost. Chairman McIlroy asked M. Dietrich to circulate an email to explain the position and ask for a yes/no vote.
- R. Schell asked if information could be circulated regarding the reporting requirements for municipalities that received ARPA funds.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

*Christina Vargulick*

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RACOG Secretary