

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Wednesday, January 12 2000 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

TO: Mayors/Superintendents and Boards of the T/Champion, T/Wilna, V/Carthage and V/West Carthage, Kevin Smith, and Bruce Armstrong

FROM: Chris Vargulick, Recorder

DATE: January 13, 2000

RE: January 12, 2000 Inter-Governmental meeting

Present: B. Armstrong, M. Bezanilla, P. Brady, S. Buzzell, J. Ferris, L. Gerber, D. Getman, P. Keogh, W. McIlroy, S. McHale, R. Miller, M. Sligar, J. Smith, Kevin Smith, Ken Smith, T. Stewart, and H. Watkins

Mayor McIlroy welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mayor McIlroy introduced Kevin Smith, of the Tug Hill Commission, as facilitator of the meeting.

Mr. Smith suggested parameters for the meeting and recommended a one-hour time limit.

Both Mayors Getman and McIlroy asked for a recommendation as to whether a planner should be employed versus assistance from the Tug Hill Commission or Jefferson County Planning.

Mr. Smith replied that he would not recommend either but would offer information about the benefits of each.

Mr. Sligar said that the study should be the focus with step #1: the intergovernmental council and step #2: implementing the recommendations of the study.

Mr. Smith replied that the study suggests that it is the duty of the council to encourage cooperation between governments to maximize the benefits to all. Mr. Smith recommended an intermunicipal agreement that would map the duties, responsibilities and direction of the Council of Governments. The format should be open to allow many partnerships.

Mr. Armstrong discussed the County's intention to be part of a network but did advise the group that the number of available County personnel and man-hours would limit their involvement.

Mr. Smith reminded the group that it is usually the "squeaky wheel" that gets the attention and that high visibility would be vital to success. He informed the group that the Twin Village area is included in a grant to install an ADSL high-speed diffusion telecommunications cable. Rural Utilities Service is anxious to expand the availability of cable communications throughout rural areas and the accessibility of cable is essential to attracting business and industry.

Mr. Gerber questioned the advisability of employing a single planner citing the lack of continuity if a planner left. He recommended a larger staff.

Mr. Smith stated that whether a circuit rider or employed planner is utilized that that person should be accomplishing some of the tasks but should be working in conjunction with and handing over projects to other agencies for assistance and expertise. The rider/planner should also focus on finding financial resources to accomplish prioritized projects. The financial responsibilities of each member government for this work could be met in a large number of ways (ie. The Town of Champion could offer the resources of the Tug Hill Commission since they are located within the Commission's jurisdiction and Wilna and Carthage are not).

Mr. Sligar stated that staffing is key. As a member of the State Street Coalition, he informed the group that the Coalition intends to hire staff.

Mr. Smith asked if the State Street focus would prove limiting to a planner.

Mr. Sligar replied that he saw the State Street staff as part of a larger whole.

Mr. Keogh asked what the credentials of a planner should be.

Mr. Armstrong advised the group that a single individual would "burn-out" very quickly.

Mr. Smith said that a Community Development Specialist (Manager) should be self-motivated, someone who seeks out partnerships and causes things to happen.

Mr. Watkins stated that he feels that discussion about a planner is premature, that the group should define the makeup of the Council of Governments. He suggested a council including the Mayor/Supervisor of each government, one member from each government's board and one member from each government's planning board. He recommended that the Council initially investigate the financial benefits of joint bidding for services (ie. fuel, insurance...).

Mr. Smith offered to draft an intermunicipal agreement to establish the Council of Governments. He also suggested inviting a representative from Jefferson Community College to speak at the next meeting about the potential and advantages of access to high tech communications.

Mr. Buzzell questioned the feasibility of including adjacent communities (ie. Rutland and Denmark) in the Council.

Mr. McIlroy cautioned that the group should start with "baby steps".

Mr. Smith suggested that the group might want to include different partners in mutually beneficial projects. He recommended that the Council be a motivator not an excluder.

Mr. Gerber suggested that Deferiet and Herrings should be included.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2000 at 7:00PM at the Carthage Municipal Building. The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.