

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, April 25 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/Supervisors and Boards of the T/Champion, T/Wilna, V/Carthage and V/West Carthage, and Kevin Smith

FROM: Chris Vargulick, Council Clerk

DATE: April 26, 2000

RE: Minutes from April 25, 2000 River Area Council of Governments Mtg.

Members present: T. Buckley, L. Gerber, D. Getman, W. McIlroy, and M. Sligar

Members absent: M. Franchini, J. Smith, K. Smith, and T. Stewart

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

The Chairman turned the meeting over to Thomas Sauter, DANC and Joe Starks, ECC Technologies for a presentation on high speed telecommunications.

Mr. Sauter reported that State funds were made available to DANC for the purpose of constructing a fiber optic line to the City of Watertown. DANC solicited the assistance of ECC Technologies to define the scope of the proposed project. The project is divided into three phases: Phase 1-the construction of a spur is in progress; Phase 2-a network in the City of Watertown that includes major industry and arterials; Phase 3-analysis of needs outside the City of Watertown within the three county area served by the Development Authority.

Mr. Starks described the physical properties of fiber optics and explained that while cable is limited to one communication format per cable, fiber optics have an unlimited capacity to carry many formats concurrently including voice, data, and video. While fiber optic construction remains very expensive, it has the advantage of being impervious to the environment and provides highly secure communications. The potential users include medical facilities, schools, large industry, governments, the military, and other business environments that can justify the cost of the service. Currently, fiber optic lines are scheduled to be constructed in the Town of Clayton through a grant/loan received through USDA- Rural Utilities Development (RUD).

Mr. Sauter explained that the presence of fiber optic service is expected to enhance competition among communication service providers. The fiber optic line that DANC is constructing will be "dark fiber" available for lease. Other communication services that will be available soon include, Time Warner "Roadrunner" which is excellent for residential use and the Bell Atlantic diffusion service line (DSL) which is expected to be in service by October 2000 in the Carthage area.

The Council questioned Mr. Sauter and Mr. Starks to clarify some of the information presented.

Mr. Buckley asked where RACOG comes in.

Mr. Sauter responded that plans for further construction are indefinite and dependent on the progress of the current project. Mr. Sauter encouraged the Council to promote the services that are or will shortly be available in the greater Carthage area.

Mr. McIlroy informed Council members that the four municipal planning board chairmen have scheduled a meeting, to continue the discussion began on 4/11/00, for May 9, 2000.

Mr. Buckley updated the Council on the progress to engage a planner/circuit rider through the Tug Hill Commission. The Tug Hill Commission has no mechanism for accepting funds at this point in their fiscal year and therefore would be unable to directly pay the planner. Mr. Buckley will continue discussions with Robert Quinn, Commission Executive Director, to surmount this problem.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building. A presentation on cooperative electric and gas purchases will be scheduled.