

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, March 19 2002 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

FROM: Chris Vargulick, Council Secretary

DATE: March 20, 2002

RE: Minutes from March 19, 2002 River Area Council of Governments
meeting

Members present: M. Bezanilla, T. Buckley, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy (7:06),
J. Smith, P. Smith, and T. Stewart

Members excused: M. Sligar

Vice-Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Motion by Mr. Franchini, seconded by Mr. Bezanilla to approve the minutes, for February 19, 2002, as presented.
Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

The Circuit Rider's monthly report was reviewed, with emphasis on rehabilitation and economic development in light of the March 2, 2002 fire, and accepted. With phase I of the QCD grant complete, the preliminary report prepared by peter j. smith & co. as part of phase II will be presented to the steering committee. Ms. Amyot reported that additional documentation was requested for four properties relative to the historical review for the CDBG. Comments from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation are expected shortly. The administrative unit, for 50/50 grant, has not been determined. The JCIDA will respond to the request on or before March 31st. DANC will administer the low interest revolving loans. The original intention of the loans was to provide funding to businesses who had exhausted all other low interest avenues. In the aftermath of the fire, the Small Business Administration and the JCIDA have accepted applications to provide low interest financing. As a result, the Villages may want to consider amending the grant at a later date to maximize the utilization of the grant.

Mr. Buckley asked for a clarification of the amendment process. Ms. Amyot responded that the criteria are unknown at this time.

Ms. Amyot reflected on the "tools" identified as part of the QCD and CDBG for public improvements. She recommended that the Villages meet to establish a prioritized list of projects that would make optimum use of the funds and meet the concepts outlined in the revitalization study.

Mr. Stewart reported that the Joint Recreation Committee visited recreational facilities at Cato-Meridian and Red Creek. The committee made note of several features that impressed them and will present at a later date. The committee will make site visits to Fort Drum and Clayton March 20th.

Mr. J. Smith presented a letter from the Missing Link Snowmobile Club requesting RACOG support for an application to the Jefferson County Recreational Trails Capital Improvement grant Mr. K. Smith reported that the Tug Hill Commission is studying grant opportunities to address improvements to the trail system between the villages, specifically the bridge crossing. Mr. Buckley reported on overtures to the railroad to allow construction of a snowmobile lane on their bridge, over the Black River in Carthage, as part of a property tax agreement. Mr. Buckley also supported contacting the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the construction of a "bailey bridge". Mr. Buckley strongly encouraged the snowmobile club to immediately begin studying alternative crossings for the 2002-03 season. Motion by Mr. McIlroy, seconded by Mr. Smith to authorize a letter of support for the Missing Link Snowmobile Club grant application. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Old Business

Mr. Buckley reported that, with assistance from the Tug Hill Commission, a grant from the Northern New York

Community Foundation has been awarded to the Village Ecumenical Ministeries Food Pantry in the amount of \$17,500. Of the award, \$14,500 is earmarked for capital improvements and retrofitting of the new distribution center and \$3,000 to aid victims of the March 2nd fire. Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stewart to authorize a letter of appreciation to the Foundation. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Kevin Smith, Tug Hill Commission, was present to explain that the Commission is available to assist any RACOG community with infrastructure improvements. He reported that 25% of the federal monies received for infrastructure improvements in New York state have been awarded to Northern New York communities and the funding stream through the State Revolving Fund remains strong. Mr. Smith stated that communities who are able to successfully demonstrate planning and needs assessments have excellent opportunities for funding. He also reported that the Commission is pursuing digitization of public utilities for purposes of identification and to facilitate recommendations for repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Buckley questioned the availability of further economic stimulus packages targeted at fire recovery. Mr. Smith responded that clearly articulated documentation, specific to purpose and cost, developed as a result of the QCD and CDBG, will position the community for economic stimulus incentives as they become available. Mr. Buckley stated that funders should be encouraged to look outside "the box".

The Council discussed the proposed renewal agreements with Time Warner Cable pending in both Villages. The Council discussed the agreements in respect to Section 626 of the real property tax law. It was the consensus of the Council to invite a representative from the Public Service Commission to attend the April 16th meeting for a question/answer session.

The Council discussed proposals for the bulk purchase of natural gas and will invite Joe Starosciak, Mirabito Fuel Group, to make a presentation at a date to be determined.

There will be a meeting of the Twin Village Swimming Pool Commission on Thursday, March 21, 2002 at 4:30pm.

Motion by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Bezanilla to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:02PM.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2002 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary