

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, April 16 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: April 17, 2002

RE: Minutes from April 16, 2002 River Area Council of Governments meeting

Members present: T. Buckley, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, M. Sligar, J. Smith, P. Smith, and T. Stewart

Members excused: M. Bezanilla

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

Richard LaJoie, Missing Links Snowmobile Club, submitted a copy of the club's budget for the past season and reported on information received relative to TEA-21 grants. Mr. LaJoie stated that the club is ready to work, in cooperation with the local municipalities, to do a needs assessment to identify and develop a project that would alleviate the concerns about crossing the river. Mr. Buckley strongly recommended that RACOG involve the Tug Hill Commission in the preparation of the application. Ms. Amyot stated the need to clearly identify the intended project and recommended that the Joint Recreation Committee take a significant role in defining the description and scope of the project. Mr. Sligar requested that the issue be placed on the May 21st agenda for discussion. Mr. J. Smith, on behalf of the Village of West Carthage, requested that a work session be scheduled for a "round table" discussion with club members.

Motion by Mr. J. Smith, seconded by Mr. Stewart to approve the minutes, for March 19, 2002, as presented. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

Ms. Amyot highlighted activities from the past month. JCIDA has agreed to administer the 50/50 facade improvement portion of the CDBG. A sub-recipient agreement will be developed and submitted for signatures. An application for a draw down of funds from the Imminent Threat Fund is being prepared for submission to the Office of Small Cities.

Ms. Amyot also reported on her conversation with railroad management concerning the development of trails along unused rail lines. A meeting with Robert Hagemann, Jefferson County administrator, will be scheduled so that parties may discuss the potential for utilization of the lines.

A public meeting, to present and receive comment relative to the draft report prepared by peter j. smith & company, will be held on 4/30/02 at 7:00PM. The location of the meeting will be announced.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has proposed a charrette to assist the Village of Carthage in revitalization efforts following the fire. Information will be made available as coordination and planning proceed.

Ms. Amyot asked members to schedule a time for discussions concerning the use of the funds for public projects available through the CDBG. Mr. J. Smith asked when applications would be available for property owners. Ms. Amyot responded that the application process would begin by late May 2002.

Mr. Stewart reported that the Joint Recreation Committee has reviewed a draft of the pool facility report and have submitted comments to the engineer to be included in the final report. The Committee intends to have a recommendation for RACOG's next meeting.

New Business

Pat Johnson, from the Public Service Commission(PSC), distributed copies of the law governing cable franchises and information about the franchise renewal process. Mr. Brian Brennan and Richard Strong, of Time Warner, were also in attendance. Ms. Johnson discussed common areas for franchise agreement negotiation including, but not limited to: franchise fees, revenues, property tax off-sets, and other identified community priorities. Council

members questioned the incentives to both municipalities and cable providers to enter into agreements. Ms. Johnson responded that the PSC will not allow cable franchises to operate without an agreement and communities have the opportunity to negotiate for improved services and public access. Mr. Buckley voiced strong opposition to the waiver negotiated by cable franchises for real property tax. Council members agreed by consensus to hold a joint meeting to discuss and prioritize community issues relative to franchise agreement negotiations, date and time to be announced.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2002 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary