

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, November 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

Members present: M. Bezanilla, T. Buckley, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, and T. Stewart

Members absent: M. Franchini, M. Sligar, and J. Smith

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

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by M. Bezanilla to approve the minutes for October 15, 2002, as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the proposed 2003 tentative budget.

Chairman McIlroy opened the meeting for public comment. No one from the public spoke.

Reports

The Council reviewed the Circuit Rider's annual report. Ms. Amyot emphasized recommendations including:

- Participation in retail development opportunities workshop being organized through the Tug Hill Commission. Local funding may be requested to support conference.
- Encouraged support for regional development. Development in any RACOG community will impact all component communities.

The Council discussed the need for local administration of the CDBG. Difficulties in project facilitation have resulted from efforts to keep the project non-political by sub-contracting with JCIDA. The Village of Carthage, as lead agency, is discussing a recommendation to contract with an individual to act as project facilitator and to perform general project oversight functions. Funds for the position would be generated through the CDBG, which included funds for program delivery.

T. Buckley asked about the status of the Empire Development Zone designation. Ms. Amyot will follow-up with Deb McAtee and report to the Council.

T. Stewart reported that the Joint Recreation Commission has studied alternatives for the 2003 swim program. A convenient, affordable and flexible program can be developed through Whetstone Gulf State Park and the CCSD transportation department (see attached). Council members shall share the information with their component boards for consensus.

T. Buckley and M. Bezanilla reported on the seminar hosted by the NYS Public Services Commission relative to cable franchises. Real Property Law Section 626 and high-speed online services were discussed. As a result of the discussions, T. Buckley reported that it seems unlikely that communities would receive support from the courts for the collection of real property tax from the franchises. Motion by M. Bezanilla, seconded by T. Stewart to support a recommendation to the RACOG communities that the cable franchise fee be increased to 5% in all four communities as part of the contract renewal. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

W. McIlroy announced the appointments of Tim Wright and Michael Astafan to the RACOG retail development committee. M. Bezanilla announced that Ron Blinberry and Scott Burto would represent the Village of West Carthage on the committee. The Council requested that Ms. Amyot facilitate an organizational meeting for the committee.

T. Buckley and P. Smith reported on their activities relative to the Tug Hill Leadership Institute.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the contract between Kathleen Riches-Amyot and the River Area Council of Governments for circuit rider services. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by M. Bezanilla to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2002 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building. The Villages will meet prior to the meeting, at 6:00PM, to review proposed activities funded through the CDBG.

Christina Vargulick

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