

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board **Executive Board**

Date and Time **Tuesday, March 18 2003 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, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, J. Smith, P. Smith, T. Stewart, and R. Vary

Others present: K. Riches-Amyot and K. Smith(THC)

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

Motion by J. Smith, seconded by R. Vary to approve the minutes for February 18, 2003, as presented. Ayes-8, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

The Circuit Rider's monthly report was read and accepted. K. Amyot reported on the status of particular RACOG initiatives. The Retail Development committee has a meeting scheduled. Ms. Amyot has received additional inquiries concerning the facade improvement program. Progress continues on all submittals. The Watertown City Council will hold a public hearing April 7th at 7:00PM in the Council chambers relative to the EDZ boundary revisions. Ms. Amyot encouraged members to attend.

T. Stewart reported on the recent Joint Recreation committee meeting. Minutes of the meeting were distributed to the Executive Board. Mr. Stewart asked for some direction from the Council relative to the charge and scope of the committee. Chairman McIlroy reported that there have been preliminary discussions to improve and further develop the South Main Street boat launch in West Carthage. The members also discussed the advantages/disadvantages of providing a recreational swim program at either Whetstone Gulf State Park or the CCSD high school pool. The members charged the Joint Recreation committee to study the benefits of each program and make a recommendation to the Council. Mr. Stewart announced that Patty Strife has been elected chairman of the committee by its members.

New Business

- Chairman McIlroy announced that the grant application submitted for Traffic, Engineering, and Transportation Planning for Localities has been selected for funding of \$50,000. The grant is for consultant work to study traffic patterns, service roads and multi-use trails.
- Kevin Smith, of the Tug Hill Commission, facilitated a discussion with Council members to review the evolution of RACOG over the past three years. The Board considered amendments to the mission statement to recognize efforts to identify information and funding resources and improvements in communications. Council members reflected on "successes" including:
 - ? Initiatives - accomplished and pending
 - ? Communications
 - ? Grant awards
 - ? Formation of Council
 - ? Utilizing the resources of support organizations
 - ? Cooperative culture
 - ? Seeing the bigger picture
 - ? Staffing
- Forming a COG? Recommendations...
 - ? Think big - prospect beyond your boundaries
 - ? Leave the egos at the door
 - ? Regular contact
 - ? Staff - for an objective view
- Threats to the COG?
 - ? Funding
 - ? Cost of staffing
- The Skies the Limit!
 - ? Infrastructure - sewer, water, streets, curbs, and storm sewers

? Trail systems and other recreational opportunities

K. Smith and the Council discussed the benefits of a meeting between the leaders of RACOG and upriver community leaders. P. Smith suggested that common issues be identified and used to develop an agenda and discussion points.

- T. Stewart asked members to consider uses for the “pool” on Outer Bridge Street for discussion at the next meeting.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by P. Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Christina Vargulick
RACOG Secretary/Treasurer