

Organization River Area Council of Governments**Board Executive Board****Date and Time Tuesday, August 19 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: T. Buckley, J. Ferris, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, T. Stewart, and R. Vary**Members absent:** J. Smith

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building. The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Michael Bezanilla.

Motion R. Vary, seconded by P. Smtih to approve the minutes for June 17, 2003, as presented. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Chairman McIlroy opened the meeting for public comment. Ken Smith reported on a proposal developed by a committee of residents to construct a multi-use recreational bridge between Carthage and West Carthage. Steve Gamble, Missing Link Snowmobile Club, stated that his organization is prepared to partner with RACOG to facilitate the proposed economic initiative. Patty Strife, Joint Recreation committee chairperson, reported that the committee has been evaluating existing trails and developing strategies to improve pedestrian linkages. Members of the committee have met with Walter Becker, Carthage Area Hospital administrator, to explore a partnership to encourage exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. A map illustrating both existing and proposed trails was distributed.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by M. Franchini to support the construction of a multi-use recreational bridge and to explore partnerships with the Missing Link Snowmobile Club and the Carthage Area Hospital to facilitate the project. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

- The Circuit Rider's monthly report was read and accepted.
- Joint Recreation - T. Stewart reported that there has been excellent participation in the swimming program this year. Most participants are involved in the Carthage Recreational program. The next meeting of the Joint Recreation committee will be Thursday, September 11, 2003 at the Town of Wilna offices.

New Business

- NYSDOT Technical Assistance Grant - A scope of work was reviewed and discussed. Council members reprioritized the work as follows:
 1. Multi-use bridge project
 2. Non-motorized transport improvements
 3. Corridor improvements/access management improvements
 4. On-street parkingMotion by P. Smith, seconded by J. Ferris to approve the scope as amended. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.
- J. Peck and R. Vary presented the recommendation of the Retail Development committee for a consultant to prepare a retail recruitment package. The committee received two responses to their RFP and recommends Christopher A. Lorence Public Relations and Marketing Services. The committee felt positive about the local perspective Mr. Lorence would bring to the project. The proposal includes the design and printing of a 17"x 22" glossy brochure and a five minute E-brochure (CD-rom). The Council discussed the costs of the consultant hours and distributable material production. Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by T. Stewart to proceed with the development, design, and production of a camera ready brochure ready for print at a cost not to exceed \$2,320 and the planning, organization, pre-design work, design and production of a 5-minute E-brochure at a cost not to exceed \$1,680. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried. The Council also recommended that the Retail Development committee realign the hours dedicated to meetings and committee work to allow for a formal presentation to identified groups (e. Chamber of Commerce, EDCC, CIDC and interested business)to garner support for publication costs.
- K. Amyot questioned if the Council would favor a planning workshop featuring Ed McMahon. Mr. McMahon

was a presenter at the Tug Hill Conference and was enthusiastically received. It was the consensus of the Council that they would be willing to co-sponsor a workshop.

- Chairman McIlroy invited any interested community leaders to participate in the upcoming Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute.
- K. Amyot distributed a brochure detailing the Micro-Enterprise Façade Improvement program. Motion by P. Smith, seconded by T. Stewart to authorize the circuit rider to distribute the brochure to potentially interested parties. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Franchini, seconded by T. Stewart to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2003 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Christina Vargulick
RACOG Secretary/Treasurer