

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, April 8 2014 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

**River Area Council of Governments
April 8, 2014**

Members present: T. Buckley, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, Scott Burto, R. Vary and Bruce Ferguson

Absent: M. Bigness

Others: Kathy Amyot

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was opened for public comment. No one from the public addressed the Council.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by P. Smith to approve the minutes for September 17, 2013 as presented. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

K. Amyot read and reviewed the Circuit Rider's report. Ms. Amyot listed 2013 shared service projects, partners and organizations/agencies providing technical assistance and support to municipalities and outlined next step considerations to advance land-use planning and community development. Additionally, she discussed the Tug Hill Commissioners upcoming regional meeting scheduled for April 28th at the Village of Carthage and noted a Super Cog meeting is scheduled for May 29th at the Ridgeviewtel Community Center in Lowville.

Members discussed ongoing concerns/issues with the Governors property tax cap initiative in the coming year/s, rebates vs. local services and the impacts of state mandates on local budgets. Scott Burto highlighted the requirement by OSC to submit a 3-year budget plan and rebates tied to the property value (ex: a property owner in W. Carthage with a property assessment of \$100,000 will be eligible for an \$11 rebate). Terry Buckley noted that the Special Water District formed in Champion makes it impossible to stay within the tax cap in the coming year. Paul Smith noted the fluctuations of the tax cap each year make it challenging to plan a long-term budget.

New Business

After reviewing the 2013 swimming program report as presented by the Village of West Carthage and the YMCA, members of the council discussed options/opportunities to address the leech issue/concern prior to opening for the 2014 season. Scott Burto stated that he will contact DOH for direction/guidance regarding such. T. Buckley made a motion to approve funding for the coming year and Paul Smith seconded the motion.

Scott Burto presented a request from the W. Carthage Volunteer Fire Department to allow 1 team access to parking on the Twin Village Swim Facility on June 6th & 7th to participate in competitions at the Annual Fireman's Convention, hosted by the department. Members of the W. Carthage Fire Department have been assigned shifts to patrol the grounds for crowd control. Terry Buckley agreed to check with the insurance company for ensure liability coverage is in place. Scott Burto made the motion to approve and Paul Smith seconded.

Scott Burto also requested the support of the board in directing the Circuit Rider to prepare a list of cooperative projects RACOG has/is participating in as documentation of its long-term efforts to improve cost efficiencies and effectiveness. Once compiled, the list would be forwarded to NYCOM as a model initiative and tool in ongoing discussions with the Governor's Office. Members of the council unanimously agreed to support the effort.

Wayne McIlroy, brought a request to the board from the Carthage Planning Board to consider forming a single planning board. The council discussed the success of the JZBA and suggested forming a joint planning board is worth exploring. Scott Burto stated the West Carthage Planning Board is a strong board and felt that they would not be interested in forming such at this time. However, W. Carthage may have an interest in joining the JZBA in the future.

Paul Smith requested information about the \$1million funding approved by the Governor to support the ongoing development of Fort Drum Buffer Zone. Terry Buckley stated the funding is not to purchase property but development rights on property surrounding the base. Therefore, it will not have any negative impacts on current property values/assessments.

Paul Smith made a motion to reelect existing officers to the RACOG positions and Marco Franchini seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by P. Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Kathleen Amyot
Kathleen Amyot
RACOG Circuit Rider