

**Attendees:**

Taylor McKinney – Tug Hill Commission  
Kristin Aueter – Naturally Lewis Director of Tourism  
Mickey Dietrich – Tug Hill Commission  
Jennifer Harvill – Tug Hill Commission  
Nichelle Swisher – Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Jennifer Voss – City of Watertown, Planning  
Katie Malinowski – Tug Hill Commission  
Corey Fram – Thousand Islands Tourism Council

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1. Introductions
  - a. We are joined by Jen Voss via Zoom, a planner from the City of Watertown. Introductions were shared around the table, as well as a brief overview of the group’s origins. NYS THC is facilitating discussion, with the hopes of true “community legs” emerging.
2. Cuseum Demo
  - a. The scheduled representative for the Mobile Engagement demo/information session had a family emergency just prior to our meeting time; the demo did not occur. Alex Goyri from Cuseum followed up via phone call with his apologies and rescheduled the demo for the following week (Thursday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.). Cuseum will be recording the session. Taylor will spread the information to the rest of the group, and those who cannot attend will be able to view the recording.
  - b. The content of the demo will be added to the agenda, so that we may have a proper discussion at our next regularly-scheduled meeting.
3. [www.blackriverny.com](http://www.blackriverny.com)
  - a. The “Friends of the Black River” sub-page of the website has been given updated contact information. As meetings occur, PDFs of the meeting notes will be updated.
  - b. As discussed previously, the Black River maps need updating. (Maps location is along this path: Home / Recreation / Black River Overview Maps) Taylor will be working to redo the four: an overview map of the entire river, and the respective “white, wild, and still” sections. In this iteration, the numbered points (indicating boat launches, fishing access, parks, whitewater play spots, and other attractions) will be omitted in favor of the greater utility found in the interactive map. (Interactive map location: Home / Recreation / Recreation Access Points.) This will provide updated files that have, hopefully, greater longevity.
4. Lewis County S&W
  - a. Great progress is being made for signage. For the bridge signs, S&W has ordered them, and they should be arriving in the first week of November. These will cover both sides of bridges along the main stretch of the Black River and part of Beaver River, so kayakers/canoers/other-river-goers have a sense of where they are. The

county is very supportive, and will be handling the installation (they are familiar with each bridge's specific materials, different ways they might need to be attached, etc).

- b. Nichelle hasn't had the chance to reach out to the Lyons Falls Historical Association yet for photos, but will be soon.
  - c. S&W is also working with DEC on signs for the boat launches, although this will take some time. (Next year perhaps?) Because the signs will be on DEC land, there is criteria for style, language, and some included content. The signs will be 4-panels with QR codes that link to historical content, photos, information, etc. There will also be nature content like information on invasive species, navigational barriers, fish species commonly found in the area, etc.
    - i. S&W might be seeking input/recommendations at some point
  - d. A possibility: once S&W completes the creation and approval process for signage at the DEC boat launches, it could provide a fair template for Jefferson County to follow, if they were interested in having signs at their launches as well. It's an interesting idea; we are currently lacking Jefferson County input in the group, however, so it's hypothetical and this point in time. Invite Jefferson County SWCD to future meeting?
5. River Mapping
- a. Water levels are still very high. Mickey thinks it would be safer and more productive to push off the mapping into the next field season, spring at the earliest.
  - b. Previous meeting discussions floated the idea of mapping more Recreation Access Point spots. Taylor, Jen, and Mickey will be meeting tomorrow with Kaitlyn, their Fort Drum intern, who has started to settle in. She has expressed interest in helping with this group/project. The results of the meeting will be shared with the group.
6. Logo
- a. Taylor is hoping to work on Pete's suggested design following the agency's October 19<sup>th</sup> commitments.
  - b. According to Mickey, who has been in touch with some BOCES contacts, previous drafted designs/logos were in fact completed and sent out. He will be tracking down where they were sent to, so that the group might have some more options.
7. Anything new?
- a. Shared via email: Jonathan Miller has been mapping some roads, locations, and content in Oneida and Herkimer counties.
  - b. Corey Fram – wants Chris Bogenschutz to take a look at the “Eat. Sleep. Explore.” portion of the Black River website. It needs brushing up and updating; all summer content is out-of-date. Could events be ported in, instead?

- c. Jennifer Harvill – went to a presentation at the Oneida County History Center. Patrick Reynolds did a presentation on the Castorland Journal. The presentation focused on “Castorland Connections” and was a more person-oriented narrative. (Similar to the narrative style of the last few Constable Chronicles webinar episodes hosted by the Tug Hill Commission.) Tentatively, Patrick seems open to potentially doing another presentation, possibly hosted in hybrid format by the Commission. It would be another way of telling the Castorland Journal story, based on Dr. Gallucci’s translation. Would want involvement/input from Gallucci.
  - i. Boonville municipal space would be a good venue; good proximity to the river and a Tug Hill community
  - ii. Canal Museum might be interested in partnering?
- d. Riverfest – the last two years, presentations have kicked off Riverfest, but it is very difficult timing for many FOBR members who have their own intensive programming. Perhaps some winter programming instead?

Next meeting: **November 21, 2023 @ 2pm**; Lewis County Extension Room