

Salmon Rivers Council of Governments
Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, March 29, 2023
2:30 p.m
Orwell Town Hall
1999 State Route 2, Orwell, New York

Present:

Albion – (no representative present)

Amboy – Larry Rayder, town board member

Orwell – William Potter, supervisor

Parish (town) – Jim Bernys, supervisor

Parish (village) – Jacqueline Murphy, trustee and mayor-elect

NYS Tug Hill Commission – Matt Johnson, Katie Malinowski

Salmon Rivers circuit rider – Paul Baxter

Pulaski – Jim Tighe, Carl Falk

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m., and attendees were introduced.

Consideration of village of Pulaski membership in the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments: Katie Malinowski, Tug Hill Commission executive director, and Matt Johnson, Tug Hill director of planning, provided background information relevant to consideration of Pulaski's application for Salmon Rivers membership. The village of Pulaski is not a municipality within the boundaries of the commission, but other councils of government in Tug Hill do include municipalities not within commission legislative boundaries.

Katie and Matt shared maps of the Salmon Rivers watershed and the Little Salmon Rivers membership. Pulaski shares presence in the Salmon Rivers watershed.

Katie outlined what Pulaski would gain through Salmon Rivers membership. They would gain circuit rider services, routine communications with Tug Hill and Salmon Rivers, participation in Salmon Rivers projects, and planning and technical assistance services from Tug Hill as available resources permit.

From the commission point of view, the commission has an existing outside region policy, which the commission will be revisiting in upcoming months. The commission does have a concern that adding additional municipalities without an associated increase in resources has the potential to dilute service delivery.

William Potter noted that Pulaski would seem to be a good fit with the group, with the Salmon Rivers watershed in common. He acknowledged the concern about available Tug Hill resources.

Salmon Rivers dues are currently \$700 per municipality per year. It is possible that dues to all members may need to increase if operating expenses increase as a result of additional mileage and in paying for increased associate services to enable meeting coverage. Jim Bernys

commented that a possible increase in Salmon Rivers dues would not be prohibitive to adding Pulaski.

Larry asked about whether adding Pulaski might also lead to Richland seeking Salmon Rivers membership. Katie acknowledged that as a possibility, with the thought that that might result in crossing a threshold which would then require additional state resources to Tug Hill .

There was a motion by Jim Bernys, seconded by Larry Rayder, to approve the addition of Pulaski to Salmon Rivers membership contingent on Pulaski's formal application in writing for membership. All were in favor.

Next meeting: scheduling to be announced.

Other business: Katie noted that there would be a new round of nominations for Tug Hill Sages coming up. The every-five-years survey by Tug Hill of local leaders would be coming up in late April, and the local government conference is next week.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m

Respectfully submitted



Paul M. Baxter
Municipal Management Consultant