

**Salmon Rivers Council of Governments**  
**Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, March 26, 2024**  
**2:00 p.m**  
**Albion-Altmar Municipal Building**  
**15 Bridge Street, Altmar, New York**

**Present:**

Amboy – Larry Rayder, town board member

Orwell – William Potter, supervisor

Pulaski – Jan Tighe, mayor

Richland – Donna Gilson, deputy supervisor

NYS Tug Hill Commission – Matt Johnson

Salmon Rivers circuit rider – Paul Baxter

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m., and attendees were introduced.

**Election of Officers** – Motion by Larry Rayder, seconded by Jan Tighe, to re-elect the current slate of officers (chair: William Potter; vice chair: Mike Faulkner; fiscal agent: village of Parish). Motion passed unanimously.

**Salmon Rivers sponsorship of Tug Hill Local Government Conference 2024** – Paul Baxter reported that Salmon Rivers had sponsored the 2024 Local Government Conference at the same pledge level (\$500) as 2023. With the sponsorship comes one free attendance; this was offered to the council chair, who declined; it was then offered to the fiscal agent, which will be using it.

**Report on COG leaders meeting** – This annual meeting took place in person in Lorraine in January. Tug Hill reported on the year past and what is foreseen in the upcoming year, and the COG chairs reported on issues and concerns in their respective areas. Salmon Rivers chair Potter was unable to attend the meeting, and the group was unable to designate an alternate in time for the meeting.

**Interest by additional municipalities in membership in the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments** – Donna Gilson reported that Salmon Rivers chair Potter could expect a formal letter by the town of Richland expressing interest in joining the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments. Informal interest had been expressed previously. Since the village of Pulaski was admitted to Salmon Rivers after applying in spring of 2024, the commission has re-examined its outside region policy, weighing services to be delivered in such cases compared to available resources. Salmon Rivers is free to admit additional members to the council, but Tug Hill resources to assist additional affiliated communities are limited, depending on available resources on a case-by-case basis, and prioritizing efforts of regional or COG-level importance over individual municipal projects.

Salmon Rivers will schedule its next meeting after it receives a formal indication of interest from Richland. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2024.

**Status of effort to get state payment for municipalities containing Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)** – Context: Not all communities containing state Wildlife Management Areas receive money from the state in lieu of property taxes lost. The North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments have requested assistance from the Tug Hill Commission to address this inequity. This effort continues, most recently with commission involvement with NYSDEC Regions 6 and 7 in updates to the regions’ open space management plans. Inclusion of recommendation of a revised payment plan to communities containing WMAs could lead to consideration of implementation of a more equitable system statewide.

**North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) studies** – The North Shore Council of Governments has two studies completed or underway which may be of interest to Salmon Rivers. They recently completed an economic study of North Shore communities, available on the NorCOG website, [www.norcog.org](http://www.norcog.org). In addition, NorCOG proposed a study by the Syracuse Metropolitan Traffic Council (SMTC) of NYS Route 49 traffic from west of Central Square to County Route 37 in West Monroe. The SMTC has subsequently incorporated this as an element of their workplan, with work to start in the first quarter of the 2024-25 year, and concluding in the second quarter of the 2025-26 year. This is potentially of interest to Salmon Rivers members, as a portion of traffic to Salmon Rivers towns traverses NYS Route 49.

**Consideration of replacement cellphone purchase for circuit rider** – Security updates of the current circuit rider cellphone ceased as of February 2024. Paul Baxter recommends its replacement. The cost of the phone is expected to be less than \$350, and the North Shore Council of Governments has already moved to pay for its share of the cost of phone and accessories.

Motion by Larry Rayder, seconded by Jan Tighe, to approve this purchase; carried unanimously./

**Commission updates** – Matt Johnson reported that the commission has a new commissioner, Bob Keller, of Boonville, representing Oneida County. There remains two commissioner vacancies at this time.

The commission has new staff: Jillian Lee.

Tug Hill is about to release a new issue paper on housing issues in Tug Hill. Donna asked about whether the issues posed by local Amish residents housing has been addressed.

Tug Hill has been active in providing planning assistance to the Salmon Rivers area:

- Albion: planning board has been meeting; solar regulations
- Amboy: zoning update, subdivision regulations
- Orwell: interest in solar regulations and subdivision regulations. Matt is to appear at a future Orwell town board meeting
- Parish: comprehensive plan update
- Pulaski/Richland: is working on an update to the joint comprehensive plan. Tug Hill will be monitoring the process and offering comments as possible

**Other** – Jan Tighe asked other communities what they were doing regarding trash containers and collectors.

**Next meeting** – (Tentative) June 2024, Albion-Altmar Municipal Building if available, 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment** – Motion by Jan Tighe to adjourn, second by William Potter; carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul M. Baxter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Paul M. Baxter  
Municipal Management Consultant