

**ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL
ATV TRAIL NETWORK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

PREAMBLE

We, the elected representatives of the municipalities comprising a portion of the Northcentral Region of Pennsylvania, recognize that the long-term management of a complex and growing outdoor recreation system in this region is independent of political boundaries and that this management must be formulated to meet our common needs and undertaken jointly and cooperatively.

Therefore, the representatives of Clinton County, Potter County, and Tioga County hereby join to form the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments (“NRAT Network COG”).

The overriding goal of the NRAT Network COG is to facilitate a safe and sustainable motorized trail network that empowers rural communities to foster conservation and economic growth. We believe that this goal can best be achieved through cooperative efforts by the regional municipalities. This involves combining our various resources to meet regional challenges that may be beyond our individual capabilities.

The key to the success of the NRAT Network COG is for all municipal officials to exhibit a strong commitment to seeking solutions to common problems within the context of the goal and purpose of the COG. We recognize that truly regional cooperation will sometimes entail some trade-offs, but we believe it will result in better regional qualities than could be achieved by individual municipal actions.

This agreement is to establish a council of governments in the Northcentral Region of Pennsylvania. It does not create a new layer of government or a supergovernment. It does provide a means of communication, cooperation, and joint action in the interest of the municipalities individually and collectively.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments” and henceforth may be referred to as the “NRAT Network COG.”

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The intention of the founders of the NRAT Network COG is to meet at regular intervals to foster a collaborative effort to execute the core objectives of the NRAT Network COG, which are:

Collaboration: Provide leadership and coordinate partner participation through committees and advisory groups to ensure balanced representation.

Sustainable Management: Oversee a structured organization with the operational and financial stability to manage ongoing responsibilities, a plan for sustainable expansions, and the fostering of a conscientious ridership ethic.

Community Engagement: Deploy a communication strategy that includes routine messaging, events, and outreach to engage a broad range of stakeholders, riders, and communities.

Environmental Stewardship: Develop education and resource management plans that provide tools and resources to uniformly manage and steward the assets.

Growth & Development: Create business, funding, and expansion plans to acquire the necessary revenue to support and sustain the trail network.

Service Area: The service area of the NRAT Network COG is the four-County region in northcentral Pennsylvania consisting of Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga Counties.

ARTICLE III. POWERS & SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

As specified in the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (53 Pa. C.S. § 2301 et seq.), municipalities may cooperate in the exercise or performance of their respective governmental functions, powers, or responsibilities. It is the intention of the municipalities subscribing to these Articles of Agreement that the NRAT Network COG may establish any program and perform any function permitted in the enabling legislation and subsequently agreed to by the participating municipalities. To carry out these activities, it is hereby agreed that, unless otherwise specified below, upon approval of a majority vote of the COG, the COG may:

- A. Organize as a corporation under Pennsylvania law and obtain tax-exempt recognition under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- B. Employ staff in permanent or temporary, part-time or full-time positions as necessary, according to adopted policies;
- C. Establish employee benefit programs and enter into contracts for social security, group insurance or other benefits;
- D. Receive, administer and dispense funds from municipal, state, federal or other sources;
- E. Borrow and/or contract for the repayment of funds, and when the amount of the proposed borrowing exceeds 10% of the total budget figure for the COG, including fund balances, or when the instrument for repayment of that debt has a term of five years or more, unanimous approval of all municipalities is required.
- F. With unanimous approval of all member municipalities, acquire, manage, license, lease or dispose of real property, as specified in these Articles of Agreement and in accordance with executed contracts;

- G. Acquire, manage, license, or dispose of personal property as specified in these Articles of Agreement and in accordance with executed contracts;
- H. Share municipal services;
- I. Promote conservation of land, water and air;
- J. Review and coordinate planning and development for projects and programs specified by federal, state or local statute;
- K. Assemble maps, surveys and necessary data for studies;
- L. Provide research on physical, social and economic realities of municipalities;
- M. Promote specific projects and programs related to the municipalities;
- N. Coordinate functional plans and programs;
- O. Hold public hearings and meetings;
- P. Fix, alter, charge and collect fees, rates and other charges for work, services and publications to pay for the expenses of the COG and to fulfill the terms and provisions of agreements made with its members and to determine the services and improvements required and provide adequate, safe and reasonable service;
- Q. Establish such organizational structure as deemed necessary;
- R. Enact Bylaws;
- S. Contract for services;
- T. Initiate, advise, aid in the establishment of or amend cooperative agreements among local governments;
- U. Propose, initiate, implement or revise studies, policy discussions and plans for the Service Area;
- V. Make recommendations to any local governments or other appropriate agencies or entities;
- W. Take other actions consistent with the enabling legislation and the terms of these Articles of Agreement;

- X. Once incorporated, adopt, use and alter at will a corporate seal;
- Y. Employ, contract and/or appoint officers, agents, professional, technical and administrative advisors, employees, personnel and servants and prescribe their duties and fix their compensation;
- Z. Pledge, hypothecate or encumber all or any of its revenues and receipts upon unanimous approval of its member municipalities;
- AA. Establish standing advisory councils, task forces or committees; and
- BB. Prepare an annual report.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A. Voting Membership, Non-Voting Participatory Membership, and Partners:

Voting membership shall be open to all municipalities within the service area of the NRAT Network (Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga Counties) that enact an ordinance incorporating these Articles and who pay the requisite annual membership fees.

Voting privileges are reserved for only those municipalities that pay the annual membership fee.

Non-voting, participatory membership shall be open to municipalities within the service area of the NRAT Network who can demonstrate a bona fide interest in, influence on, and/or impact by the NRAT Network COG, who formally apply and are approved by a majority vote of the voting membership.

Partners include agencies, organizations, and legislative partners who express an interest shall be involved to the fullest extent practicable in connection with their area of expertise and interest. While not members, Partners are expected to provide valuable insight and information related to a range of topics related to COG functions and as appropriate shall be invited to participate in in COG meetings and committee meetings.

Partners will not have a voting stake in issues brought before the COG.

- B. **Representation:** Each voting member in the NRAT Network COG may appoint an elected official or designated representative to represent its interests in the COG. Members may also appoint an alternate representative to serve in their absence.
- C. **Admission:** Each member municipality must subscribe by ordinance to these Articles of Agreement and agree to be bound to the extent provided in these Articles and other agreements adopted by the COG.

Municipalities may become members of the COG in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The municipality wishing to be considered for membership shall submit a letter of interest to the COG.
 2. Upon receipt of a request for admission to membership, the COG shall consider how the expanded membership will affect the common interests and its ability to accomplish its stated purposes.
 3. The COG will approve or disapprove the membership request within 90 days of its receipt. All membership actions shall require a majority vote by the voting Members. Notwithstanding anything in this procedure, municipalities meeting the requirements for membership in the COG shall receive an affirmative vote on membership.
 4. In approving a membership request, the COG shall state the terms and conditions for membership which may include, but not be limited to, proportionate reimbursements for past capital expenditures.
 5. If the COG approves a request, a municipality shall signify its acceptance of the terms of membership by enacting within 60 days an ordinance approving the Articles of Agreement and other terms and conditions.
 6. The COG may approve contracts to provide services to nonmember municipalities and other agencies without requiring membership as a condition of participation.
- D. **Withdrawal:** Members shall have the right to withdraw from the NRAT Network COG following procedures established in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION

- A. **Executive Board Structure:** Seven (7) Board members shall be tasked with administration of the NRAT Network COG and employee oversight. The initial Executive Board shall be composed of one (1) elected official designated by each participating County, three (3) elected officials from Voting Members, and one (1) at-large representative of a voting or non-voting participatory Member. In subsequent years, Executive Board representation will be determined through a vote by the full COG membership, following procedures established in the Bylaws.
- B. **Officers:** The Officers of the NRAT Network COG and their duties shall be established in the Bylaws.
- C. **Executive Director:** The COG shall appoint an Executive Director to manage the affairs of the NRAT Network COG, subject to the provisions of these Articles of Agreement, the Bylaws, and such policies as may be adopted by the COG. The Executive Director shall:

1. Prepare an annual budget for review by the Finance Committee and recommendation to the voting membership, and upon its approval by the voting membership, have authority to disburse the sums as appropriated;
2. Have the responsibility of proposing policies, programs and services for consideration by the voting membership, and shall have responsibility for implementing such policies;
3. Appoint and discharge all COG employees, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Personnel Policy and the program agreements;
4. Propose and coordinate revisions to the COG's Personnel Policy, Position Classification Plan, and Employee Performance Evaluation Program.

D. **Solicitor:** The NRAT Network COG shall appoint a solicitor, who shall be the chief consultant of the NRAT Network COG in all legal matters.

E. **General Policy Body:**

1. **General Policy Body** – The COG shall be the general policy body.
2. **Meetings** – The voting members of the COG shall meet at least four (4) times a year. Additional meetings may take place as set forth in the Bylaws.
3. **Responsibilities** – As the general policy body, the COG is responsible both for considering and for carrying out the programs and functions agreed to by the participating municipalities. The COG, in accordance with all provisions of these Articles, shall:
 - a. Adopt a budget for each fiscal year;
 - b. Resolve membership and participation questions;
 - c. Act on amendments to the Articles of Agreement;
 - d. Act on all proposals to initiate, continue, modify or discontinue any programs or functions of the COG;
 - e. Appoint a solicitor;
 - f. Adopt a Personnel Policy, Position Classification Plan, and Employee Evaluation Program.

F. **Committees:** The COG may establish such standing, special or ad hoc committees as deemed appropriate to conduct its business. Standing committees shall include, but not be limited to, Membership and Partnership, Finance, Maintenance, Enforcement and Safety, Public Engagement and Education.

The following policies shall apply:

1. **Membership** – Standing committees shall consist of representatives as set forth in the Bylaws.
2. **Meetings** – Standing committees shall meet as required by the Bylaws.
3. **Representatives** – It is the intent of the COG that municipal representatives to COG standing committees shall be elected board/council members. From time to time, however, scheduling conflicts may arise that reasonably preclude an elected official from attending an assigned committee meeting. In those cases, the municipality’s elected representative may authorize an appropriate elected or appointed official to attend the meeting. The voting powers of any alternate representative shall be determined in advance by the municipal board/council, and shall be communicated to the NRAT Network COG Executive Director each January.

G. **Rules of Order:** Any matter pertaining to the conduct of any meeting and the procedure thereof shall be governed by the latest edition of Roberts’ Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI. QUORUM & VOTING

- A. **Voting:** Each Executive Board member shall have one (1) vote, and each voting Member shall have one (1) vote. If a quorum exists, a simple majority of those Executive Board members and voting Members shall approve any action, unless otherwise stated in the Bylaws.
- B. **Quorum:** A quorum of the NRAT Network COG shall be established in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCING

The COG anticipates funding via member fees and partner support, permit sales, and start-up grants and partnerships.

COG Voting Member Fees. A voting Member municipality participating in the NRAT Network COG is responsible for contributing to the cost of operating the NRAT Network COG by the payment of annual dues of \$200.00 or as established by the Executive Board. Dues shall be paid as required by the Bylaws.

COG Non-Voting, Participatory Members. A non-voting, participatory Member municipality participating in the NRAT Network COG may contribute to the cost of operating the NRAT Network COG through financial or in-kind support.

Partners. Agencies, businesses, clubs, organizations, and legislative partners who wish to be recognized by the COG as Partners are expected to make voluntary contributions of support through expertise, services, financial, and/or in-kind support.

ARTICLE VIII. ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

- A. **Acquisition:** In order to implement this Agreement, the NRAT Network COG may purchase or lease real estate, vehicles, equipment, furnishings or other items. All purchases and/or leases of real property and/or buildings shall be authorized upon majority vote of voting Members.
1. Purchases shall be made in accordance with the requirements of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.
 2. Purchases shall be made within the amounts appropriated in the annual NRAT Network COG Budget, unless otherwise approved by the COG.
- B. **Sale or Disposal:** The following procedures will apply to transfer, sale or disposal of NRAT Network COG property. Municipalities must still look comply with their own procurement requirements.
1. **Transfers among COG Members and Partners:** Upon approval of the Executive Director, personal property used by one COG member/partner may be transferred or sold to another COG member/partner provided the Executive Director determines that the cost reasonably reflects the value of the personal property.
 2. **Sale or Disposal:** The sale or disposal of any NRAT Network COG property, vehicles, office furniture, supplies and equipment shall take place in the following manner: It may be offered for sale at fair market value to a municipal government or school district. If none are interested, the COG shall authorize sale to the general public at a publicly advertised, sealed bid or auction. The COG may reserve the right to set a minimum price and to reject any or all bids.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Articles of Agreement must be initially approved by a majority vote of the COG. In order to be adopted, the amendment must be approved by a unanimous vote at a second COG meeting. Amendments shall not be effective until approved by each voting Member in the same manner as this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the designated representatives of the municipalities comprising the NRAT Network COG hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their proper officers pursuant to the authority vested in them by the governing bodies, this 21st day of November, 2025.

Attest: Dr. B. Moore By: Jeffrey A. Snyder Clinton

Attest: Jessie M. Gubel By: Nancy J. Grupp Potter

Attest: Janice Chamberlain By: Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk Tioga

APPROVED BY MUNICIPALITIES AS FOLLOWS:

| Municipality | Date | Ordinance # | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| <u>County of Clinton</u> | <u>12/18/2025</u> | <u>2 of 2025</u> | Clinton |
| <u>Potter</u> | <u>12/11/2025</u> | <u>2 of 2025</u> | Potter |
| <u>Man. Rep. Rick Hamilton</u> | <u>12/9/2025</u> | <u>2025-3</u> | Tioga |

Ordinances &
Original Signature
Pages

Clinton County

ORDINANCE 2025-- 2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF CLINTON ADOPTING THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL ATV TRAIL NETWORK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BY REFERENCE AND JOINING SAID COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the County of Clinton finds it in the public interest to join the **Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments** and adopt the Articles of Agreement of said Council of Governments, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Articles of Agreement are available for public inspection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the duly elected Board of Commissioners the County of Clinton that:

SECTION 1. Adoption by Reference.

The Articles of Agreement Between and Among the Governments of the **Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments**, are hereby adopted by reference. The term of the County of Clinton's participation therein is hereby established as ten (10) years.

SECTION 2. Joining the NRAT COG and Authorizations.

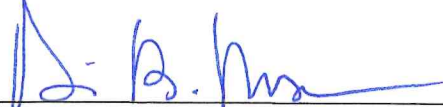
The County of Clinton hereby joins the **Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments** in accordance with the attached Articles of Agreement and authorizes the chairperson and/or appropriate staff to execute any and all legal documents to effectuate this purpose.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.


ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 18 day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

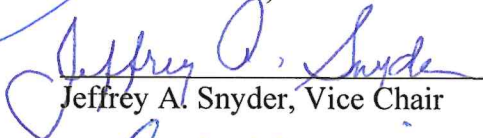


Desiree B. Myers, Chief Clerk


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



James A. Russo, Chair



Jeffrey A. Snyder, Vice Chair



Angela Harding, Commissioner

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the designated representatives of the municipalities comprising the NRAT Network COG hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their proper officers pursuant to the authority vested in them by the governing bodies, this 21st day of November, 2025.

Attest: *D. B. [Signature]* By: *Jeffrey A. Snyder* (Clinton)

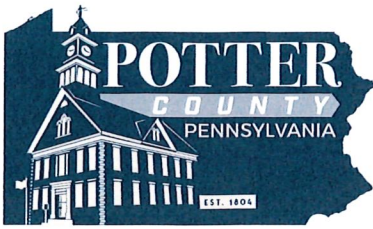
Attest: _____ By: _____ (Potter)

Attest: _____ By: _____ (Tioga)

APPROVED BY MUNICIPALITIES AS FOLLOWS:

| Municipality | Date | Ordinance # | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <u>County of Clinton</u> | <u>12/18/2025</u> | <u>2 of 2025</u> | (Clinton) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | (Potter) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | (Tioga) |

Potter County



**County of Potter
Board of Commissioners**

*One North Main Street, Suite 207
Coudersport, Pennsylvania 16915
Telephone: 814-274-8290 Fax: 814-274-8284
www.pottercountypa.gov*

Nancy J. Grupp, Chair
Paul W. Heimel, Commissioner
Robert W. Rossman, Commissioner

Jessica M. Giebel, Chief Clerk
Stephanie L. Fera, Solicitor

Ordinance #2 OF 2025
County of Potter, Pennsylvania

**AN ORDINANCE OF POTTER COUNTY THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NORTHCENTRAL
REGIONAL ATV TRAIL NETWORK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BY REFERENCE
AND JOINING SAID COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, Potter County finds it in the public interest to join the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments and adopt the Articles of Agreement of said Council of Governments, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Articles of Agreement are available for public inspection;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Commissioners of Potter County as follows:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.

The Articles of Agreement Between and Among the Governments of the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments, are hereby adopted by reference.

SECTION 2. JOINING THE NRAT COG AND AUTHORITIES.

Potter County hereby joins the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments in accordance with the attached Articles of Agreement and authorizes the chairperson and/or appropriate staff to execute any and all legal documents to effectuate this purpose.

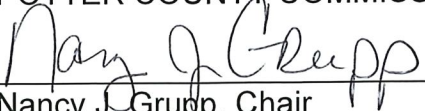
SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 11th day of December, 2025, by the Board of Commissioners of Potter County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of Potter County this 11th day of December, 2025.

POTTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




Nancy J. Grupp, Chair

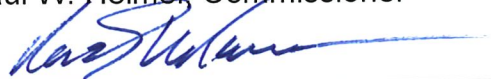
Attest:



Paul W. Heimel, Commissioner



Jessica J. Giebel, Chief Clerk



Robert W. Rossman, Commissioner

1. Purchases shall be made in accordance with the requirements of Section 7.1 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.
 2. Purchases shall be made within the amounts appropriated in the annual NRAT COG Budget, unless otherwise approved by the COG.
- B. **Sale or Disposal:** The following procedures will apply to transfer, sale or disposal of NRAT COG property:
1. **Transfers among COG Agencies:** Upon approval of the Executive Director, personal property used by one COG agency may be transferred or sold to another COG agency provided the Executive Director determines that the cost reasonably reflects the value of the personal property.
 2. **Sale or Disposal:** The sale or disposal of any NRAT COG property, vehicles, office furniture, supplies and equipment shall take place in the following manner: It may be offered for sale at fair market value to a municipal government or school district. If none are interested, the COG shall authorize sale to the general public at a publicly advertised, sealed bid or auction. The COG may reserve the right to set a minimum price and to reject any or all bids.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Articles of Agreement must be initially approved by a majority vote of the COG. In order to be adopted, the amendment must be approved by a unanimous vote at a second COG meeting. Amendments shall not be effective until approved by each voting Member in the same manner as this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the elected representatives of the municipalities comprising the NRAT COG hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their proper officers pursuant to the authority vested in them by the governing bodies, this 11th day of December, 2025.

Attest: _____ By: _____

Attest: Jessie M. Gubel By: Nancy J. Grupp

Attest: _____ By: _____

APPROVED BY MUNICIPALITIES AS FOLLOWS:

Municipality

Date

Ordinance #

Pottsville

12/11/2025

2 of 2025

Tioga County

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-3

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF TIOGA COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN AND
AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL ATV TRAIL
NETWORK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BY REFERENCE AND JOINING SAID
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, Tioga County finds it in the public interest to join the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments and adopt the Articles of Agreement of said Council of Governments, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Articles of Agreement are available for public inspection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the duly elected board of Tioga County that:

SECTION 1. Adoption by Reference.

The Articles of Agreement Between and Among the Governments of the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments, are hereby adopted by reference.

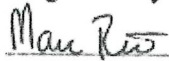
SECTION 2. Joining the NRAT COG and Authorizations.

Tioga County hereby joins the Northcentral Regional ATV Trail Network Council of Governments in accordance with the attached Articles of Agreement and authorizes the chairperson and/or appropriate staff to execute any and all legal documents to effectuate this purpose.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners



Marc Rice



Shane Nickerson




Sam VanLoon

Attest:


Christopher Gabriel, Solicitor

Witnessed:


Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the designated representatives of the municipalities comprising the NRAT Network COG hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their proper officers pursuant to the authority vested in them by the governing bodies, this 21st day of November, 2025.

Attest: _____ By: _____ (Clinton)

Attest: _____ By: _____ (Potter)

Attest: Janice Chamberlain By: Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk, Tioga

APPROVED BY MUNICIPALITIES AS FOLLOWS:

| Municipality | Date | Ordinance # | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | (Clinton) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | (Potter) |
| <u>Man. Rep. [Signature]</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>2025-3</u> | (Tioga) |

APPROVED BY ADDITIONAL MUNICIPALITIES AS FOLLOWS:

Municipality

Date

Ordinance #

Attest: _____ By: _____