



Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESSEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Stormwater Progress: Notes and Perspectives

By David Zorn

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, paved areas, lawns, and bare soil, picking up a variety of materials on its way, including many pollutants. This is often referred to as "non-point source pollution" since there is not one single source of the pollutants, but rather many contributors.

Polluted runoff degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. According to an inventory conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), half of the impaired

waterways in the U.S. are affected by stormwater runoff.

Significant improvements have been achieved in controlling pollutants from "point source pollution," that is, pollution that is discharged from sewage, wastewater treatment plants, and large industrial sources. Attention has shifted to other sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff. Stormwater management, especially in urban areas, is becoming a necessary step in reducing pollution in our waterways, and presents new challenges. Stormwater runoff normally cannot be treated in the same way as accomplished by sew-

age and wastewater treatment plants. Such "end-of-pipe" controls are not the best answer for removing pollutants from stormwater runoff. The best way of controlling them is usually at the pollutant's source. Sometimes, significant improvements can be made by employing best management practices, or "BMPs". They can lead to relatively inexpensive ways of preventing pollutants from getting into the runoff in the first place.

The EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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Upcoming Events

October 27-29, 2004 - **American Planning Association, New York Upstate Chapter Conference**, Clarion Riverside Hotel and Port of Rochester, Rochester

November 19, 2004 - **Fall Local Government Workshop**, Genesee River Restaurant and Reception Center, Mount Morris

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 585-454-0190, EMAIL US AT GFLRPC@GFLRPC.ORG, OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.GFLRPC.ORG

G/FLRPC is constantly striving to efficiently use its resources. To that end, we are offering an email/digital version of the newsletter. If you would like to receive this instead of the paper version, please let us know.

Stormwater (continued)

(NYSDEC) have increased their attention to stormwater in several ways. A federal regulation, commonly known as Stormwater Phase II Regulations, requires permits for stormwater discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in urbanized areas. In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region this includes most of Monroe County and portions of Ontario and Wayne Counties. Phase II Regulations also require permits for construction activities disturbing one or more acres in both MS4 and non-MS4 communities.

To implement the new regulations, the NYSDEC issued two general permits in 2003, one for MS4s in urbanized areas and one for construction activities in communities statewide. The permits are part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES). In order to comply with the permit, the MS4 municipalities must meet certain requirements, known as the six minimum measures.

New York State MS4 communities are discovering the power of partnerships as they move forward with their

stormwater management programs. When DEC put out a funding call for MS4 projects last year, the criteria indicated that eligibility for greater amounts of funding was contingent on the number of partners included in the application.

As a result more than 96% of MS4 communities, including Monroe County's, applied for funding to help implement their stormwater programs. The majority of applications were submitted by multiple MS4s in collaboration. NYSDEC has funded Monroe County's application through the progressive work of the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition.

Building on the foundation of existing partnerships among localities and fostering new collaborations, MS4's are anticipating many benefits, including increased administrative efficiency and heightened watershed focus. These advantages allow funding to go farther in protecting high priority waters.

It has been a year since the MS4s submitted their Notice of Intent (NOI), which outlines their approach to the six minimum measures. The

first deadline for Municipal Compliance Certification (MCC) forms and Stormwater Management Annual Reports (SWMPAR) for the MS4's was June 1, 2004. MS4's needed to report on their progress in their Stormwater Management Programs, identify adjustments based on the year's experience, and describe what they expect to accomplish in the coming year. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with the assistance of Regional Planning Councils are currently reviewing the annual reports.

Assistance is available for the non-MS4 communities that must comply with the Construction Permit. Several training sessions have been held throughout the year in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, including at the Spring Local Government Workshop. Additional sessions will be held at the upcoming Fall Local Government Workshop in November (see brochure insert). For more information on the municipal implications of the Stormwater Phase II program contact G/FLRPC or NYSDEC.

www.gflrpc.org
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm

Ten Goals for Economic Development: A CEDS Review

By Margaret DelPlato

The 2003-2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process has been completed. The CEDS report, which benchmarks where the region (also referred to as “the District”) is and how it can meet its future potential, is nearing completion. Below are the 10 broad goals for the Economic Development program to focus on over the next few years.

Goal I – Assist in the Retention and Expansion of Existing Industries in the District

G/FLRPC will continue to actively work with federal, state, regional, county and local officials, departments, institutions, agencies and businesses to address issues that influence the advantages of the District.

Goal II – Assist in the Attraction of Industries and Firms to the District

G/FLRPC will take an active role in providing research and information to regional development organizations in an effort to assist their marketing efforts.

G/FLRPC will look to partner with other agencies such as universities and Workforce Investment Boards on

the issue of attraction/retention of youth and intellectual capital.

Goal III – Assist in the Upgrading of Skills of the District’s Workforce

As various employment and training organizations in our District work to meet the needs of existing and future employment demands, G/FLRPC can supplement and strengthen the efforts of the District’s workforce development efforts through project completion and technical assistance.

Goal IV – Encourage Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship

G/FLRPC can assist small businesses by serving as a clearinghouse for information, programs and resources available to them.

Goal V – Strengthen the Capacity of Counties and Local Governments to Undertake Economic Development Activities that Encourage Efficient Land Use and Development Patterns

G/FLRPC will assist the economic development departments and IDAs in a wide range of activities that will expand local economic development capabilities, obtain state and federal funding and help implement develop-

ment projects.

Goal VI – Enhance Existing Tourism Opportunities and Develop New Recreation Destinations and Facilities

Regional tourism promotion is most effective when efforts are coordinated. Multi-county projects that will generate increased out-of-area spending will continue to be the focus of G/FLRPC. This can be accomplished through expanded work with tourism promotion agencies and business assistance to tourism-related businesses.

Goal VII – Strengthen Regional Coordination

There is a direct relationship between the regional economy and the actions of the local, regional, state and federal development organizations. Outreach by G/FLRPC to regional organizations, agencies and departments is a logical way to promote information and data sharing on a project by project basis.

Goal VIII – Assist in the Retention of Manufacturing Employment

G/FLRPC will continue to assist the county economic developers, Empire State Development Corporation, New

Continued. Please see ‘CEDS’ on Page 4

CEDS (continued)

York State Department of Labor, regional community colleges and others involved in industrial production, site selection and workforce issues to inform and keep our clients aware of programs and projects influencing the business climate of manufacturing firms.

Goal IX – Strengthen Agriculture and Agribusiness

The District has a cultural

and economic tradition deeply rooted in agriculture. This tradition should be maintained and enhanced to allow for further growth and diversification in agribusiness such as food processing, packaging and distribution.

Goal X – Work with Local Governments to Improve the Infrastructure of the District

Research and technical assis-

tance will be provided to partner agencies, counties and municipalities in an effort to identify and secure funding for infrastructure improvements and extensions.

For the complete 2003-2004 CEDS, for previous CEDS documents and supporting information about the process and products, please see the website listed below:

www.gflrpc.org/ceds.htm

Please Pass the Salt: A Look at Road De-Icing in the Region

By Kevin Beers

More than 15 million tons of salt are applied to roads in the United States annually to remove ice from roadways (US EPA, 2002). Precipitation can wash the salt into soil and then into groundwater and surface water. Stockpiles of salt stored on the ground can also be washed into the soil and it has been found that high sodium levels in water pose a health risk and also damage vegetation, vehicles, and bridges (Massachusetts Audubon Society, 1987).

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under the 604(b) Program provided funding

for the *Genesee-Finger Lakes Road Deicing & Storage Inventory*. The purpose of this inventory was to update the 1998 inventory that gathered information on road deicing in terms of the processes and materials used as well as how and where the materials are stored. This information was obtained by surveying Highway Superintendents and Public Works Supervisors throughout the region. Responses were received from 93% of them.

The survey results indicate deicing material usage in the region has increased significantly, from approximately 310,000 tons during the 2001-2002 winter season to

over 550,000 tons the following year. The survey results also indicate that the percentage of open storage areas as opposed to enclosed ones has decreased since 1998 (from 37% to 22%) and the same is true for storage of deicing materials on gravel/dirt surfaces (from 38% to 19%). This means more materials are being stored inside, which is good news for the region's waterways.

For more detailed information about this project, please visit our website and view the final "Genesee-Finger Lakes Road Deicing & Storage Inventory" report.

www.gflrpc.org/Planning/WQ/wqdata.htm

Upstate Planners to Gather in the Flower City

The Genesee/ Finger Lakes Section of the American Planning Association will be hosting the 2004 Annual New York Upstate Chapter Conference at the Clarion Riverside Hotel in Rochester on October 27th through 29th. Over 100 planners from across New York State as well as the Province of Ontario are anticipated.

The conference theme is "Planning on the Edge," and sessions will focus on three areas: Economic Development, Community Character, and Planning Tools and Techniques. Topics such as alternative energy, open space conservation, revitalization efforts in the City of Rochester, and economic development for small communities have been planned.

The conference will conclude with a special presentation of the Port of Rochester redevelopment activities, scheduled to be held in Charlotte. A "hard hitting" panel discussion has also been arranged to address the current state of Upstate New York.

For more information, please call 585-428-6858 or visit www.nyupstateplanning.org

Energy Smart Update

G/FLRPC is proud to announce that a new Finger Lakes Energy Smart Coordinator will be joining the G/FL Team in early October. Matt Griffiths come to us from DEC headquarters in Albany, where he has been working with the Division of Water.

Matt is a Chili native and has, in the past, been a hard working intern at G/FL.

He can be contacted by calling G/FLRPC offices at 585-454-0190 or emailing: mgriffiths@gflrpc.org

For more information on the Finger Lakes Energy Smart Program, visit:

www.gflrpc.org/Energy/Index.htm

Genesee River Basin Action Strategy Update

The first draft of the Genesee River Basin Action Strategy is currently available. After receiving important stakeholder input through a series of meetings, G/FL has compiled the latest data regarding basin-wide water quality and restoration and protection efforts, including those currently underway and others recommended for implementation. The result will be an action-oriented document that targets specific water quality needs and is intended to assist water resources managers with decision making and funding. The draft report and more information is available at:

www.gflrpc.org/GeneseeRiver.htm

Staff Training

G/FLRPC staff have been active in the past few months with various conference and training activities. These include:

Data Technology and Resource Center

ESRI Seminar – ArcGIS 9.0, June 2004, Buffalo, NY. (Kevin Beers)

Virtual ESRI Seminar – Migrating to ArcGIS 9.0, July 2004, ESRI Virtual Campus. (Kevin Beers)

Regional, Local, and Water Resources Planning

Walkable Communities Confer-

ence, June 2004, Rochester, NY. (Jason Haremza)

Canadian Institute of Planners/Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference, July 2004, Toronto, ON. (Jason Haremza)

Sustainable Communities Conference, July 2004, Burlington, VT. (Brian Slack)

Foundations of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, August 2004, Albany, NY. (Brian Slack)

Economic Development

Brownfield Redevelopment Conference, August 2004, Richmond, VA. (Margaret DelPlato)

"A Sense of Place"

Stories about the things that make our Region unique.

With crisp evenings and rustling leaves, Autumn seems the perfect season for a tale of a ghost town.

The remains of the community of St. Helena are now located within Letchworth State Park near Trail 13.

St. Helena got its start in the 1830s when a bridge was built across the Genesee River and was the only crossing between the Middle Falls and Mt. Morris. In 1860 St. Helena had several mills, two stores, a hotel and 25 dwellings.

The decline started after the Civil War with mill fires and the destruction of the bridge by ice jams and flooding. By the 1920s there were fewer than a dozen families in the community; the last family moved out in 1948.

Source: www.letchworthparkhistory.com

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Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca,
Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates, through its plan-
ning, economic development, data resources,
and other program areas.

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