

Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Volume 2, Number 1, Spring 2005

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning, An Important Milestone

By David Zorn

Hazard Mitigation Planning is an important aspect of overall community planning. This collaborative process identifies hazards, assesses vulnerability to the hazards, and builds consensus on how to minimize or eliminate the effects of these hazards. Hazard mitigation planning is the process of determining how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural and human-caused hazards.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) was authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), as amended

by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Funding for the program is provided through the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to assist States and local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program. It is designed with the intent to reduce future disaster damages, public expenditure, private losses and a community's vulnerability to hazards

An important program milestone has now passed. After November 1, 2004, local governments and Indian Tribal governments applying for PDM and HMGP funds through the States will need to have an approved

local mitigation plan prior to the approval of local mitigation project grants. Therefore, the development of local multi-hazard mitigation plans is key to maintaining eligibility for future PDM funding. In New York State the program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO).

To date, G/FLRPC staff has worked with member counties and municipalities in development of their All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additional plan development will continue through 2005 with the goal of full regional compliance with the 2000 DMA.

For additional information on this important program visit:

www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/Planning/Mitigation/AllHazardMitigation.htm

Upcoming Events

April 28-29 - **Main Street Institute**, New York Main Street Alliance conference, Jamestown

May 4, 2005 - **Design Matters 2: From Vision to Reality, The Next Steps in Community Revitalization**, Downtown Community Forum, St. Mary's Church, Rochester

May 12, 2005 - **Development and the Environment**, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference, Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford

May 13, 2005 - **Spring Local Government Workshop**, Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Energy \$mart Communities

Opportunities for municipalities to engage in energy-efficiency

by Matt Griffiths

Energy-Efficient Buildings

First, enroll for a low cost energy audit to be done on the four oldest municipal buildings in your community. Then, receive up to \$10,000 to upgrade old, energy-hungry, equipment with new, more energy-efficient equipment using NYSERDA's Smart Equipment Choices Program. In the construction of new buildings, consider the life-cycle costs of high performance and green buildings to the short term initial costs of conventional buildings. Technical assistance and financial incentives are available through the New Construction Program.

Water & Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Twenty municipalities across the state are currently participating in energy-efficiency research and demonstration projects at their water and wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The Town of Amherst has made upgrades in motors, variable speed drives, controls and lighting resulting in annual savings of \$560,000. NYSERDA provided \$1.3 million of incentives to help offset the capital cost of the WWTP portion of the town-wide multi-year energy efficiency project.

Effective Energy-Efficient Street and Traffic Lighting

Municipalities can install new street lighting as part of projects to enhance historic character and improve the appearance of a business district. Proper replacement of high pressure sodium cobra-head fixtures with metal halide historic lanterns can result in energy savings, improved color for shopping and business areas, and enhanced aesthetic value of pedestrian areas without sacrificing public safety. LED traffic signals use up to 90% less energy and last 5 times as long as incandescent signals.

www.NYSERDA.org/incentives.asp#Municipal

A Regional Welcome!

G/FLRPC welcomes two new staff members to the team. Ellen Micoli Soffa, a graduate of SUNY ESF and Allegheny College, and Christopher Tortora, a graduate of SUNY Cortland, have joined the Council as planners. Both Ellen and Chris are returning natives of the region. Ellen will be working in the Regional, Local, and Water Resources program area, while Chris will be responsible for the Data, Technology and Resource Center.

Welcome aboard!

Blowin' in the wind: Regional Roundtable 10

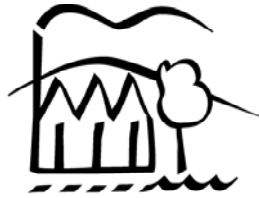
On March 4, 2005 G/FLRPC hosted its tenth Regional Roundtable discussion. The topic was issues and opportunities related to commercial wind farm development. With nearly 60 participants, Roundtable 10 was the largest since the series began three years ago. Representatives from local municipalities, involved state agencies, elected officials, wind energy companies and environmental organizations were among those who participated in the discussion. Many participants commented on the value of forums like the Roundtable to be able to share concerns and hear ideas.

Part of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council mission is to "provide forums for discussion, debate, and consensus building." The Regional Roundtables, held two to four times a year, are one way of advancing this aspect of the Council's mission.

Notes from the Roundtable will be posted on G/FLRPC's website in the coming weeks.

www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/AdditionalServices.htm

Click on 'Regional Roundtables'



Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

Spring 2005 Regional Local Government Workshop

Friday, May 13, 2005
Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford

Spring Local Government Workshop Co-sponsored By:

New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) – New York State Archives and Records (SARA) – American Farmland Trust (AFT)
Parks and Trails New York (PTNY) – American Planning Association (APA)

Genesee County Planning Board • Livingston County Planning Department • Monroe County Planning and Development Board
Ontario County Planning Department and Board • Orleans County Planning Board • Seneca County Planning Board
Wayne County Planning Board • Wyoming County Planning Board • Yates County Planning Department

Workshop Registration

Individual: \$40.00 Vendor/Exhibitor: \$300.00
(includes 2)

All registrations include continental breakfast & buffet lunch

PLEASE REGISTER BY May 6, 2004
NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 6

Who should attend?

Municipal Board Members • Elected Officials
Planning Board Members
Zoning Board of Appeals Members
County and Municipal Employees • Enforcement Officers
Planners • Land Use Professionals • Attorneys • Consultants
Concerned Citizens

Burgundy Basin Inn

1361 Marsh Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534, 585-248-2660
<http://burgundybasin.com>

Directions

Various ways to I-490. Take Exit 26 to Rt 31 west. Follow Rt 31 west for approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto Marsh Rd. Follow Marsh Rd for approximately 2 miles. Burgundy Basin Inn is on the right.

For more information call Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council at 585-454-0190 or visit www.gflrpc.org



| Time | Session A | Session B | Session C |
|------------|--|---|---|
| 8 - 9 | Registration, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits | | |
| 9 - 10 | A1 - ZBA Overview, NYSDOS This course will address the powers and duties of zoning board of appeals and its interrelationships with enforcement officials, the municipal planning board, and county planning agencies. Instructors will provide information on the statutory requirements relating to the issuance of use and area variances and the handling of zoning interpretations. Board procedures will also be discussed, as will the importance of making good findings. (CEO, Attorney, and AICP credit) | B1 - Conservation Subdivision, NYSDOS Even well-planned conventional subdivisions can be improved. This session will look at conservation subdivision, a form of cluster subdivision, which redistributes development on a site in manner that preserves important environmental, historical, and aesthetic features. | C1 - Stormwater Phase II: Revising Local Laws, Bernie Schmelz, DOS The implementation of Stormwater Management Review can be very complex and may require the amendment of a community's existing zoning, subdivision and site plan regulations. Find out about the local law revision process as it relates to Stormwater Management Review. Included in the discussion will be model language prepared by the NYSDEC and NYSDOS. (CEO, AICP credit) |
| 10 - 11 | | | |
| 10:30 - 11 | | B2 - Open Space Planning, NYSDOS A discussion of the town's options regarding the enhancement of its park and recreation system. Topics to be discussed will include identifying open space, open space planning techniques, and municipal tools for open space protection | C2 - Local Regulation of Wind Energy Systems, Lori Heithoff, NYSDOS This session will address the adoption of local laws to regulate both large and small wind energy systems. We'll also discuss the environmental, aesthetic, and economic issues of interest to local governments. Finally, we'll discuss applicable state and federal regulations relating to wind energy systems. |
| 11 - 12 | A2 - Meetings & Hearings, NYSDOS Goals and requirements associated with holding meetings, which are different from the purposes and legal requirements surrounding a public hearing. (Attorney, Fire & CEO Credit). | | |
| 12 - 1 | Lunch, Exhibits | | |
| 1 - 2 | A3 - Records & Decision Making (NYSDOS) At this session participants will receive tips for organizing paperwork for current and long term use and creating a good record. They will also learn of the importance of findings and how to write them, as well as the importance of making and filing timely decisions. (Attorney credit) | B3 - Planning a Future for Agriculture in New York, David Haight, AFT Agriculture is an important part of the economy and landscape of many New York communities. This session focuses on town-level planning techniques that can be used to pro-actively address the business and land use needs of farms. Topics include: why farms and farmland are important to New York communities; challenges in planning for agriculture; local tools for supporting the business needs of farms and public farmland protection strategies. Examples of planning tools used by case study communities from around New York will also be profiled. | C3 State Archives' GIS Grant Funding for Local Governments, Jennifer O'Neill, SARA GIS can be a tool for government, but its complexity makes it difficult for governments to develop and fund. This presentation will focus on successful applications to develop and implement a GIS through the State Archives' grant program. |
| 2 - 3 | A4 - PB Overview, NYSDOS This session will address the powers and duties of town, village and city planning boards and commissions. Both the administrative and regulatory roles of the planning board will be discussed, including comprehensive planning, site plan review, special use permits, subdivision review. The role of the board in making recommendations to the zoning board of appeals will be discussed. The importance of board procedures, referral to the county planning agency, and making findings will be discussed. (CEO, Attorney, and AICP credit) | | C4 - Talking Trails, Fran Gotcsik, PTNY, Rich Perrin, GTC. Learn how trails can benefit your community, discover where to find the resources needed to build them, and participate in a discussion of issues and concerns. Find out more about the plan for a network of trails across the region. |
| 3 - 4 | | B4 - Local Solutions to Community Revitalization, Ken DiSanto, Clyde IDC 10 years ago, citizens in the Village of Clyde saw the need to improve their community. An innovative 4 point plan was developed. Clyde has made progress towards its goals and demonstrates that revitalization is often most successful when it comes from within. | |

Registration Form - Spring 2005 Local Government Workshop

Name: _____

Municipality/Company/Organization _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number (w/Area Code): _____ Email: _____

Please Circle the sessions you will be attending:

A1 A2 A3 A4
B1 B2 B3 B4
C1 C2 C3 C4

Registration Fee:
\$40 per individual, \$300 per vendor/exhibitor

Please make checks payable to:
G/FLRPC

Please, no refunds after May 6

Mail, Fax, or Email Registration by May 6 to:

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
50 West Main St, Suite 8107
Rochester, NY 14614
Email: gflrpc@gflrpc.org Fax: 585-454-0191

Questions and Information: David Zorn, 585-454-0190 x14, dave.zorn@gflrpc.org

Regional Development and the Environment

May 12, 2005

Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

Hosted by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation and partners under a cooperative agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and coordination via the New York Department of State and Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.



Workshop Registration

Individual: \$20.00 Checks Made Out To: NADO

All registrations include continental breakfast & lunch

PLEASE REGISTER BY May 5, 2005

PLEASE NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 5

Who should attend?

This workshop is designed for planning and development organizations, board members, staff, volunteers, transportation planners, community development professionals, management professionals and others interested in development and the environment from regional perspective.

Burgundy Basin Inn

1361 Marsh Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534, 585-248-2660

<http://burgundybasin.com>

Directions

Various ways to I-490. Take Exit 26 to Rt 31 west. Follow Rt 31 west for approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto Marsh Rd. Follow Marsh Rd for approximately 2 miles. Burgundy Basin Inn is on the right.

For overnight accommodations call the Brookwood Inn at 585-248-9000 and indicate that you are attending a Workshop at the Burgundy Basin Inn.

For more information call Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council at 585-454-0190 or visit www.gflrpc.org



Regional Development and the Environment

- 9:30 am – 10:00 am Breakfast
- 10:00 – 10:15 am **Introduction and Acknowledgements**
Kelly Novak, NADO Research Foundation
Representative, Congressman James Walsh's Office and/or (Invited)
Representative, Congressman John Kuhl Jr.'s Office (Invited)
- 10:15 – 11:15 am **Why the Need for Regional Development and Environmental Viability**
An introduction to the purpose and benefits of development that is both economically and environmentally viable and the general benefits of planning for and developing quality communities from a regional point of view.
Alex Marshall, New York Regional Planning Association and nationally syndicated columnist and author
- 11:15 – 12:15 pm **Regional Economics + Environmental Viability = Quality Communities**
Presentation of two model regions where development is achieving equitable opportunities for satisfying livelihoods and a safe, healthy, high quality of life for current and future generations.
Al Sharp, Centralina Council of Governments, Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life Project, Charlotte, NC
- 12:15 – 1:45 pm **Lunch and Keynote Speaker**
Randy Daniels, New York Secretary of State, *Quality Communities in NYS*
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **Regional Development and Watersheds**
A look at land use planning that allows for efficient water and wastewater infrastructure development and identifies water conservation planning and management strategies.
National Non-Point Source Education for Municipal Officers (NEMO) Network at SUNY, Stony Brook, NY
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**
- 3:15 – 4:15 pm **Regional Water Resources**
Presentations on non-point source pollution prevention practices, such as low impact development, and Phase II Stormwater Permits.
Seth Heminway and Ken Harmon, Directors, Phase II Stormwater Permitting, Washington, DC and Angus Eaton, Section Chief, New York Water Programs, New York, New York

Registration Form - Regional Development and the Environment Workshop

Name: _____

Municipality/Company/Organization _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number (w/Area Code): _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee:
\$20 per individual

Make Checks Payable to NADO and Mail by May 5, 2005 to:

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
50 West Main St, Suite 8107
Rochester, NY 14614

Please make checks payable to: NADO

Please, no refunds after May 5

Questions and Information: David Zorn, 585-454-0190 x14, dave.zorn@gflrpc.org

Main Street News & Notes

In January, the Governor announced nearly \$11 million of awards under the New York Main Street Program's first funding round. The State program, which is administered by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the Housing Trust Fund Corporation, is a natural outgrowth of the State's Quality Communities Initiative.

Communities in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region were awarded \$725,000, with grants going to the LeRoy Business Council (LeRoy, Genesee County), Group 14621 Community Association, Inc. (Rochester, Monroe County), the South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. (Rochester, Monroe County), and the Geneva Business Improvement District Management Association, Inc. (Geneva, Ontario County).

Echoing the Governor's remarks, G/FLRPC believes that downtown business districts represent the hearts of communities across the region, and has many resources to offer communities interested in Main Street Revitalization. Jason Haremza, Senior Planner at G/FLRPC, will highlight these resources at the spring conference of the New York Main Street Alliance's Main Street Institute, to be held in Jamestown, NY, April 28-29. Visit www.cardi.cornell.edu for more information on the Main Street Institute.

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

Monroe County GIS Training, March 2005, Rochester, NY (*Chris Tortora & Ellen Micoli Soffa*)

Geocoding and Data Improvement, March 2005, Rochester, NY (*Chris Tortora & Ellen Micoli Soffa*)

Regional, Local, and Water Resources Planning

Stormwater Phase II training, January 2005, SUNY ESF, Syracuse, NY. (*Brian Slack*)

Economic Development

Tech Led Economic Development, February 2005, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA (*Margaret DelPlato*)

Energy Smart Coordinator

Better Buildings by Design, February 2005, Burlington, VT (*Matt Griffiths*)

Revitalizing Town and Neighborhood Centers, February 2005, Buffalo, NY (*Matt Griffiths*)

Local Laws Project Update

The Local Laws to Protect Finger Lakes Water Quality Project continues to progress. This project has three primary phases:

1. Assessment of existing laws and practices in 56 municipalities in the Canandaigua, Cayuga, and Conesus Lake watersheds
2. Revision of existing and/or development of new ordinances to address priority issues in 13 targeted municipalities in the three watersheds

3. Outreach and education statewide through a 'user-friendly' manual that will guide municipalities on how local laws can help solve water quality challenges

The Assessment phase will be wrapping up shortly, the Revision phase is approximately 75% complete, and the Outreach and Education phase is slated for September and October of 2005.

www.gflrpc.org/Publications/LocalLaws.htm

On Track in Arcade

The Strategic Plan for Downtown Arcade is moving "full steam ahead" towards a successful completion in late spring. This action oriented

plan will integrate short, medium, and long-term recommendations for downtown Arcade with a Main Street market analysis.

www.gflrpc.org/Publications/ArcadeStrategicPlan.htm

"A Sense of Place"

Stories about the things that make our Region unique.

It would be difficult to find a tale that pulls together more aspects of this newsletter issue and this season: hazards, spring, St. Patrick's Day, water resources, as well as the regular topic for this column: local geography and history.

One hundred and forty years ago, the Genesee Valley experienced one of the worst floods in recorded history. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1865, spring rains fell over the rapidly melting snow pack of the southern Genesee River basin. Telegraph messages were sent north to Rochester, where less rain had fallen, warning the city of the approaching peril. Officials, believing they could handle this flood as they had floods in the past, dismissed the warnings.

As darkness fell, the river began to rise rapidly in Rochester. It continued to rise throughout the night, cresting late the next morning. At Main and State Streets, the water was 10 feet deep and too swift to paddle through. All bridges across the river were submerged and the city was cut off for days. Towns and cropland up and down the valley were devastated.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Rochester deepened the river channel to increase capacity. However, it was only with the completion of the Mt. Morris Dam in 1951 that the Flower City was spared further widespread flood damage, most notably with Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

Source: "Runnin' Crazy: A Portrait of the Genesee River" by Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck with Edward Curtis, Jr.

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Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
serves its nine member counties: Genesee,
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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