



Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Addressing Wind Energy Development Through Land-Use Planning and Zoning

As interest in developing and capturing renewable energy resources increases, opportunities for locating wind energy facilities in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region are being more frequently examined and, in some instances, implemented. With this increased interest in wind energy, municipalities are sometimes forced to address development proposals that their current land-use regulations do not specifically or sufficiently cover. To better manage potential wind energy development, municipalities are increasingly looking to put in place policies and regulations they feel will allow them to best guide wind energy in their communities. Two land-use planning tools through which municipalities can enact wind energy development policies and regulations are the comprehensive plan and the zoning ordinance.

Comprehensive Plan

The comprehensive plan lays out the intended and preferred future land-uses and development patterns of a municipality. By addressing wind energy in its comprehensive plan, a municipality is able to develop a community vision for the future of wind energy development and to institute zoning regulations accordingly.

Continued: *Please see Wind Energy on Page 3.*

Village of Wolcott is Awarded Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds

The Village of Wolcott, located in northeastern Wayne County, recently received word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that it has been awarded a grant of \$948,000.00 for a new storm sewer system. This grant award is a direct result of the Village's participation in the development of the Wayne County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Village officials worked with the Wayne County Planning Department to prepare the grant application.

The Village has repeatedly suffered severe and persistent flooding due to an old, undersized storm sewer system. In the late 1800s, when buildings were constructed along Main Street, natural drainage patterns that allowed rainwater to flow directly into Wolcott Creek were interrupted. Over the years, additional development has worsened the problem so that even small rain events cause flooding. Village officials have been looking for ways to eliminate this problem without raising local taxes.

This grant will subsidize the cost of a new storm sewer system that will solve the flooding problems in the center of the Village. Less pressing flood problems in other areas of the Village will be addressed by using annual appropriations from the regular budget.

Continued: *Please see Village of Wolcott on Page 3.*

Upcoming Events

Save the Date! Spring 2008 Local Government Workshop: *May 2008*

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS LISTED INSIDE ON PAGE 2!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 585-454-0190, EMAIL US AT gflrpc@gflrpc.org, OR VISIT US ONLINE AT www.gflrpc.org

Recent Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Publications

- School Enrollment Projections for the Marcus Whitman School District

Recent Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Presentations

- September 10, 2007: Historic Preservation Planning/Certified Local Government (CLG) Program – Town of Bethany
- September 25, 2007: Shared Municipal Services
- October 19, 2007: Regional Roundtable on Waterfront Planning and Development
- October 24, 2007: Town of Bennington presentation *Planning and Zoning for Wind Energy*
- November 1, 2007: How Local Food and Agriculture Contribute to Community and Economic Development: Challenges and Opportunities
- November 1, 2007: Monroe County Land Use Training Seminar – *Integrating Hazard Mitigation Planning Practices into Municipal Land Use Plans and Regulations*
- November 6, 2007: Historic Preservation Planning/Certified Local Government (CLG) Program – Village of Medina
- November 16, 2007: Historic Preservation Planning for Municipalities – Fall Local Government Workshop (LGW)
- December 10, 2007: Marcus Whitman School District Enrollment Projections

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference** at Cornell University, December 18th, 2007
- NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination is pleased to offer a new GIS workshop, "**Introduction to GIS Web Services.**" Visit <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/outreach/training/gistraining/webservices08.html>
The Rochester-area offering of this free workshop will be held on Thursday, February 14 2008 in the Town of Greece.
- Spring 2008 **Local Government Workshop**: May 2008.

G/FLRPC REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) UPDATES

Gold Pride Press, Inc. - \$200,000 to assist with purchase of equipment for business expansion. For more information on the Revolving Loan Fund program contact David Zorn at dave.zorn@gflrpc.org or 585-454-0190.

Planning Leads to Results

- \$948,000 to the Village of Wolcott for a major flood mitigation project (reconstruction of the Village's storm sewer system) for implementation of the Wayne County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (*see article on Pages 1 and 2 for further details*).

Announcements

Clean Watershed Needs Survey:

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) is seeking county and municipal assistance in documenting the capital needs for water quality projects. EFC is now collecting information for the 2008 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey for the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New York State Wastewater Needs Assessment Survey (WNAS) for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Clean Watersheds Needs Survey information can be found at: <http://www.nysefc.org/home/index.asp?page=357>.

Wind Energy: *Continued from Page 1.*

Developing a community vision enables municipalities to inventory and analyze sites that may present opportunities for wind energy development and to develop goals, objectives, and action strategies to best capture the community vision for wind energy.

Zoning Ordinance

Through the zoning ordinance, municipalities may establish development review processes, bulk requirements, design standards, and siting guidelines that reflect local preferences for managing wind energy development. Municipalities can require that wind energy facilities be subject to several approval standards and review processes, including a special use permit, site plan review, a use variance, an accessory use, or a standard permitted use. The zoning ordinance also allows municipalities to establish setback and height requirements, noise control and lighting restrictions, and aesthetic specifications. Municipalities can additionally use their zoning to allow for wind energy facilities in specific zones or to create overlay zones in which wind energy is a permitted use.

By putting in place policies and regulations in their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances that address and regulate wind energy development, municipalities can better manage the review process, location, and design standards of potential wind energy facilities.

For additional wind energy resources available to municipalities please see: <http://www.gflrpc.org/Wind.htm> and <http://www.powernaturally.org/>.

Village of Wolcott: *Continued from Page 1.*

However, by relying on the countywide hazard mitigation plan to secure outside funding for the main flood problem sites, municipal officials can accomplish this ambitious flood mitigation project without placing an additional burden on local taxpayers.

Please see this newsletter for future updates on the Wolcott project as it progresses. For information on the Wayne County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, please visit: <http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/WayneAllHazard/MitigationPlan/Index.htm>.

For information on FEMA's hazard mitigation grant programs, please visit: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/index.shtm#3> or, for information on New York State's role in this process, see: <http://www.semo.state.ny.us/programs/mitigation/>.

Marcus Whitman School District Enrollment Projections: Results Analysis

In April 2007, the Marcus Whitman School District, which spans portions of Ontario and Yates Counties, contracted with G/FLRPC to prepare enrollment projections starting with the 2007-08 academic year and ending with 2011-12. The document that was prepared includes a description of the methodology, historical enrollment trends, current and future residential development factors, and enrollment projections for the next five years.

The enrollment projections employ the grade-to-grade cohort survival ratio methodology, which is considered a standard for projections of this type. Three projections using this methodology were created to capture trends in the last 5, 10 and 15 year time periods.

Residential growth in most of the municipalities in the district has been relatively slow in the past and it seems that future growth would not be significant enough to increase student enrollment. Historic residential development trends were derived from building permit data found in G/FLRPC's Land Use Monitoring Report. Interviews with local Zoning/Code Enforcement Officers confirmed that the slow growth trends in most of the district's municipalities would continue in the future.

The three enrollment projections that were created are very similar to each other and show the same trends. Each projection suggests a district student enrollment decrease each year for the next five years. Total enrollment decline could range from 243 to 279 students during this period. The secondary school is projected to have a similar trend of decline each year, while the primary schools may gain a few students (from 6 to 18) at the beginning of the 2007-08 and 2010-11 school years. All three projections show the largest enrollment loss will take place between the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years (from 81 to 90 students).

The findings of this report were presented to the Marcus Whitman School Board on December 10th.

For information on how G/FLRPC prepares enrollment projects and on how G/FLRPC can assist school districts with enrollment projections, please contact David Zorn at (585) 454-0190 x14 or dave.zorn@gflrpc.org.

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program Update

The LUCA program is the only mechanism for communities to work with the U.S. Census Bureau to update the file that controls the delivery of the 2010 Census form that is most responsible for an accurate count, the Census Master Address File (MAF). In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council is acting as the liaison for all participating counties and municipalities by revising the MAF.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau's LUCA schedule had invitation letters going out to municipalities in August 2007. Municipalities and their liaison could then register to update the MAF for the Census Bureau and the Census Bureau would send these MAFs to registered municipalities or liaisons in August of 2007. All revised MAFs are required to be back to the Census Bureau by March 2008. Although the U.S. Census Bureau only allows 120 days for revision of each MAF, the official U.S. Census Bureau schedule allowed eight months for the entire process (August 2007 through March 2008).

As of this date we have only received two of the seven county MAFs that were supposed to be mailed back to us for revision starting in August. When we did not receive MAFs in September we contacted the Director of the Census Bureau and requested that the date for final submittal of revised Master Address Files be pushed back as well (presumably for the same amount of time it takes for the Census Bureau to mail back the MAF data to us – at this point that appears to be approximately 4 months). Therefore, we believe final submittal of revised Master Address Files should not be due until July 2008 (as opposed to March 2008).

On December 3, 2007 we finally received a response from the U.S. Census Bureau on our request stating that they "cannot fulfill our request to extend the LUCA review period." In early November we began contacting our senate and congressional representatives and many of them are working on our behalf. Additionally, many of our county and municipal governments have contacted the U.S. Census Bureau and their senate and congressional representatives, requesting that the end date for submittal of revised MAFs be moved from March to July, 2008.

In the meantime we continue to prepare for the delivery of the Master Address Files so that we can

begin the process of revision. While we are hopeful the U.S. Census Bureau will be responsive to the needs of the region and the need for an accurate Census 2010, as things stand now, we are in the position of having to do the revisions to nine county MAFs in less than four months versus the eight months listed in the U.S. Census Bureau's schedule.

If anyone is interested in contacting the U.S. Census Bureau and/or your senate and congressional representatives and you would like a copy of the letter you can send them please visit: <http://www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/DTRC/LUCA/LUCALetter.htm>.

Fall 2007 Local Government Workshop: Re-Cap

The 24th Local Government Workshop (LGW) took place on November 16, 2007 in Mt. Morris at the Genesee River Restaurant & Reception Center. This workshop saw record attendance as over 350 local government officials, staff, board members, and others participated in the three concurrent sessions. We received many great ideas for future workshop sessions from the participants. Special thanks to all the presenters, exhibitors and sponsors who make successful Local Government Workshops possible.

Presenters included folks from the New York State Department of State Division of Local Government and Division of Coastal Resources, the Genesee Transportation Council, City of Rochester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University Department of City and Regional Planning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

Exhibitors included E&M Engineers and Survey PC, LaBella Associates, PC, Laberge Group, MRB Group Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, P.C., New York Planning Federation, New York State Department of State Division of Local Government, New York State Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination, and the Steinmetz Planning Group.

Information on the 13 sessions and session materials can be viewed and downloaded from the Fall 2007 Local Government Workshop web page at <http://www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/AdditionalServices/Workshops/Fall2007/Fall2007.htm>. Our 25th Local Government Workshop will take place in May 2008. Information for the Spring 2008 Local Government Workshop will be mailed and will be available on our web site in March 2008.



Dr. Dawn Dittman of the USGS stands with a sturgeon taken from the Cayuga Outlet in 2006. Dr. Dittman estimates that the sturgeon stocked into the lower Genesee River will likely grow to this size in the next 5-10 years.

Genesee River Conference is a Huge Success!

The G/FLRPC-sponsored Genesee River Conference was held on October 26th, 2007 and was met with great fanfare. Over 100 attendees gathered at the Genesee River Restaurant and Reception Center in Mt. Morris to listen to and discuss issues pertaining to the state of natural resources throughout the Genesee River Basin.

Officials and representatives from a wide variety of backgrounds were on hand to present their work or to elaborate on the current or future plans and activities of their organizations. Track sessions focused on three primary areas of concern: water quality, open space protection, and biodiversity. Organizations and agencies represented included: a variety of divisions within the NYS DEC; the US Army Corps of Engineers; the Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper; the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative; SUNY Brockport; Rochester Institute of Technology; the Monroe County Departments of Health and Environmental Services; The Nature Conservancy; the Genesee Valley Conservancy, Pack, Paddle and Ski; and the Potter County, PA Conservation District.

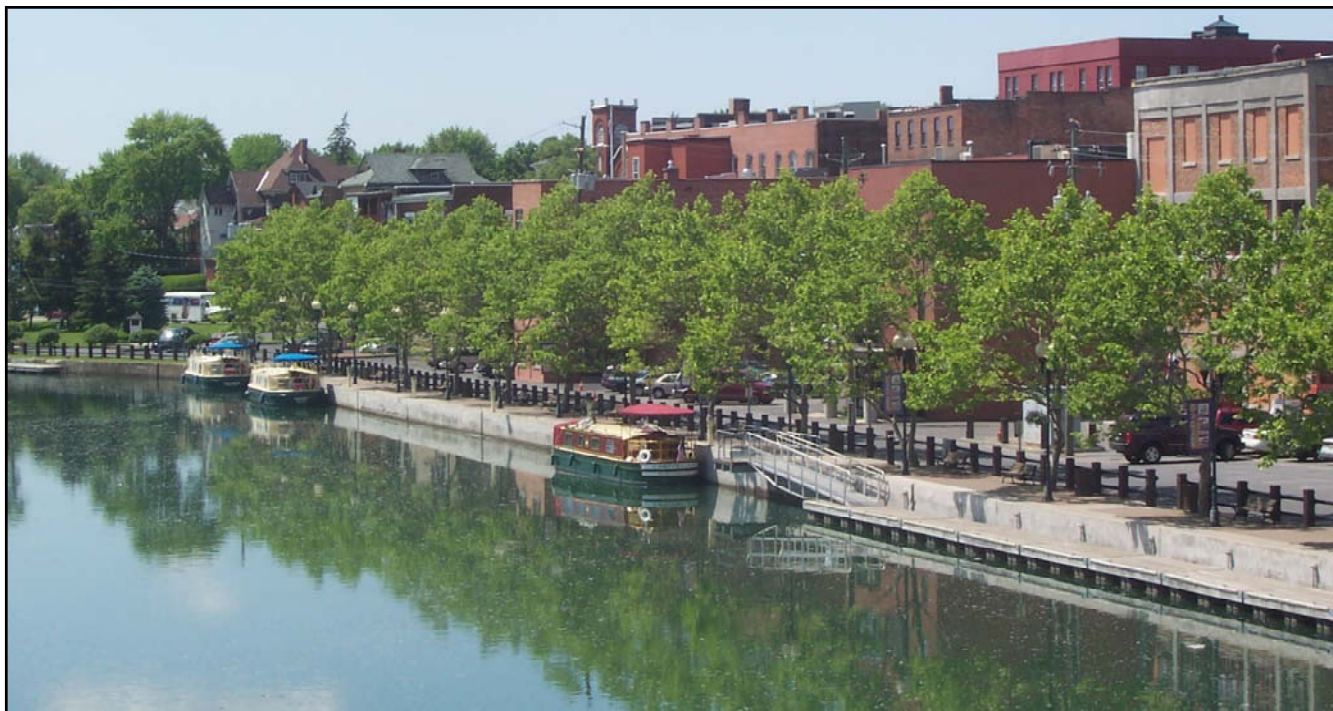
While all presentations drew significant merit in the conference evaluations, several were shown to be

particularly useful and enjoyable to attendees. The presentation delivered by Jeff Myers entitled the Priority Waterbodies List in the Genesee River Basin detailed specific information relative to water quality within tributaries of the river and offered insight into the monitoring practices employed by the NYSDEC. The three presenters in the session on "Open Space Preservation" did a superb job covering nearly every facet of the issue and questions and answers during the session were plenty. The session on "Threatened Species and Species Restoration" covered the status of several well-known but rarely-spotted residents of the Genesee River Basin including the sturgeon and the river otter. Participants were pleased to hear news of their slow but steady recovery in the Genesee River.

All presentations delivered at the conference can be viewed through G/FLRPC's website at the following address:

<http://gflrpc.org/GeneseeRiverConference.htm>.

Finally, G/FLRPC would like to thank all of those who could attend, either as an interested party or as a presenter.



A view of the Cayuga—Seneca Canal waterfront in the Village of Seneca Falls. Attractive waterfronts featuring pedestrian friendly infrastructure, public artworks, easy access to local businesses, accommodations for boaters, and historic structures are a key draw for tourists and residents alike throughout the region. Photo courtesy of Jason Haremza.

Taking Advantage of Our Region's Waterfront: Fall 2007 G/FLRPC Regional Roundtable

The Genesee-Finger Lakes Region is known for its richness of water resources. The area “where water meets land” provides a habitat for both human and wildlife communities. In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, traditional maritime industries have thrived and harbors continue to operate along the shores of Lake Ontario; the recreational pursuits of the Finger Lakes and the Genesee River are well-explored; and residents and visitors alike endlessly flock to the arts and entertainment districts along the Erie Canal. Waterfront planning in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region is alive—and its potential for further growth and enhancement is vast. How can existing waterfronts continue to meet their long-range and comprehensive goals, and how can we reach out to our neighboring waterfronts for planning opportunities?

The conversation about the issues and opportunities for waterfront planning and development occurred on Friday, October 19, 2007 in downtown Rochester at the Ebenezer Watts Conference Center. Regional Roundtables are facilitated several times each year by G/FLRPC to exchange ideas, discuss opportunities, and explore solutions to issues affecting our region.

Some of the issues defined by the participants included the availability of access for water-dependent activities, the proliferation of legacy cottage “teardowns” and new construction of larger structures along waterfronts, the carrying capacity of waterways, and intermunicipal coordination and cooperation. The New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources offered funding opportunities via the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, which encourages regional planning and local government coordination. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation shared information about the New York Heritage Areas Program’s 25th Anniversary with the New York Heritage Development Forum. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8 advised early involvement in the planning process for valuable input and assistance.

To review the notes from the Fall 2007 Regional Roundtable, see <http://www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/AdditionalServices/Roundtables/WaterfrontRegionalRoundtableMinutes.pdf> or contact Jayme Breschard at (585) 454-0190 x18 or jbreschard@gflrpc.org.

Rochester Outreach Meeting on the 2007-2011 New York State Historic Preservation Plan

Over 50 representatives from non-profit organizations, individuals and private enterprises, and local, state, and federal governments attended a public outreach meeting regarding New York's latest five-year statewide historic preservation plan at the Ebenezer Watts Conference Center in downtown Rochester on Wednesday, October 31, 2007.

New York's statewide historic preservation plan is a master plan for historic preservation activities within the state. Preparation of this long-range plan offers consideration of past accomplishments and challenges, research on approaches and strategies, the strengthening of existing partnerships, and opportunities for new relationships. It is also a requirement for federal program funding from the National Park Service. The regional outreach meeting in Rochester is one of many continuing across the state that provides an opportunity in the planning process to identify, evaluate, and address issues, needs, and challenges relating to historic and cultural resources.

In response to one of the topic questions, "*What changes need to be made for us to get to success beyond our wildest dreams?*," comments included: 1.) more education efforts targeted for both the general public and local government officials, 2.) an enhanced local and regional presence from the State Historic Preservation Office, 3.) a cross-disciplinary approach to historic preservation and coordination with other planning efforts, such as working cooperatively with the Empire State Development Corporation, and 4.) the strengthening of tax credits in upstate New York.

Anyone interested in reviewing the comments from the Rochester public outreach meeting, contact Jayme Breschard at (585) 454-0190 x18 or jbreschard@gflrpc.org.

Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan Update

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan was prepared by the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council under the direction of the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force (HLWTF) for the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund Act. Adopted by the HLWTF on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, this planning document functions as a comprehensive plan or "road map" to protect Honeoye Lake and lists the necessary steps to save this beautiful watershed for future generations.

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan demonstrates that an extensive amount of water quality data exists for Honeoye Lake and its watershed. Along with the assessment of local land use laws throughout the watershed, this data will be used to support sound measures necessary to protect and improve quality of life, quality of uses, land use management, and land value. Over seventy (70) action items are recommended in the document to address all existing and potential threats to water quality in the Honeoye Lake Watershed. Accomplishing the objectives of the Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan will require the shared efforts of all watershed municipalities in addition to New York State,

Livingston and Ontario County agencies, educational institutions, private non-profit organizations, and the community. By working cooperatively on the action items identified in the HLWMP, the overall objectives and recommendations to protect Honeoye Lake and its watershed can be accomplished.

To review the final document, see <http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/Honeoye/HoneoyeLakeWatershed.htm>; or contact Jayme Breschard at (585) 454-0190 x18 or jbreschard@gflrpc.org.

For more information on the articles in this newsletter and the other projects of G/FLRPC, please see our website at:

www.gflrpc.org



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A Sense of Place

Medina, in Orleans County, is well known as the source of the world famous "Medina sandstone." Prized as a building material due to its aesthetic and fireproof qualities, this stone was quarried in several areas around the County and used throughout the region and the world from the 1830s to the 1920s. Many homes, churches, commercial buildings, public and institutional edifices, as well as prominent structures such as the New York State Capital, were built with this stone. In addition, it was employed for curbing, paving, funerary monuments, and a host of other uses. Today, visitors to Medina can appreciate the Village's rich architectural heritage, which displays the versatility of this unique sandstone: it was equally suitable for use as massive foundation blocks as it was for delicate sculptural ornamentation.

Source: *Medina: The Stone Everlasting*. July 2007 reprint of a circa 1905 promotional booklet by the Medina Sandstone Society.

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Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council is a public entity that serves its nine member counties* with planning, economic development, data resources, and other program areas.

**Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates*

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