

VII. LOCAL COMMITMENT AND CONSULTATION

7.1 LOCAL COMMITMENT

The Town of Evans initiated its efforts to prepare an update to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in 2008, at which time the Town established the Waterfront Advisory Committee to oversee and assist with the updating the existing program, which was adopted in 1986. The Waterfront Advisory Committee was comprised of ten members of whom nine were local residents. The Committee included representatives from the Evans Parks Department, the Economic Development Board, the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Sturgeon Point Advisory Board, the Conservation Advisory Board, and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. Support was also provided by the New York State Department of State, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Office of Recreation and Historic Preservation. This committee met 17 times during the planning process to assist with the update of the LWRP.

To strengthen local commitment for the Town's planning efforts, the Waterfront Advisory Committee held two public information meetings to provide local citizens an opportunity to comment on significant issues and opportunities in the Town waterfront areas. These meetings were held on May 12, 2009 and June 3, 2010. The first meeting was held to introduce the LWRP to the public and provide an opportunity for local residents and stakeholders to provide input on the issues and opportunities they felt were important in the waterfront area. This meeting was well attended and numerous comments were gathered (see attached meeting summary). The second public information meeting offered an opportunity for additional public comments on the policies, proposed projects and other proposed actions for implementing the LWRP (see attached meeting summary). The information gathered at these meetings was utilized to further shape and finalize the LWRP findings and policies, as well as the outline of proposed projects and implementation actions outlined in the program.

Efforts were also made to reach out to community associations along the waterfront. The Town assembled a list of the active associations and organizations; a letter of invitation and accompanying informational materials were sent to each to schedule individual meetings. This letter and information was also sent to active businesses in the area. No responses were received by the Town indicating that there was no interest in this effort on the part of the local community organizations and businesses that were contacted.

Prior to the adoption of the updated LWRP, the Evans Town Board held a public hearing on the LWRP. This hearing provided the general public with an opportunity to hear a presentation on the draft LWRP, as well as to provide the Town Board with final input on the program.

Once the draft sections of the LWRP were finalized they were posted on the Town of Evans website for the public to review. Draft sections I through V were available prior to the second public information meeting to enable the public to review the proposed policies, recommendations and implementation strategies. A completed preliminary draft document was also posted online for public review prior to the Public Hearing.

The announcements for the information meetings and public hearing and the minutes of the meetings are included in Appendix F

7.2 CONSULTATION

During the course of updating the Evans LWRP, the Waterfront Advisory Committee forwarded draft sections of the revised program to the Department of State for their review and comments. In addition, draft documents were distributed to a number of involved and interested agencies to gather their comments on program findings, policies and recommendations. The local agencies that were contacted for their input included the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the surrounding municipalities (Town of Hamburg, Village of Angola and the Town of Brant).

The draft LWRP was reviewed and accepted by the Evans Town Board and forwarded to the New York State Department of State. The Department of State initiated a 60-day review period for the draft program pursuant to the Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (Appendix G). The draft LWRP was posted online and made available to Federal agencies, potentially affected State agencies, Erie County and the Town of Evans, Village of Blasdell and City of Lackawanna and any other entity interested in the program. Comments received on the draft document were reviewed by the Department of State and the Town, and changes were made to address the substantive comments. Thereafter, the final LWRP was adopted by the Town and presented to the New York State Secretary of State for approval, and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for concurrence.