

TASK VIII

METHODOLOGY FOR OBTAINING LOCAL COMMITMENT

The Town of Irondequoit has undertaken a variety of activities geared to developing local commitment and support for its LWRP. The Town's major effort in this regard has been the creation of a Citizen's Planning Committee whose members comprise a broad cross-section of the community. Committee members have been selected both for their interest in Irondequoit's waterfront and their familiarity with the issues affecting this area. Most Committee members also reside and own property within the LWRP study area boundaries.

As of July 1, 1986, the Committee held eight (8) meetings and workshops, which included presentations by Town staff, the LWRP Consultant, and various County officials. The purpose of these meetings and workshops was to provide Committee members with the opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions regarding the tasks constituting Irondequoit's LWRP. Committee meetings, which were staffed by the Town Planner and a representative of the Town's LWRP Consultant, were used to present information on the Irondequoit waterfront, to answer members' questions concerning LWRP procedures and requirements, and to discuss the members' review comments and text revisions. The end result of these activities was a revised set of LWRP tasks reflecting the concerns and priorities of Committee members, which was subsequently presented to the Town Board for its review, prior to submission to the State.

All Committee meetings were open to the public and were advertised in Irondequoit's legal newspaper; notifications of all meetings were also sent to the County Planning Department, as well as to officials of adjacent waterfront communities (including the City of Rochester and the Towns of Webster and Penfield). Minutes for each meeting were taken, which included information on the subjects covered and the accomplishments achieved, and were subsequently made available to Committee members and various Town officials. (Copies of all Committee meeting minutes are kept on file at Town Hall, and will be made available upon request.)

The Committee's primary responsibility was to provide citizen input to those responsible for preparing Irondequoit's LWRP and for acting as liaison to other groups and individuals who share an interest in the waterfront's future. By establishing an open line of communication between these groups and the officials involved in drafting the Town's LWRP, the Committee members helped to ensure that the views and concerns of a much larger segment of Irondequoit's population were heard and dealt with prior to completion of the Town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and its submittal to the State.

The Committee and its staff have made themselves available to other groups desiring presentations and additional information on the Town's LWRP effort. (Such groups have included the League of Women Voters.) Representatives of the Committee, as well as representatives from the other towns adjoining Irondequoit Bay, also serve on Monroe County's Irondequoit Bay Coordinating Committee (IBCC), a group established to set uniform

environmental objectives, review procedures, and development standards for the entire Bay area. Because the IBCC was finalizing its recommendations at the same time that Irondequoit was drafting portions of its LWRP, it was possible for the Town to incorporate the Bay development objectives and measures prepared by the IBCC into the Town's LWRP policy statements (Task III) and the new and revised legislation constituting its implementation techniques (Task V). The IBCC staff was given the opportunity by the Town to review and comment upon its legislation for consistency with the IBCC development standards, prior to formal adoption of the legislation by the Irondequoit Town Board in May, 1986.

The involvement of the Town's Conservation Board and Planning Board in the preparation of Irondequoit's LWRP has been facilitated through the liaison activities of the Town Planner, who functions as staff to both bodies. Through this official, who has played a major role in the Town's LWRP process, the concerns, priorities, and perspectives of each board have been articulated, with the result that they are reflected throughout Irondequoit's LWRP. The Town Board's involvement, on the other hand, has taken place primarily through workshops and public hearings and informational meetings. These have provided each Board member with information on the LWRP's content and progress, as well as the opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions for incorporation into the LWRP draft documents, prior to its final adoption.

Mention should also be made of the efforts of the Town to involve those municipal officials who will have the primary responsibility for implementing the LWRP or who will otherwise be affected by its adoption and implementation. These officials include the Town Supervisor, Planner, Attorney, and Commissioner of Public Works. Several meetings and workshops, which included these officials and the Town's LWRP Consultant, were held for the purpose of obtaining their input and guidance during the entire LWRP process.

The Town established an ongoing relationship with the local press, providing it with notices of all meetings and workshops, news releases, and other information relevant to the LWRP. The media will continue to be used by the Town to familiarize the general public with the LWRP's objectives, methodologies and proposals, as well as to encourage citizen input. A more formal procedure for obtaining the reaction of the general public to the policies and recommendations of the LWRP has been the holding of one (1) public hearing and one (1) workshop by the Town Board, which were advertised in the Town's legal newspaper, the Irondequoit Press.

The purpose of the workshop (held on November 20, 1985) was to review and obtain comments on drafts of Tasks I through V of the Town's LWRP, prior to their submission to the Department of State. The public hearing (held on May 1, 1986) dealt with the new and revised ordinances produced by the Town as part of Task V, Implementing Techniques, and resulted in their formal adoption by the Town Board, as part of Town Law. An additional public hearing was held by the Town Board prior to finalization of Irondequoit's LWRP. This hearing provided the public with the opportunity to comment upon each section of the LWRP prior to its formal approval by the Board, thus ensuring that the comments and recommendations made by the public were given due consideration.