

SECTION EIGHT

LOCAL COMMITMENT

To insure that the needs and desires of the community were reflected in the local program, in mid-1983 the Mayor of Ogdensburg established a Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Committee. The seven-member Ogdensburg Planning Board constituted the core of the Waterfront Advisory Committee. The City Council also appointed seven additional members from the city at large. Together, these fourteen members represented a cross section of the Ogdensburg community and included people associated with the Chamber of Commerce, Ogdensburg Charlestown Mall, Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, the Augsburg Corporation, the Remington Museum, the St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council, and waterfront businesses and landowners. The city's Director of Planning and Development served as an ex-officio member of the committee.

This committee held numerous meetings over two and one-half years to discuss and review sections of the program as they were drafted. Recommendations of the committee on completed sections were transmitted to the City Council for consideration by the Mayor and Councilors. The Advisory Committee and the City Council provided significant contributions of time, interest and expertise in the preparation of the LWRP. Citizen input improved the data base, verified program information, and identified critical waterfront issues, problems, and projects. All meetings were held in City Hall and were open to the public. The local radio station and one or both of the local daily newspapers frequently attended the meetings. Media coverage concerning the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program was often extensive and served to inform the general populace about the program.

Following the completion of the draft LWRP, the Advisory Committee formally approved the draft and forwarded it to the City Council. Upon approval by the City Council, the draft document, including the draft EIS, were submitted to the NYS Department of State for distribution to federal and State agencies for a 60-day review period, as required by Executive Law, Article 42. At the same time, the draft documents were filed and distributed as required by the SEQRA. As a result, there were a number of comments received from which further revisions and refinements needed in the LWRP were identified. These revisions and refinements were described in the final EIS and incorporated into the final LWRP document. The final program document, then, was adopted by the City Council and submitted to the NYS Secretary of State for approval.