

# Annual Planning Symposium

June 7, 2012

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **A. Reconciling Green Infrastructure Implementation Challenges: Case Studies and Local Experience**

Ellen Hahn, CPESC, CPSWQ, Stormwater Control Specialist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

David Kubek, CPESC, CPSWQ, Senior Planner, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

The course will provide an overview of the challenges municipalities face in implementing the new NYS Stormwater Management Design Standards. Challenges to be discussed include conflicts between local codes and site planning requirements, maintenance and municipal access to small-scale green infrastructure practices, and funding of construction and maintenance of green infrastructure practices. Several case studies from successful programs around the country will be presented. Representatives from Central New York municipalities will then participate in a roundtable discussion to share their experiences and ideas.

### **B. Understanding and Using the New SEQRA Environmental Assessment Forms**

Diane Carlton, AICP, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The DEC has adopted new Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF) which will go into effect on October 1, 2012. Learn what new information is required by the forms, how to answer questions the forms pose and work with a proposed project using the new forms.

### **C. Onondaga County Sustainable Development Plan**

Sustainable Development Plan Team

This session will build on the Plenary Session and explore the draft Onondaga County Sustainable Development Plan in more detail.

### **D. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction**

Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Jamie Sutphen, Esq., Partner, Baldwin & Sutphen and Planning Board Attorney, Town of DeWitt

The most elementary of the Training Unit's course offerings, Introduction to Planning and Zoning is designed for new members of both planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. The course provides a basic overview of the functions of planning boards and zoning boards of appeals and the land use tools they work with, the role of the comprehensive plan, procedures for holding meetings and hearings, and the enforcement of the boards' decisions.

*(Attorneys may receive 1.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Professional Practice.)*

### **E. From Problem Properties to Prosperity: The Making of a City-County Land Bank**

William P. Fisher, Deputy County Executive, Onondaga County

Dominic Robinson, Director, "Northside Urban Partnership" and Deputy Director of Urban Initiatives, CenterState CEO

Katelyn Wright, Planner, Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency and Land Use Planner, City of Syracuse Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

Panelists will discuss the basics of Land Banking and the push to create a Syracuse-Onondaga County Land Bank; the opportunities that Land Banking can provide Syracuse and the rest of Onondaga County; the basic structure of the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation (City-County Land Bank); and anticipated strategies for using the Land Bank to reclaim and redevelop vacant and derelict properties, revitalize our region, and increase the tax base.

## **F. Sustainable Streets**

Moderator: Brian J. Donnelly, Commissioner, Onondaga County Department of Transportation

Karyn L. Johnson, MEd, CHES, Public Health Educator, Onondaga County Health Department

Transportation planning affects health in many ways. During this session we will discuss how our current road system affects public health, what a complete street is, and how incorporating complete streets into our communities can improve the health of citizens.

James D'Agostino, Director, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Aaron McKeon, Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

The first phase of the SMTC's Sustainable Streets Project will provide a big picture look at sidewalks in Onondaga County, including a complete inventory of sidewalks in the County, research on best practices in planning, funding and designing sidewalks, a set of criteria for figuring out the best places to build new sidewalks, and developing ideas for how to make specific locations in the County more accessible to pedestrians.

Mark Grainer, P.E., AICP, Civil Engineer II, New York State Department of Transportation

New York State's new Complete Streets law requires state and local transportation agencies to consider "Complete Streets" designs that will make streets and roadways across the state safe and accessible to everyone. This presentation will discuss how the New York State Department of Transportation is implementing this Complete Streets law.

Paul S. Mercurio, MLA, Transportation Planner, City of Syracuse Department of Public Works

This presentation will address how to implement Complete Streets by looking at some projects in the City of Syracuse that are taking Complete Streets into mind.

## **G. Walkable Communities**

Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Increasing the availability and attractiveness of pedestrian facilities can help revitalize downtowns, provide an alternative means of transportation, and encourage a healthier lifestyle. This session provides an overview of several common municipal land use tools (zoning, site plan review, subdivision regulations, and special use permit). The program then explores how these tools can be tailored to improve pedestrian conditions by the requirement of sidewalks, pathways and other pedestrian facilities, as well as through the encouragement of better site design.

## **H. Shaping the Future of the Onondaga Lake Shoreline**

Session Moderator: Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein, Founder and Executive Director, F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse

Matthew J. Millea, Deputy County Executive for Physical Services, Onondaga County

Bill Lansley, Commissioner, Onondaga County Parks

Kenneth P. Lynch, Regional Director, Region 7, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Craig Milburn, Partner, Brown & Sanford Consulting

F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, Inc. has a contract with Onondaga County to work with the citizens of the County to validate citizen ideas generated in reports for over 60 years (dating 1950 to 2011) for improving the area around Onondaga Lake. Many voices, including residents, local, state and federal governments, the private sector, organizational stakeholders, and individuals will be heard resulting in a collaborative blueprint for the development of the lake shore. Onondaga County owns approximately 90% of the land around Onondaga Lake and has expressed its commitment to organizing the needs and desires of its citizens into a blueprint to move forward with implementation. Our first step is to gather the facts. Together we will restore a local treasure to be enjoyed for generations.

## **I. Rural Applications of Smart Growth**

Kristopher Dodson, Communications and Program Manager, Environmental Finance Center

This course will include a brief overview of the federal Sustainable Communities Partnership, Smart Growth principles and funding programs. The talk will also engage participants in identifying their community's unique assets while also identifying challenges to rural communities and offering possible solutions. This session aims to provide planning and zoning board members, in particular, with the practical tools necessary to maintain rural character while ensuring the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of the community.

## **J. Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning**

Timothy Frateschi, Esq., Partner, Harris Beach PLLC; Planning Board Chair, Town of Salina; and Municipal Attorney

Recent cases that pertain to land use will be summarized and the implications of them on land use regulation at the local level explored.

## **K. Case Study: Village of Minoa Sustainability – Cleanwater Educational Research Facility (CERF)**

Richard J. Donovan, Mayor, Village of Minoa

Steven Giarrusso, Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator, Village of Minoa

David Johnson, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry, SUNY-ESF

Klaus Doelle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Paper and Bioprocess Engineering, SUNY-ESF

This session will discuss the ongoing sustainability initiatives in the Village of Minoa. The Village has embraced a zero-waste perspective that is being implemented in its unique wastewater treatment facility through an innovative program that includes constructed wetlands and a waste-to-energy system. The Village has partnered with the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District, SUNY ESF and SKD to research energy sustainability and resource utilization, with the goal of becoming an educational and research facility that can serve as a model to other communities.

## **L. Why You Should Care About Emerald Ash Borer**

Jessi Lyons, Team Coordinator of Natural Resource programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

David Skeval, Forestry Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

Stephen Harris, City-County Arborist, City of Syracuse and Onondaga County

Jessi Lyons and David Skeval of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Steve Harris, the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County Arborist, will speak about the impending arrival of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Onondaga County and why this insect is a concern for towns and villages. The speakers will offer an overview of the emerald ash borer; the expected impact on public and private landowners; the challenges municipalities can anticipate in dealing with damage from EAB; planning strategies and collaborative approaches to minimize damage; and, what is currently being done by the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County to address EAB.