

## **GACC Minutes of Meeting March 5, 2009**

**March Thought of the Month:** Double side your work, all sheets have two faces, use them equally, and often.

1. Presentation by Tom Hersey, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (Thank you Tom)

Tom gave an overview of where the department is regarding follow through of some resolutions and legislation that have been passed by the legislature

- Protecting Wetlands – Education – Regulated Storm Water Wetlands, Wetlands are very important.
- Complete Streets – CVB – working with Hospitality facilities – Green Conferences – Provide bicycles to do sightseeing (Check out BuffaloBlueBicycle.org : Andrew M. Marconi ).

2. Tom then spoke about what the department is doing on its own to go green.

### **• Earth Day Events**

Where: Countywide

What: **Buffalo-Niagara Earth Day**

When: Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Where: Buffalo State College

What: **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Environmental Information Fair**

When: Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30 – 1:30 pm

Where: Times Beach, Seneca Bluffs and other County pocket Parks along the Buffalo River

What: **Earth Day Clean up.** We will be helping coordinate spring clean-ups at these sites. Tift Nature Preserve will be the headquarters for this c

When: Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> noon – 4:00 PM

Where: Boulevard Mall

What: **Earth Day Event.** Environmental groups invited to provide earth-friendly activities for kids

When: Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

resource with Tonawanda Coke to improve air quality.

- School Buses retrofitted with crankcase filter, Rainbow Transportation C-TON, USEPA Grant. \$30K First Student NYSERDA Phase III 6 different school bus districts
- Clean communities – grant lost not able to do the environmental work that we had been doing; need to replace those resources.
- An Environmental Management Council meets every 3rd Tuesday of the Month, which has 12 large, and 20 municipalities common to the group.
- The county got another chance to re-apply to get the NYSERDA grant.
- Overall the County will be helped by Wind Power, as well as conserving energy.
- Erie County Environmental Management Council [ECEM] initiates formal state of the County and State of the Region reports. It has an annual responsibility to produce a State of the County Report
- Gerry Sentz: Commissioner of DPW reported on Complete Streets resolution: Streets are a means to transportation. It is

apparent that the infrastructure is crumbling. Certain areas can have bicycle paths (overall: no long continuous bicycle paths for transportation not recreation/sightseeing exist. ADA needs to be considered when engineering these. Added cost to maintaining the complete roads, including the additional snow plow (Buffalo doesn't plow S curve during winter, but they have a problem plowing in general.) Local municipalities need to be willing to maintain the Complete Streets. Pedestrian Generators are observed for locations to do Complete Streets.

Rails to Trails was being lead by Bill Murray, a State right of way exists and is prohibiting the advancement of the rails. Trails are called to turn to railway with bike path at hand. Millions of dollars could be lost if not used for these improvements within four years.

- Cheryl Mekarski and Carl Nuermberger from the DISS department spoke on the resolution calling for a County policy of turning off computers. They are working with the department of Environmental and Planning to find some solution: There are 4000 computers within the County. Some computers are essential [i.e. police, emergency responders, servers etc.] An estimated 3000 computers could be turned off. by installing Smart Boards. New automated turnoff technologies do not work well with obsolete computers.

- o People power [people turning off computer by their own initiatives] does work. Suggested that computer NAGS be identified in each department be in charge of physically making sure all computers and monitors are turned off before they leave the department. Another suggested idea was to have a screen saver message reminding employees to turn off their computer and monitor at the end of the work day.

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April: Thought of the Month: Save money, by using less ink, and save the Environment. We can all do our part.