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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008 has been an active year for the New Hampshire Planners Association (NHPA). Membership grew this year to become an organization of over 200 land planning professionals working in the municipal, regional, state, and private sectors of our state. Consistent with our mission, plans are already underway to continue our past efforts to promote, assist and support professional planners in New Hampshire in achieving planning excellence to improve the quality of life today and tomorrow in New Hampshire communities during 2009.

November's annual meeting was a huge success. We had over 55 participants attending the professional development session and the meeting itself. Professional development session presentations have been posted to the NHPA website for members to download. Following up on several items from the meeting- the APA Sustainability Policy was adopted by the membership and can be viewed online (<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/pdf/sustainability.pdf>). The executive committee is now drafting an action plan outlining how as an association we can implement the Sustainability Policy. The membership mailing list policy has been finalized and also posted to the NHPA website under "online resources."

This Spring we will once again host a conference that will provide planners with useful training on current planning topics as well as opportunities for networking with other planners. The Executive Committee is busy working on the agenda and speakers. If you are interested in assisting with the conference planning or have session ideas please contact Sarah Marchant (smarchant@milford.nh.gov) and/or Becky Hebert (bhebert@onconcord.com), who are co-chairing this year's Conference Organizing Group. Stay tuned for more information on the conference.

This coming year, the Executive Committee will be involved in tracking legislation of interest to planners in the upcoming legislative session. A complete listing of planning related legislation and upcoming hearings will be regularly posted at the NHPA website. If you are interested in getting involved in the legislative process, please contact Clay Mitchell (clayaz@comcast.net), NHPA Legislative Liaison.

Please visit the NHPA website (www.nhplanners.org) regularly. The site has current events, employment and RFP information, as well as an extensive list of internet links. In 2008, the website's content was expanded to archive and maintain accessible presentation materials from the last few annual conferences and the annual meeting. Also available are links to past annual award winners. Stay tuned for additional resources to be created and posted to the web including a new sustainability page and other reports of other initiatives.

Remember to sign up for NHPA's listserv to receive periodic email announcements of events, job opportunities, NHPA happenings, and our newsletter releases. Information is available under "Online Resources" on the NHPA website.

Lastly, please remember to renew your membership in 2009. Individual membership remains \$40, and organizations (such as Regional Planning Commissions) with four or more members can join for \$150. There is also a \$15 rate for full-time students who are engaged in the study of planning or related fields.

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PLAN TO ATTEND DES'S 2009 DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION WORKSHOP ON MAY 1ST

By Pierce Rigrod, DES Source Protection Program

DES Commissioner Thomas S. Burack is expected to open this year's event and summarize key water supply issues now facing New Hampshire. The 2009 Drinking Water Source Protection program will include practical and usable information to guide local efforts to develop actionable strategies and practices that protect drinking water.

In addition to specialist "how-to" workshops, there will be technical and policy presentations from top experts who will provide insight and guidance about subjects such as: the development of the state's water plan, examples of community zoning to

enhance source protection, a summary of major changes to state regulations affecting development and the state's water supplies, new information concerning riparian buffer protection, vendors, and more!



This year's event will be held on Friday May 1 at the [Grappone Center](#) in Concord, NH. You can view the agenda and register online by visiting the American Groundwater Trust's website at <http://www.agwt.org/workshops.htm>. AGT is this year's workshop sponsor. If you have questions you can call me at (603) 271-0688 or email me at pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov.

FINDING THE GAPS IN RIPARIAN BUFFER PROTECTION WITHIN WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS

Naturally vegetated riparian buffers are the single most effective protection for New Hampshire's surface waters. Currently a patchwork of state and local protections provide varying levels of buffer protection. Within water supply watersheds there is an estimated 33,500 miles of shoreline frontage. DES has completed a GIS (geographic information system) based "buffer gap analysis" to identify and characterize riparian buffer protection. A major finding of the analysis is that within most water supply watersheds (3 out of 4), more than 40 percent of the shoreline along all streams or lakes is protected.

The analysis found that most buffer protection within New Hampshire's 55 water supply watersheds (which cover 80 percent of the state's total area) is provided through land conservation adjacent to a stream or pond or the State of New Hampshire Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). Buffer protection through municipal zoning was found to play a relatively minor role. Buffer protection was classified into 6 different protection classes, ranging from "high protection" to "none" and the percentages of protected stream and pond shoreline frontage within each class are listed in the table above. The results indicate that one-fourth of all stream frontage is protected by land conservation while nearly half of all pond frontage is protected by the CSPA.

With relatively little frontage protected under municipal zoning, this analysis demonstrates that more local planning and zoning can fill existing gaps in riparian buffer protection. Most local ordinances requiring buffers define them to be less than 100 feet and, depending upon soils, slope and/or vegetative cover, a wider buffer distance may be necessary to adequately protect drinking water quality. Other local regulations may be needed to complement a buffer ordinance in order to provide adequate pollutant removal and surface water protection. These additional ordinances include proper stormwater management, protection of steep slopes, and good site design. DES's Innovative Land Use Guide provides information and model ordinances for all of these approaches and more.

DES is using the results from this study to inform the ongoing revision of the DES's Source Water Protection Strategy and the State Water Plan. It is expected that a variety of watershed stakeholders will find the results useful when considering where to strengthen existing protections and fill existing protection gaps. Maps and spatial data are available upon request. To find out more information about this project, contact Pierce Rigrod at (603) 271-0688 or pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov.

KEENE CITY COUNCIL ENDORSES BLUEPRINT: *Calls on President-elect Obama and Congress to Invest Stimulus Dollars in Local Climate Action*

Keene, NH –Mayor Dale Pregent and Keene City Council joined with local elected officials across the country to urge President-elect Obama and the incoming Congress to invest stimulus dollars in local climate action as a quick and effective way to create new green jobs, revitalize the economy and promote energy independence.

“We were pleased that during his campaign, President-elect Obama indicated support for investment in energy saving projects to help create jobs and spur economic recovery,” said Councilor James Duffy. “We want President-elect Obama and Congress to know that with federal assistance we are ready to put our citizens to work in jobs that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and cut greenhouse gas emissions.”

Increasingly, economists are promoting green jobs as key to the country’s economic recovery and long-term growth. Investment in a green economy delivers proven return on investment through energy reduction cost savings.

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director for the city, says that if federal funds are made available to promote a green economy in Keene, projects could be implemented in the next couple of years that would create jobs and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the region. Such projects, he says, could include investment in the development of renewable energy generation facilities, the installation of energy saving street lights, development of a weatherization initiative for low-income residents, and creation of public transit projects that would decrease vehicle miles traveled. “We’ve accomplished a lot in the last decade to address climate change and federal support is imperative for Keene to do the bigger projects that will make substantial progress towards addressing the issue in our region,” says Lamb.

Local government actions have the potential to dramatically reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Energy Information Administration, more than 40 percent of energy consumption and carbon emissions come from residential and commercial buildings and one-third is generated by the transportation sector.

“Supporting local government action should be a top priority as Washington develops new economic stimulus, climate and energy policies,” said John MacLean, City Manager. “Local governments set and enforce building codes, we determine transportation and land use policies and we are dramatically affected when our communities suffer untold human and

economic loss from floods, wildfires, water shortages and other climate events.”

“Local governments have laid the foundation for this country’s response to global warming, providing the leadership, solutions and innovation that city by county by town have helped curb greenhouse gas emissions and reduce energy use and costs,” said Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of ICLEI USA.

On November 6, 2008, the date City Council endorsed the blueprint, CCP Committee member Emily Hague noted the leadership Keene has demonstrated over the last decade through actions to address climate change such as placing police patrols on bicycles in the downtown, studying the feasibility of wind, water, and solar power generation to power city facilities, the city’s use of biodiesel in its fleet, the capture and use of methane to power the recycling facility, and it’s annual holiday tradition of buying renewable energy credits to offset the lighting of the Christmas tree. “Our next step is to update our greenhouse gas emissions inventory to see where we are as a community in achieving a 10% emissions reduction – which was our goal in 2004,” says Hague.

Currently there are no federal programs to support local climate and energy initiatives. The Local Government Climate Action Blueprint calls for stimulus legislation to include \$6 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and \$9 billion for public transit and green vehicles infrastructure. The Blueprint outlines many other opportunities for the federal government to invest in local government innovation, including:

- Enactment of a national GHG cap-and-trade program with a portion of the estimated \$150 billion carbon trading revenues invested in local government climate action and green jobs initiatives;
- Investment in public transit, green vehicles and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction through reauthorization of \$400 billion federal transportation legislation; and
- \$250 million for EPA Local Climate Demonstration Grants that empower local governments to continue creating new solutions to the climate challenge.

The Keene City Council and more than 250 other local elected officials nationwide joined with Climate Communities and
(continued on next page)

KEENE CITY COUNCIL... continued

ICLEI USA to endorse *Empowering Local Government Climate Action: Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress*. “Climate Communities and ICLEI USA are organizing city and county leaders from across America to make sure that federal decision makers understand the essential role of local governments in reducing energy use and addressing climate change,” said Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County Supervisor and Climate Communities Executive Committee member. “We look forward to working with President-elect Obama and Congress to ensure that federal policies empower local communities with the tools and resources we need to get the job done.”

This announcement is part of a concerted effort by city and county officials across the country to showcase energy and climate innovations, sending the message to federal leaders that given support, local governments can and should be a critical partner in addressing climate change, achieving energy security and developing a green economy. Download the Blueprint at www.climatecommunities.us/endorseblueprint.html or www.icleiusa.org/blueprint.

About Climate Communities: Climate Communities is a national coalition of cities and counties that is educating federal policymakers about the essential role of local governments in addressing climate change and promoting a strong local-federal partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, see www.climatecommunities.us.

About ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability: ICLEI USA provides expertise, technical support, and innovative tools to help local governments advance their emissions reductions and sustainability goals. More than 500 cities, towns and counties in the U.S. are members of ICLEI. For more information, see www.icleiusa.org.

NHPA ANNUAL AWARDS

It's time for the New Hampshire Planners Association annual awards. NHPA would like to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the New Hampshire planning community with the presentation of a series of awards. Nominations will be accepted for the following categories: Professional Planner, Citizen Planner, Plan of the Year, and Planning Project of the Year. Presentations of these awards will be at the New Hampshire Planners Association Annual Conference. Award winners will also be submitted for consideration in the 2009 NNECAPA awards.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 27, 2009. The nomination forms and award criteria can be found at: www.nhplanners.org. Please submit an electronic copy of your nomination(s) to Kerrie Diers, NHPA Professional Development officer, kerried@nashuarpc.org, or Jennifer Czysz, NHPA President, jennifer.czysz@nh.gov.

NHDES RELEASING REPORT AND HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS ON WATER RESOURCES

As one of the first steps toward developing a state water plan, N.H. Department of Environmental Services is holding a series of public meetings to discuss a new report on water resources. The New Hampshire Water Resources Primer, developed by DES and a number of stakeholders at the request of the Legislature's statutory Water Resources Committee, contains pertinent facts and statistics about the state's water resources, water use, water infrastructure and water law. Individual chapters cover Rivers, Lakes and Ponds, Groundwater, Wetlands, Coastal and Estuarine Waters, Water Use and Conservation, Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Dams, and Floods and Droughts. Each of these chapters provides information about the topic, issues related to it, and current management efforts. Each chapter also provides a few preliminary stakeholder recommendations. The public meetings will cover the Primer and other work undertaken by the Water Resources Committee and DES to begin the water plan process, including a survey of state and local decisionmakers. For more information or to download the Primer, visit www.des.nh.gov and look under “What's New” or contact Paul Susca at (603) 271-7061.

“OF PLANS AND PLANNERS” ...

Tim Garceau joined the Keene Planning Department in October as a planning technician. Tim's main role is to provide assistance to the public about the Planning Board process and the Historic District review process. Tim also reviews applications, reviews permits, and enforces the HDC and Planning Board regulations, as well as provides support to city committees. Before coming to work for the city, Tim worked at the Southwest Region Planning Commission. Tim received his Masters from the Eastern Washington University and his Bachelors from the University of New Hampshire.