

JULY 20, 2006

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 13

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT EXCEPT LEGISLATOR KOZUB.

1. INTRO 11-5 (2006)

WHYTE

WHEREAS, if asked where the historic Erie Canal flowed, every man, women or child who was educated New York State would respond in song “from Albany to Buffalo;” and

WHEREAS, the Erie Canal was the economic engine that powered Albany, Buffalo and all points in between for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, under current State definitions, the Erie Canal no longer flows “from Albany to Buffalo,” but from Waterford to Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo in engaged in a major waterfront revitalization effort that has as its centerpiece an archeological restoration of the original Canal in downtown Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, currently, legislation pending in State Legislature seeks to amend the canal law extending the boundaries of the Erie Canal to restore the historic boundaries of the canal and affirm the eastern terminus at Albany and the western terminus at Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, the revisions would make Albany and Buffalo eligible for some of the hundreds of dollars available through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Renewal for revitalization and redevelopment programs targeting the Erie Canal and ensure that the true eastern and western ends of the Erie Canal system would not be left out of efforts to improve it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature to enact Senate Bill No. 1378/Assembly Bill No. 2571 to revise the legal definition of the Erie Canal to include the historic eastern and western end points of Albany and Buffalo; and

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Erie County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, and the Western New York delegation of the Assembly and Senate.

(4-0)

2. COMM. 13E-22 (2006)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), through an agreement with the U. S. Department of Energy Rebuild America Program, has been charged with organizing community-based regional partnerships to promote energy-efficient products and services throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, NYSERDA has identified Western New York as an initial pilot region for Rebuild and has solicited proposals from organizations to locally coordinate the Rebuild Western New York regional network; and

WHEREAS, through Legislative resolution (Comm. 6E-21) dated April 13, 2000, the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) has accepted this role and successfully coordinated the Rebuild Partnership in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, through Legislative resolutions (Comm. 14E-33, Comm. 12E-19, Comm. 15E-44, Comm. 14E-13) dated July 5, 2001, June 20, 2002, July 8, 2004, and June 2, 2005, the DEP accepted from NYSERDA a total of \$395,945 in grant resources to continue to coordinate the Rebuild Partnership into the year 2006; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the DEP’s success, NYSERDA made an additional \$20,142.77 in grant resources available to maintain the existing staff and continue to coordinate the Rebuild Partnership through September 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the agreements necessary to accept a grant of \$20,142.77 from NYSERDA to continue to coordinate the Rebuild Western New York Partnership, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the new revenue from the NYSERDA program is hereby appropriated in the grant as follows:

Grant validity date: 5/1/05 – 9/30/06

APPROPRIATIONS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Revisions</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
500000	Salaries	60,380	12,721.15	73,101.15
502000	Fringe Benefits	22,689	7,421.62	30,110.62

505000	Office Supplies	500		500
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement			
		300		300
510100	Out of Area Travel	2,700		2,700
510200	Training & Education	876		876
516020	Professional Service Contract & Fees	2,500		2,500
530000	Other Expenses	0		0
561410	Lab & Technical Equipment	500		500
561420	Office Equipment	500		500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:		\$90,945	\$20,142.77	\$111,087.77

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Director of Budget, Management and Finance; Andrew M. Eszak, Commissioner of Environment and Planning; Michael Raab, Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning; the County Comptroller; the Erie County Executive; the Commissioner of Personnel; and the County Attorney.
(4-0)

**THOMAS LOUGHRAN
CHAIRMAN**