

**ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**  
INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL GROWTH  
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Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster  
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

**Strategic Planning Subcommittee Review**

Members:

James Allen  
Meredith Andreucci  
Hon. Vince Anello  
Drew Cerza  
Hon. Elise Cusack  
Hon. William Davignon  
Hon. Albert DeBenedetti  
Tim Doolittle  
Hon. Wright Ellis  
Matthew Enstice  
Samuel Ferraro  
Richard Geiger  
Hon. Timothy Kennedy  
Celeste Lawson  
Maria Lehman  
Hon. Peter McMahon  
Hon. Gerald Meal  
Hal Morse  
Hon. Sean O'Connor  
Dr. Gary Praetzel  
Melinda Rath Sanderson  
F. Tim Reese  
David Rosenwasser  
Hon. William Ross  
Diane Ruzala  
Laura St. Pierre  
Hon. Demone Smith  
Hector Titus  
Timothy Wanamaker  
Charles Webb  
Peter Wendel

Economic Development

Members Present: Titus, Doolittle, St. Pierre, Wanamaker

We need to enact action plans for addressing our challenges.

The upcoming election of so many new legislators in Erie County could be either a very bad or a very good thing, but we should treat it as an opportunity. Many of those running are doing so as "reform candidates" and we fit into that model.

We should address outreach this year, and use our membership. Get a list of those to whom we need to reach out, circulate it to ENRP members, and have them "check off" who they know and will contact on behalf of the group.

A "packet of introduction" should be developed to send to new legislators in both counties.

One challenge is that we have a holdover chairman of ENRP from Erie County. We need the Erie County Legislature chairman to act.

Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale  
Hon. George Holt, Jr.  
John Sheffer, II  
Lawrence Witul

Both the Erie County Executive appointment and the Department of Environment and Planning appointment are vacant. We should identify possibilities to suggest to the County Executive to help get these filled. Some ideas from the Subcommittee: Drew Eszak, Ken Vetter, Tom Dearing, Charlene Ritter-Lester. Are there others?

Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

An educational institution is a good "neutral site" to house the group, but the housing issue needs to be settled quickly.

The document is a good summary of where we've been, where we are today, and a good blueprint for the future.

**The Economic Development Subcommittee recommends adoption of the draft strategic plan, with action plans to be developed this year.**

## Government Affairs

Members Present: McMahon, Ferraro, Meal

Two critical items – funding, housing/role of the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth.

Funding – Ask core organizations to have an idea as to their contributions at the October 14 general meeting; some dependable funding source needs to be identified.

Connections with the Niagara County Legislature need to be maintained, with the Erie County Legislature strengthened, and with the Erie County Executive reestablished. We should reach out to the two legislatures very early in 2006, and perhaps even this year to the newly elected members. Member agencies should help in this outreach, as well as to the County Executive (perhaps the Buffalo Niagara Partnership for this).

**The Government Affairs Subcommittee recommends adoption of the draft strategic plan.**

## Tourism & Culture

Members Present: Rosenwasser, Casale, Lawson, Sanderson

If the yearly reorganization of the county legislatures slows down ENRP in terms of holding its first meetings and continuing its work, would holding over the membership pending appointment be a solution?

The two Legislature chairs and the ENRP co-chairs should meet to discuss leadership issues.

A less costly, quicker alternative to a 501c3 is a New York State Charities designation, which would allow ENRP to fundraise.

ENRP's host organization should be someone with a statewide or regional agenda. Some suggestions were Empire State Development, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, and the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise.

Some thought consideration of adding other counties and/or Canada would be beneficial, but others thought that the needs of these others could lead to an “apples and oranges” situation.

The funding picture as presented in the strategic plan is not accurate. The base needs of the organization should be given (salary, fringes, in kind), then what the full \$150,000 would be used for.

**The Tourism & Culture Subcommittee recommends adoption of the draft strategic plan with a more complete breakdown of funding needs.**

### Transportation

Members Present: Morse, Ferraro, Wendel

The strategic planning effort crystallized our mission going into the future. There were some who were pleasantly surprised with the number of our successes.

Building awareness would be good, but to what end? It's better to do good work and raise awareness through that work. We want a broader and more general awareness of ENRP, but to the end of increasing our communication and making us more effective in our efforts.

**The Transportation Subcommittee recommends adoption of the draft strategic plan.**