

# New England Association of Regional Councils

*Pursuing the present and emerging needs of New England and its diverse regions*

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## NEARC 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE November 2 – 4, 2006

**The Equinox Resort  
3567 Main Street  
Manchester Village, Vermont**

### 2006 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

- |                   |  |                           |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. | <b>Conference Registration</b>   | <i>[Manchester Foyer]</i> |
| 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.  | <b>Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>  | <i>[Manchester Room]</i>  |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome to Vermont and the 2006 NEARC Conference – Robert Hartwell, President of the New England Association of Regional Councils, Chairman of the Bennington County Planning Commission and Commissioner from Dorset, Vermont</li><li>• Welcome to the Bennington Region and a Brief Orientation to the Host Region of NEARC's 2006 Conference – Gregory Burke, Executive Director, Bennington County Regional Commission; Arlington, Vermont</li></ul>                                 |                           |
| 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.  | <b>ENERGY FUTURES: A POLICY FORUM TO IDENTIFY AND EXAMINE KEY ENERGY CHALLENGES CONFRONTING NEW ENGLAND AND WHY AND HOW THESE MUST BE ADDRESSED TO FUEL ECONOMIC HEALTH AND PROSPERITY</b>   |                           |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator: David Danielson, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission</li><li>• The Context for Energy Policy in New England – Carrie Conway, Deputy Director, New England Public Policy Center</li><li>• An Energy Utilities Perspective on New England's Energy Future – Gordon van Weile, President and CEO of ISO New England</li><li>• The Role for States, Regions and Local Governments in Crafting Progressive and Coordinated Energy Policies To Sustain New England</li></ul> |                           |
| 4:30 – 4:45 p.m.  | <b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> – Conference Day #1 Adjourns  |                           |
| 5:45 – 7:45 p.m.  | <b>Reception at Hildene Mansion – The Lincoln Family Home in Vermont</b>   |                           |

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

- 8:00 – 12:00 Noon      **Conference Registration**      *[Manchester Foyer]*
- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.      **Continental Breakfast**      *[Manchester Room]*
- 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.      **ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENTS: INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO BOLSTER THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS OF NEW ENGLAND'S REGIONS**
- Moderator/Speaker: Michael King, Executive Director, North Country Council, Bethlehem, New Hampshire  
Topic: Building a Northern New England Rural Economic Collaboration
  - Speakers: Gaylord Burke and Jerrard Whitten, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, Haverhill, Massachusetts  
Topic: MerrickMeansBusiness.com – A New, Award Winning Website Portal to Market a Region's Economic Potential
- 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.      **BUILDING BETTER – MAKING LAND USE AND HOUSING REGIONALLY MATTER**
- Moderator/Speaker: Kevin Flynn, Associate Director – Division of Planning, Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program  
Topic: Overhauling the Rhode Island Statewide Land Use Plan – More Than a Sequel
  - Speakers: Christopher Curtis and Catherine Miller, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, West Springfield, Massachusetts  
Topic: Valley Vision 2: Building a New Regional Land Use Plan That Seeks More Affordable Housing Coupled With a Rational Land Use Pattern
- 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.      **Break**
- 10:30 – 12:00 noon      **REGIONAL SECURITY ROUNDTABLE: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF REGIONS, REGIONAL COUNCILS AND STRONG REGIONAL/STATE PARTNERSHIPS IN REALIZING EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS STRATEGIES**
- Moderator: Selectman Stephen Cassano of Manchester, Connecticut and Board Member of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, Connecticut
  - Keynote Speaker: Chris Essid, Interoperability Coordinator for the Office of the Governor – Commonwealth of Virginia and Member of the SAFECOM Program Executive Committee, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.
  - New England Response Panel:  
Homeland Security Directors from the Six New England States:  
Connecticut – James "Skip" Thomas, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Maine – M.G. Joseph Tinkham, II, Adjutant General, Maine Homeland Security  
Massachusetts – Robert Hass, Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety  
New Hampshire – Richard Flynn, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Safety  
Rhode Island – M.G. Robert T. Bray, Adjutant General and Director of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency  
Vermont – Barb Farr, Director of Vermont Emergency Management

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> (Cont.)

12:00 Noon –1:50 p.m. **NEARC Annual Awards Luncheon/Keynote Speaker** *[Battenkill Room]*

- Luncheon Address/Featured Speaker: Jim Brett, President of the New England Council  
Topic: A Pre-Election Preview of New England's Prospects for Working With a New Congress in Ever-Turbulent Washington

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. **New England Initiative Policy Forum: How Can the Regional Councils Help Engage the Six New England Governors in Collaboratively Taking on the Challenges and Opportunities Served – up by the New England Council/AT Kearny Report and the New England Futures Project**  
*[Manchester Room]*

- Discussion Leader/Facilitator: David Soule, Ph.D., Senior Research Assistant, The New England Initiative, University of Massachusetts Lowell

3:30 p.m. **Conference Program for Day 2 Adjourns**

3:45 – 6:30 p.m. **Free Time**

6:30 p.m. **NEARC Reception, Dinner and Keynote Storyteller** *[Rockwell Room]*

Willem Lange, Writer/Storyteller Shares His New Tale: "New England – I don't know where it's likely to go better"

### About Our Special Guest Storyteller Willem Lange

From 1968 to 1972 Will directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. Since 1972 he's been a building and remodeling contractor in Hanover. He's an adopted member of the Dartmouth Class of 1957.

In 1981 he began writing a weekly column, "A Yankee Notebook," which appears in several New England newspapers. He's a commentator or host for Vermont Public Radio and both Vermont and New Hampshire Public Television. His annual readings of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol began in 1975 and continue unabated. He's published several audio recordings and five books and received an Emmy nomination for one of his pieces on Vermont Public Television.

In 1973 Will founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, and Himalayas, bushwhacked on skis through northern New England, and paddled rivers north of the Arctic Circle.

He and his wife, Ida, who is the proprietor of a kitchen design business, have been married since 1959. They live on a dead-end dirt road in Etna, New Hampshire. They have three children and four grandchildren.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.      **Continental Breakfast**      *[Bennington Foyer]*
- 8:30 – 9:40 a.m.      **Show and Tech - Showcasing New Technology Applications that Serve Regions and Regional Councils**      *[Bennington Room]*
- Moderator: Tim Brennan, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, West Springfield, Massachusetts
- Guest Speakers:
- Tim Reardon, Regional Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Boston, Massachusetts  
Topic: Using *Community Vis* to Engage the Public in Shaping the 2030 MetroFuture Plan for the Boston Region
  - Peter Fellows, GIS Planner, Two Rivers – Ottauquechee Regional Commission, Woodstock, Vermont  
Topic: Assembling a Plan for Development for an Interstate Interchange in Randolph, Vermont Using SiteBuilder 3D to Visualize the Effects of Proposed Buildings
- 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.      **Entrepreneurial Regions – Promising Tools and Techniques Emerging Across New England**
- Moderator/Speaker: Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford, Connecticut
- Guest Speaker:
- William Mass, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Center for Industrial Competitiveness, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Spotlighting the New England Indicators Project and Its Application to Regionwide Progress
- 10:40 – 11:15 a.m.      **NARC Policy Report from Washington**
- Cameron Moore, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils, Washington, D.C.
- 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.      **NEARC Annual Business Meeting and Elections**
- Review, Discussion and Pending IRS Application for Section 501 (c) (3) Tax Exemption Status
  - Election of NEARC Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2006-2007
- 11:45 – 12:15      **Conference Raffle and Wrap-Up**
- NEARC Annual Raffle
  - 2007 NEARC Conference Site (New Hampshire?)
  - Other Important NEARC Business Items
- 12:15 p.m.      **2006 NEARC Annual Conference Adjourns**