City of Hudson
Common Council
Hudson, NY 12534

Re: LWRP comments

Dear Common Council:

I have reviewed both the DGEIS and the Generic LWRP proposals and have the following comments that the City needs to address before submission:

1. Regarding the South Bay and proposed road: there needs to be more consideration given. The report states feasibility studies are necessary. These should be done so that all options are considered. The long term health and use of these natural wetlands must not be compromised by considering only the most expedient routing.

2. There is discussion of relocating the Hudson Power Boat Association, if feasible. The City should undertake the feasibility study first. Too much importance is hinging on this for the City to consider adversely taking this property. The concept is not well received by the over 200 members who have worked for over 50 years serving as Hudson’s ambassadors to the riverfront.

3. The South Bay area under consideration for a myriad of possibilities is also privately owned. As a result, a substantial part of the LWRP is based on obtaining these privately owned parcels. The feasibility studies should be done prior to the consideration of taking of these parcels.

4. There is discussion of hiring a harbormaster. A feasibility study should be done looking into the financial viability of this. Adding expenses to an already strained tax base is not what Hudson needs. Additionally, the City should initiate a Harbor Plan before moving ahead with their LWRP plan. To have the LWRP without the Harbor Plan makes the whole plan incomplete.

5. The entire LWRP could be in jeopardy if the feasibility studies are not done prior to the submission. It is necessary to perform sequential studies to get to the point that the LWRP can be realistically considered viable.
6. The LWRP needs to be realistically based. As proposed, it relies on obtaining grants and funding. No attention is given to the costs of maintaining the improvements once they are in place. In this era of decreasing budgets, it is almost contrary to current thinking to burden the future generations without at least having a cost concept.

Overall, the above numerated areas of concern show a consistent issue. The whole plan is without any real concept of the physical, fiscal, social and future complications that it may present. Feasibility studies need to be done to determine if the City is going in a realistic direction or it risks the entire LWRP becoming an exercise in wishful thinking.

On the surface, the LWRP is a positive direction for the City. If the above suggestions are considered and implemented, it will create a stronger more realistic LWRP.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Gurian

Cc: Kevin Millington, DOS