

**Long Island Sound Watershed
Intermunicipal Council**
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LISWIC Minutes April 24, 2009

1. Roll Call

The following is a list of attendees for the April 24th meeting:

Phyllis Wittner, Chair	Town of Mamaroneck
Nancy Seligson	Town of Mamaroneck
Robert Yamuder	Village of Pelham
David Burke	Village of Rye Brook
Bob Wasp	Town/Village of Harrison
Scott Pickup	City of Rye
Steve Otis	City of Rye
Charles Strome	City of New Rochelle
Dan Sarnoff	Scarsdale
Anne McAndrews	Village of Larchmont
Richard Slingerland	Village of Mamaroneck
Steve Altieri	Town of Mamaroneck
Lester Steinman	Pace Municipal Law Resource Center
Elizabeth Paul	LISWIC Coordinator
Leah Radko	Westchester County DPW
Michael Coley	Westchester County DEF
Shay Gavin	Savin Engineers
David Kvinge	Westchester County Planning Dept.

2. Future of Regional Storm Water Management District (RSWMD)

Resolutions of support authorizing LISWIC to request NYS Legislature to create a regional storm water district for Lower Long Island Sound Drainage Basin have been received from: Larchmont, Town of Mamaroneck, Village of Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Port Chester, Rye City and Rye Brook. Harrison decided to opt out of the district. It was decided that plans to create a RSWMD will proceed with the 7 municipalities currently on board. A letter will be sent to each of the municipalities notifying them that the RSWMD legislation is being sent to the bill drafting committee in Albany.

3. Westchester County Update on Point and Non-point Source Programs for the LIS Watershed

A. TMDL Long Island Sound

Mike Coley, the Deputy Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) spoke to LISWIC members about the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restrictions that will be imposed for discharges of nitrogen to the Long Island Sound.

The TMDL is expected to go into effect by mid-September and will impact local municipalities in two ways. First, the County's Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) will need to be upgraded to significantly reduce nitrogen from effluent discharges (see below). Second, local municipalities may be required to install costly "retrofits" in stormwater systems to remove nitrogen and pathogens from non-point sources.

Nitrogen removal is costly. The expected cost to remove nitrogen at the Mamaroneck WWTP is \$10 per pound of nitrogen and \$40 per pound at the other three WWTPs. The cost for a local municipality to remove nitrogen from the storm sewer system is expected to be \$100 per pound.

NYSDEC recommends that local municipalities map their stormwater systems in GIS, and identify their stormsewer-sheds. County assistance is available for this. Next, identify which Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be most effective to implement. Stimulus funds may be available at www.recovery.ny.gov.

Nancy Seligson, the Co-chair of the Citizen's Advisory Commission for the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), announced that LISS work groups have been formed to focus on issues related to the TMDL. She asked if anyone is interested in participating in a LISS local government group.

Phyllis Wittner is preparing a public education piece on TMDL and asked for assistance with design and illustration. This could be added to the LISWIC web site.

B. Biological Nutrient Removal – Mamaroneck & New Rochelle Plants Update Non BNR Plant – New Rochelle

Shay Gavin of Savin Engineers updated LISWIC on the upgrades to the Mamaroneck and New Rochelle WWTPs. In 2004, NYSDEC issued a consent order requiring the County to reduce nitrogen from its WWTP effluent by 57%. In December 2008 the consent order was revised to give the County additional time to comply. Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) systems will be installed at both the Mamaroneck and New Rochelle WWTPs.

In Mamaroneck, the BNR system will be installed in the existing tanks and will use a process called Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge (IFFAS), which utilizes a special medium to grow beneficial nitrogen-eating bacteria and a system of pumps. Construction is expected to begin in 2010 and the cost for the project is \$40 million.

At the New Rochelle WWTP, a bio-filtration system will be added on to the existing plant, which also uses a special medium to grow bacteria. Construction at that plant is expected to begin in 2011. In addition to the BNR upgrades, the New Rochelle plant will also undergo Non-BNR work to include primary system upgrades, secondary system upgrades and sludge handling system improvements. This work is expected to begin in 2010.

LISWIC members asked that the County prepare a model of the projected costs that may be used by local municipalities to explain these cost increases to their residents. Local officials are going to need help to explain increases in fees.

C. Update Flow Monitoring Project

The consent order also requires the county to perform flow monitoring in all four sewer districts. This will help determine how much flow is coming to the plants from each municipality. By 2012, the data will be analyzed and a report will be submitted to the county. Flow monitoring meters have been installed in the County trunk mains and have been collecting data on dry weather and wet weather flows to determine where stormwater flows are entering the system.

D. Executive Order re: Fertilizer Removal

In 2007, the County issued an Executive Order restricting the use of phosphorus fertilizers on all County properties. The proposed fertilizer law now before the County Executive Board restricts the sale and use of fertilizers. A soil test will be required to show it is needed and restrictions are placed on when fertilizers can be applied. For example, the use of fertilizers with phosphorus will only be permitted during the first year a lawn is established. In January, the County Executive issued another Executive Order banning the use of nitrogen fertilizers on County property.

Restrictions on fertilizers will be difficult for each municipality to regulate and enforce individually. Ron Entringer from the NYSDEC will be invited to come to speak to LISWIC about this issue. The Taconic Bay in Long Island is a nitrogen-restricted watershed. We could look to them for examples of what is coming down the road for the LISWIC municipalities. Suffolk County is another example and has fertilizer use restrictions on what time of year fertilizers can be used and encourages the use of organic fertilizers.

E. Non-Point Source Projects – W.C. Planning Dept.

David Kvinge updated LISWIC on the status of two environmental benefit projects. The first is at Manursing Lake in Rye where the County plans to replace tide gates to increase tidal flows into the lake. Wetlands restoration will include the removal of invasive plants and replanting of native species. The second project is at Saxon Woods Park near the Mamaroneck River. Here, the County plans to look at flood management opportunities and removal of invasive species. Design is expected to be completed this year, with work to begin next spring.

The Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains is for sale. The development of this property could impact water quality and flooding in the region. The County is looking into the possibility of purchasing some or all of the property.

4. Future of LISWIC

A letter from Peter Korn was read to the group followed by a discussion of what the future of the group will be. The continued efforts to create a Regional Stormwater Utility District, compliance with the upcoming TMDL restrictions and education and outreach were identified as issues for LISWIC to focus on in the future.

Anne McAndrews was elected as interim treasurer because Leonard Verrastro, Treasurer, recently retired.

5. Set the Next Meeting Date, Time and Place

The next LISWIC meeting will be held on **Friday, June 26, 2009 at 8:30 AM** in the Mamaroneck Town Center Court Room.