

**Long Island Sound Watershed  
Intermunicipal Council**  
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## **LISWIC Minutes September 25, 2015**

### **1. Roll Call**

The following is a list of attendees for the September 25, 2015 meeting:

Charles Strome, Chair	City of New Rochelle
Arthur Gutekunst	City of White Plains
Sarah Bledsoe	Village of Rye Brook
Milagros Lecuona	City of White Plains
John T. Pierpont	Village of Pelham Manor
Rob Cole	Village of Scarsdale
Greg Cutler	Village of Mamaroneck
Chris Bradbury	Village of Rye Brook
Stephen V. Altieri	Town of Mamaroneck
Nancy Seligson	Town of Mamaroneck
Justin Datino	Village of Larchmont
Elizabeth Paul	LISWIC Coordinator
Michael Amodeo	Town/Village of Harrison
Robert Yamuder	Village of Pelham
Catherine Parker	County Legislator
Josh Ringel	Village of Scarsdale
Jill Axelrod	County Legislative Aide
Steve Pappalardo	Village of Scarsdale
Ryan Coyne	City of Rye
Adam Stolorow	Town/Village of Harrison
Benedict Salanitro	Village of Scarsdale
Mary Jane Shimsky	County Legislator
Eleanor Militana	City of Rye
Hernane De Almeida	Village of Mamaroneck
Christopher D. Steers	Village of Port Chester

### **2. Approval of Minutes – July 24, 2015**

The Minutes of the July 24, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **3. Westchester County Proposed Sanitary Sewer IMA**

#### **a. Background and discussion with County Legislative Representatives on district-wide study, construction and funding**

Chairman, Charles Strome provided an update and some background: In 2012, Westchester County released the results of their Sanitary Sewer Flow Monitoring Study conducted within the 11 municipalities located within the Blind Brook, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle and Port Chester Sewer Districts. The study results indicated that all 11 municipalities have excessive flows into the sanitary sewer system and are in violation of the County Sanitary Sewer Act. Excessive Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) is defined as flows greater than 150 gallons per capita over a 24 hour period.

The County, under a consent order from the NYSDEC is now requiring communities to eliminate I/I beginning with the communities in the New Rochelle Sewer District: Pelham Manor, Larchmont, the Town of Mamaroneck and the City of New Rochelle who currently operate certain overflow retention facilities. If sources of I/I are not identified and eliminated by the deadline, these municipalities must shut down their overflow retention facilities and face fines. Over the past year and a half, the four communities have been working with – Westchester County and NYSDEC to negotiate an acceptable intermunicipal agreement (IMA). At this point the IMA has been signed by the municipalities but not the County. The 4 municipalities are now working together to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to conduct a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES). The SSES will identify what work will have to be done to comply with the mandate.

#### **b. August 13, 2015 Meeting with County DEF:**

The remaining 7 municipalities are in the process of negotiating an IMA with the County. They began with the model IMA signed by the previous 4 municipalities and presented proposed modifications to the County Dept. of Environmental Facilities at a meeting held on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Some of their changes were accepted, but these were primarily deadline changes. Christopher Bradbury brought a revised draft of the IMA and reviewed it after the LISWIC meeting with representatives from the 7 municipalities.

NYSDEC issued a violation to the County for failing to meet the schedule to have the IMAs signed. A meeting was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the County office building. In attendance were the Deputy County Executive, Kevin Plunkett, Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Facilities, County Legislators, County Attorneys and representatives from each of the 7 municipalities. They discussed the provision of funding on a district-wide basis. The model IMA requires municipality to pay for repairs up to \$25,000 with the county providing funds above this amount on a district-wide basis. It was suggested that the municipalities each pass local laws requiring homeowners to investigate sewer laterals upon the transfer or sale of properties. Alternatively, the County could adopt this language in the County sewer act and residents would all have to comply with sewer act.

**c. Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study**

The four municipalities are in the process of preparing an RFP for an engineering firm to conduct a Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) that will identify the work necessary to comply with the County IMA. LISWIC members discussed the benefits of conducting a SSES on a district-wide basis. The other municipalities could join the four if this makes sense conducting a SSES with all 11 municipalities. Several options were discussed along with the pros and cons of each scenario. It was determined that it makes sense to group the studies by district. It would be more cost effective and efficient to proceed this way. The County should also conduct a SSES and update their flow monitoring study. Not all of the inflow is from the local sewer systems and the results of the County's study are outdated. Possible sources of funding for compliance with the mandate and any repairs identified in the SSES were discussed. Funds could be collected through a local sewer fee or a county sewer fee and it may be possible to receive funds from the State through the Clean Water Act. Another meeting will be held at the County Offices on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor and Kevin Plunkett and Assemblyman Steven Otis will be invited to discuss this.

Private sewer laterals are considered by the State and County as significant sources of I/I although this has not been verified. Local laws may be mandated that require homeowners to inspect these connections before selling their homes. In addition to the SSES, municipality must develop a Capacity Management Operation Maintenance (CMOM) Program.

**4. Save the Sound Intent to File Suit**

Save the Sound has filed a notice of intent with the County that they plan to sue the County and Local Municipalities for their failure to correct sewer overflows caused by excessive I/I into the sewer system. They have been sampling watercourses throughout the County and have compiled water quality data. The four municipalities are meeting with Save the Sound on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am. Working with Save the Sound to identify and correct sewer problems is preferable to spending funds on lawsuits. It is hopeful that they can be convinced to work with us in a cooperative manner.

**5. New Business**

No new business to discuss

**6. Set Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 30, 2015 at 8:30 am on the first floor of the Mamaroneck Town Center in Conference Room C.