

LONG ISLAND SOUND WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 1999 - September 30, 2002

The LISWIC Bylaws effective January 1, 2001 postdated the formation of the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC). The Bylaws state in Article V Section 1 “The Annual Meeting of LISWIC shall be held in the month of October of each year. At the Annual Meeting, the Chair shall present the Annual Report of LISWIC.” Since this is the First Annual Report, I believe it is prudent to begin with a history of the Council.

One of the outcomes of a four day Community Leadership Alliance Program held in the spring of 1998 at Pace University Law School by Professor John Nolan of the Land Use Law Center was the realization that this group of Long Island Sound leaders could and would encourage their governments to work together to resolve intermunicipal issues and to achieve common interests within the southern Long Island Sound (LIS) watershed. Thirty-four people representing ten municipalities attended the leadership program. Of these, five were Mayors or Supervisors, three Trustees or Council people and four Managers or Administrators representing nine municipalities.<sup>1</sup>

Realizing that there were and are issues that LIS municipalities have in common, twenty-two people met for a fifth day and began to formulate an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) and ideas for a grant.

Ultimately, the IMA was signed by eleven municipalities<sup>2</sup> during March and April 1999 under the authority of the General Municipal Law, which authorizes the creation of this type of council. The salient points of the IMA are:

- the goal of a cleaner LIS with the attendant responsibilities and benefits of protecting the LIS watershed;
- prevention of non-point source pollution, remediation of existing pollution and the preservation of open space and natural resources;
- appropriate development and restoration of the business and industrial districts to promote economic vitality;
- maintenance and improvement of the quality of life including the quality of water and air, the control of traffic and noise, the provision of open space and recreational opportunities, the cultural, social, scenic, aesthetic and historical assets of the area; and
- preservation and restoration of wetlands, water courses and associated habitat areas.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix I.

<sup>2</sup> The Cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle and Rye, the Town of Mamaroneck, the Town and Villages of Harrison and Scarsdale, and the Villages of Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Pelham Manor, Port Chester and Rye Brook.

The municipalities share the objective of establishing mechanisms and strategies for:

- sharing information regarding development projects with intermunicipal impacts,
- resolution of disputes regarding development projects that impact environmentally sensitive areas;
- developing compatible comprehensive plans, zoning and land use regulation;
- fostering the economic needs of each community;
- monitoring compliance and enforcement of regulations;
- developing programs for educating the public and public officials; and
- achieving intermunicipal cooperation in other efficient ways;

The cooperating municipalities wish to explore mutually beneficial ways of:

- securing and sharing federal, state and county agency funding;
- coordinating efforts with federal, state and county agencies and authorities to assure that activities in the watershed are compatible with the plans and programs of the cooperating municipalities.

With the problem of residential/commercial infiltration and inflow (I and I) into sanitary sewer lines and a consent order to correct the problems on everyone's mind, the Town of Mamaroneck on behalf of the eleven municipalities, applied for and received a grant in 1999 under the Environmental Protection Fund. (The fifth day of the Leadership Program was held on May 5, 1998 and the grant was due on June 3.) The original grant award was for \$100,000 (\$50,000 match) which was later adjusted to \$42,000 (\$21,000 match) because of the reduction in the amount spent for the brochure and for the engineering work (see next paragraph).

Meetings were held in March, May and July 1999 to review the contract with the Department of State before the Town Administrator was authorized by the Town Board to sign it. The grant's purpose was to form the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC), to prepare a brochure to explain I & I to residents and the need for correction of violations, and to conduct a feasibility study pertaining to stormwater management resulting from the correction of I and I work.

Two LISWIC sub-committees were formed<sup>3</sup> in July. The Technical Committee worked diligently and met numerous times to write and edit the brochure, to interview design people and to obtain printers' bids. The four-color brochure was completed and distributed to the municipalities in November 1999. The Engineering Committee prepared a Request For Proposals, and then held a pre-submission conference with the seven responding firms. The Committee selected Dolph Rotfeld Engineering. The engineering report, "Evaluation of Storm Water Conveyance Systems" was finalized and distributed in December 2001.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix II.

In 2000, the Town of Mamaroneck again wrote a grant proposal for LISWIC. This time for money for code enforcement of infiltration and inflow (I & I) compliance. The grant was awarded and the contract received at the end of April 2001. A Code Enforcement Person Committee<sup>4</sup> was formed. The original grant was written to hire a Code Enforcement person. As data pertaining to the number of illegal hookups by municipality was collected, the committee realized that it was not feasible for one person to do the job. The Department of State allowed the grant to be amended with LISWIC receiving \$50,000 with a \$50,000 match for code enforcement. The distribution method will be based upon written demonstration of municipal compliance based upon 2/3s of the number of illegal connections and 1/3 of the population. It is expected that the funds will be distributed by the end of this year.

To start formalizing the Council, an organizational meeting was held on June 23, 2000 with official representatives designated by each municipality. The latter were advised of the status of LISWIC Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants. An Executive Committee<sup>5</sup> was formed. That group met monthly to discuss items that should be included in Bylaws such as the need for and voting rights attendant to alternates and the amount of prospective dues. Trustee Kenneth Bialo drafted the Bylaws for input and approval by the Executive Committee. A search was begun for a part-time Coordinator.

The Board of Representatives held its election of officers for 2001 on October 6, 2000: President Peter Korn, Vice President Phyllis Wittner, Secretary Steven Otis, and Treasurer Kenneth Bialo. (From its inception, LISWIC was chaired by Phyllis Wittner with the able assistance of Stephen Altieri.) Bylaws were adopted provisionally on November 3, 2000 which were effective January 1, 2001. The Board of Representatives was formed with two representatives appointed by each municipality.

January 2001 saw the formation by the Executive Committee of a Program Committee<sup>6</sup> to discuss general organizational issues and plans for future actions.

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<sup>4</sup> Stephen Altieri (Town of Mamaroneck), Ronald Bianchi (Harrison), Robert Dolan (New Rochelle), Steven Pappalardo (Scarsdale).

<sup>5</sup> Peter Korn (New Rochelle) Chair, Kenneth Bialo (Larchmont), Elizabeth Marrinan (Scarsdale), Charles Peretz (Rye Brook- alternate Ingrid Bent), Phyllis Wittner (Town of Mamaroneck).

<sup>6</sup> Stephen Altieri (Town of Mamaroneck), Robert Dolan (New Rochelle), Liz Marrinan (Scarsdale), Julia Novak (Rye City), Stephen Pappalardo (Scarsdale).

The year 2002:

February:

- LISWIC was invited to join the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council<sup>7</sup> and Phyllis Wittner attended their initial meeting at Stewart Airport. A brief history of LISWIC was written for a nine council report written by the Pace University School of Law Land Use Law Center.
- Interest was shown in investigating the possibility of forming a Stormwater Utility District. Alfred Gatta and Peter Korn began the investigation.

April:

- Elizabeth Paul was hired as the first LISWIC Coordinator.
- Upon the resignation of the President and Treasurer, elections to the Executive Committee were held. The new officers are Chair Phyllis Wittner, Vice Chair Steven Otis, Treasurer Michael Wiener, Secretary Christopher Bradbury. The two representatives from the Board of Representatives are Michael Murphy and Stephen Pappalardo.
- Alfred Gatta and Peter Korn submitted an outline for the creation of a Stormwater Utility District. A subcommittee was formed to assist<sup>8</sup>. Through the ensuing months, many drafts of proposed legislation were written and critiqued by the Board of Representatives.
- Councilwoman Nancy Seligson (Town of Mamaroneck) and Councilman Noam Bramson (City of New Rochelle) presented a proposal to interconnect trail systems from the Town and Villages of Mamaroneck., the City of New Rochelle, the Village of Larchmont, Scarsdale, Eastchester and Westchester County into a 16-mile greenway trail.
- Phyllis Wittner presented an overview and time line of what will be required by federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for compliance with the new Phase II Stormwater Regulations. The creation of a stormwater utility district will be useful in helping the municipalities meet these requirements. Public Education and Outreach is one of the six control measures required for compliance with the regulations.
- A chart indicating which municipalities have erosion and sediment control laws and which have stormwater management laws in place was prepared. Liz Marrinan of Scarsdale and Kathy Savolt of Mamaroneck Village co-chaired a subcommittee to review these ordinances.

June:

- At a follow-up meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, state

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<sup>7</sup> Participants: Rockland Riverfront Communities Council, Eastern Putnam/Dutchess Alliance, Wappingers Watershed Council, Northern Westchester Watershed Council, Historic River Towns of Westchester, Northern Dutchess Alliance.

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix V.

agencies were represented to hear council members' goals, activities and needs as they relate to those state agencies.

- A draft of the proposed Stormwater Utility District law was presented and critiqued.

September:

- With EPA Phase II regulations on everyone's mind, a Public Outreach and Education Committee was initiated with Stephen Pappalardo and Carolyn Cunningham as Co-Chairman with members Liz Feld, Michael Wiener and Phyllis Wittner.
- Work continued on the Stormwater Utility District. With the resignation of Peter Korn, Alfred Gatta agreed to Chair the SUD Committee. His assistant, Daniel Sarnoff, joined the committee.
- It was agreed that a Technical Advisory Committee made up of staff from the eleven municipalities, including those who had served on the first Technical Committee would be formed to comment on the draft legislation and to offer suggestions (see Appendix V).

Submitted December 2002,

Phyllis Wittner  
Chairman

## APPENDIX I

### Attendees of LIS Community Leadership Alliance Program - Spring 1998

Stephen Altieri	Town Administrator	Town of Mamaroneck
Ronald Bianchi	Mayor	Town/Village of Harrison
Michael Blau	Village Manager	Village of Mamaroneck
Howard Blitman		Town/Village of Scarsdale
Joseph Cox		City of Rye
Barbara Davis		City of New Rochelle
Doris Erdman	Planning Board Chair	Village of Mamaroneck
Ernest Fiore		Town/Village of Harrison
Richard Gardella	Attorney	City of Rye
Thomas Gunther	Zoning Board Chair	Town of Mamaroneck
Ruth Gyure		Town of Mamaroneck
Jan Hodnett		City of Rye
Timothy Idoni	Mayor	City of New Rochelle
Harry Krausman		Village of Rye Brook
Paula Lebowitz	Planning Board	Town/Village of Harrison
Cheryl Lewy	Mayor	Village of Larchmont
Anne McAndrews		Village of Larchmont
Howard Mc Michael		Town of Mamaroneck & Village of Mamaroneck
Peter Murray	Developer	At Large
Adolph Orlando		Village of Pelham Manor
Steven Otis	Mayor	City of Rye
Amy Paulin	Trustee	Town/Village of Scarsdale
John Pierpont	Village Manager	Village of Pelham Manor
Elaine Price	Supervisor	Town of Mamaroneck
Jeanne Richman		Town/Village of Scarsdale
Christopher Russo	Manager	Village of Rye Brook
Kevin Ryan		Village of Larchmont
Chris Selin	Councilwoman	City of New Rochelle
Bruno Strati	Councilman	Town/Village of Harrison
Fred Treffiesen		City of New Rochelle
Richard Ward		Village of Larchmont
Linda Whitehead	Attorney	At Large
David Woods	Planning Dept.	City of Mount Vernon
Fred Zepf		City of Rye

Coordinators: Michael Klemens, Nancy Seligson, Laura Tessier, Kathleen Walsh, Phyllis Wittner

## APPENDIX II

### LISWIC Boards/Committees/Participants- Inception through May 2000

#### Board of Advisors

Gina D'Agrosa	Director Environmental Planning Westchester County Dept. Of Planning
Sally Ball	Coastal Resource Specialist NYS Department of State
Robert Funicello	Westchester County Department Of Environmental Facilities
John Nolan	Pace University Land Use Law Center
Charles McCaffrey	Bureau Chief NYS Department Of State
George Latimer	Chairman Westchester County Board of Legislators

#### Technical Advisory Committee<sup>9</sup>

Stephen Altieri	Administrator	Town of Mamaroneck
Ronald Bianchi	Mayor	Town/Village of Harrison
Victor Carosi		Village of Rye Brook
Robert Dolan	Commissioner Public Works	City of New Rochelle
Joseph Morgan	Engineer	Village of Larchmont
Michael Murphy	Manager	Village of Port Chester
Charles Peretz		Rye Brook
Nunzio Pietrosanti		Harrison
Ben Salanitro	Village Engineer	Village/Town of Scarsdale
David Woods	Planning Director	City of Mount Vernon
Robert Funicello	Advisor	
Phyllis Wittner		

#### Editorial Committee<sup>10</sup>

Steve Altieri		Mamaroneck Town
Michael Blau	Manager	Village of Mamaroneck
Gina D'Agrosa	Advisor	
Robert Dolan		
Cheryl Lewy	Mayor	Larchmont
Steve Otis	Mayor	City of Rye
Steve Pappalardo	Dir. Public Works	Scarsdale
Richard Slingerland	Asst. Village Manager	Rye Brook
Peter Van de Water	Village Planner	Scarsdale
Phyllis Wittner		
David Woods		

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<sup>9</sup> RFP and interviewing/selecting candidates "Evaluation of Storm Water Conveyance Systems".

<sup>10</sup> Created for producing I & I brochure.

LISWIC Boards/Committees/Participants- Inception through May 2000- cont.

Other Participants

Anthony Cerreto	Village Attorney	Port Chester
Carolyn Cunningham	Trustee/Deputy Mayor	Rye City
Richard Falanca	Village Manager	Port Chester
Timothy Idoni	Mayor	New Rochelle
Jim Maxwell	Dept. Public Works	New Rochelle
Elizabeth Marrinan	Village Planner	Scarsdale
Elaine Price	Supervisor	Town of Mamaroneck 1998
Paul Ryan	Supervisor	Town of Mamaroneck 1999
Nancy Seligson		Coastal Zone Management Comm.

Signatory to IMA

Stephen Altieri	Administrator	Mamaroneck Town
Ronald Bianchi	Supervisor/Mayor	Harrison
Michael Blau	Village Manager	Mamaroneck Village
Ernest D. Davis	Mayor	Mount Vernon
Joseph DeFronzo	Village Manager	Port Chester
Alfred Gatta	Village Manager	Scarsdale
Peter Korn	City Manager	New Rochelle
Cheryl Lewy	Mayor	Larchmont
Steven Otis	Mayor	Rye City
John Pierpont	Village Manager	Pelham Manor
Christopher Russo	Village Administrator	Rye Brook

Program Committee (Formed 1/26/01)

Robert Dolan- Chair  
Stephen Altieri  
Liz Marrinan  
Julia Novak  
Steve Pappalardo



**APPENDIX III**

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - Through March 12, 2001

Harrison	Ronald Bianchi Robert Wasp	Supervisor/Mayor Commissioner Public Works
Larchmont	Kenneth Bialo Anne McAndrews	Trustee Trustee
Mamaroneck Town	Stephen V. Altieri Phyllis Wittner	Administrator Councilwoman
Mamaroneck Village	Michael Blau Deborah Chapin	Village Manager Mayor
Mt. Vernon	Ernest Davis Lisa L. Cox	Mayor Counsel Urban Renewal Agency
New Rochelle  Alternate	Peter A. Korn Robert Dolan Jim Maxwell	City Manager Commissioner Public Works Public Works
Pelham Manor	John Pierpont	Village Manager
Port Chester	Michael P. Murphy Anthony Cerreto	Village Manager Village Attorney
Rye Brook	Christopher Bradbury Victor Carosi	Administrator Village Engineer
Rye City  Alternate	Steven Otis Julia Novak Carolyn Cunningham	Mayor City Manager Councilwoman
Scarsdale  Alternate	Stephen Pappalardo Elizabeth Marrinan Alfred Gatta	Asst. Village Manager Village Planner Village Manager

**APPENDIX IV**

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - February 2002

Harrison	Stephen Malfitano Robert Wasp	Supervisor/Mayor Commissioner Public Works
Larchmont	Kenneth Bialo Anne McAndrews	Trustee Trustee
Mamaroneck Town	Stephen V. Altieri Phyllis Wittner	Councilwoman
Mamaroneck Village	Leonard Verrastro Sanford Miller	Clerk/Treasurer Village Manager
Mt. Vernon	Ernest Davis Curtis J. Woods	Mayor Deputy Commissioner Public Works
New Rochelle  Alternate	Peter A. Korn James Maxwell Chuck Strome	City Manager Acting Commissioner Public Works Deputy City Manager
Pelham Manor	John Pierpont	Village Manager
Port Chester	Michael P. Murphy James Cole	Village Manager Superintendent of Public Works
Rye Brook	Christopher Bradbury Victor Carosi	Administrator Village Engineer
Rye City  Alternate	Steven Otis Julia Novak Carolyn Cunningham	Mayor City Manager Councilwoman
Scarsdale  Alternate	Stephen Pappalardo Elizabeth Marrinan Alfred Gatta	Asst. Village Manager Village Planner Village Manager

**Executive Committee**

President-	Peter Korn
Vice Pres.	Phyllis Wittner
Treasurer	Kenneth Bialo
Secretary	Steven Otis

Representatives from Board of Representatives: Christopher Bradbury & Stephen Pappalardo

## APPENDIX V

### STORMWATER UTILITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Alfred Gatta, Chair	Scarsdale
Stephen Altieri	Mamaroneck Town
Liz Feld	Larchmont
Liz Marrinan	Scarsdale
James Maxwell	New Rochelle
Stephen Pappalardo	Scarsdale
Kathy Savolt	Mamaroneck Village
Consultant	Peter Korn
Staff Assistance	Dan Sarnoff- Scarsdale

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Stephen Pappalardo, Chair	
Stephen Altieri	Mamaroneck Town
Victor Carosi	Rye Brook
John Clemente	New Rochelle
James Cole	Port Chester
Joseph Morgan	Larchmont
James Morris*	Pelham Village
George Mottarella**	Rye City
John Pierpont	Pelham Manor
Nunzio Pietrosanti***	Harrison
Benedict Salanitro	Scarsdale
Curtis Woods	Mount Vernon
Robert Yamuder	Mamaroneck Village

- If unavailable, Richard Slingerland
- \*\* If unavailable, Ryan Coyne
- \*\*\* If unavailable, Robert Wasp

**APPENDIX VI**

**LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - April- September 2002**

Harrison	Stephen Malfitano Robert Wasp	Supervisor/Mayor Commissioner Public Works
Larchmont	Liz Feld Michael Wiener	Trustee Trustee
Mamaroneck Town	Stephen V. Altieri Phyllis Wittner	Councilwoman
Mamaroneck Village Alternate	Sanford Miller Kathy Savolt Phillip Trifiletti	Village Manager Trustee Mayor
Mt. Vernon	Ernest Davis Curtis J. Woods	Mayor Deputy Commissioner Public Works
New Rochelle	Chuck Strome James Maxwell	Deputy City Manager Acting Commissioner Public Works
Pelham Manor	John Pierpont	Village Manager
Port Chester	Michael P. Murphy James Cole	Village Manager Superintendent of Public Works
Rye Brook	Christopher Bradbury Victor Carosi	Administrator Village Engineer
Rye City Alternate	Steven Otis Julia Novak Carolyn Cunningham	Mayor City Manager Councilwoman
Scarsdale Alternate Assistant	Stephen Pappalardo Elizabeth Marrinan Alfred Gatta Daniel Sarnoff	Asst. Village Manager Village Planner Village Manager

**Executive Committee**

Chair	Phyllis Wittner
Vice Chair	Steven Otis
Treasurer	Michael Wiener
Secretary	Christopher Bradbury
Representatives from Board of Representatives: Michael Murphy & Stephen Pappalardo	