

LISWIC
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT- October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

The main objective of the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC) has been to organize, manage, and improve the Council as a means of encouraging cooperation among the member municipalities. The cooperating municipalities share a number of common goals including the prevention of non-point source pollution, the remediation of existing pollution and of late, taking a hard look at intermunicipal flooding problems. The members of the Council are the Cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle and Rye, the Town of Mamaroneck, the Town-Villages of Harrison and Scarsdale, and the Villages of Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Port Chester, and Rye Brook.

LISWIC is organized under bylaws and is governed by an Executive Committee and Board of Representatives. The Executive Committee officers re-elected in October 2006 for one year terms were Phyllis Wittner, Chair (Mamaroneck Town), Steven Otis, Vice Chair (Rye City), Leonard Verrastro, Treasurer (Mamaroneck Village), Christopher Bradbury, Secretary (Rye Brook). The two members from the Board of Representatives who sat on the Executive Committee are Daniel Sarnoff (Scarsdale) and Scott Pickup (Rye City).

The Board of Representatives consists of two members representing each municipality. Each of the latter may have up to three alternates. A part-time Coordinator serves as the staff aide. Meetings are held monthly; the Annual Meeting took place in October. Subcommittees are formed when specific issues are to be investigated.

The Treasurer's Report maintained by the Village of Larchmont was submitted on October 12, 2006 and presented to the Board of Representatives by Treasurer Verrastro at the Annual Meeting on October 27. Expenditures were for maintenance of the web site, administrative work, the printing of infiltration and inflow educational brochures and support of the Maritime Aquarium at the Village of Mamaroneck Historic Harbor Fair. Dues were not collected during that period leaving a balance of \$9,851.44 as of October 12, 2007.

Leafblower Laws

Discussed was the possibility of adopting a uniform law concerning leafblower noise. Problems arise when neighboring municipalities have different leafblower laws. Residents and gardeners are confused by what dates and hours leafblowers are permitted because the restrictions differ from municipality to municipality. The gardeners know which postal district they are in, but are not always aware of the town or village in which they are working. Board of Representatives member Terri Rouke created a table summarizing the regulations of all of the LISWIC municipalities. Many of the ordinances restrict the use of leaf blowers during the summer months; however, not all governments had adopted a law. It was thought that in addition to standardized laws, LISWIC could create an educational card that would provide tips on proper leaf disposal (not in the streams or stormdrains), and pollution prevention tips for gardeners.

These cards might be distributed by mail using the County's registered contractor list or they could be sent to individual homeowners.

The matter was tabled because it seemed too difficult for all municipalities to do this together. It was agreed that neighboring governments should try to work on adopting the same laws.

Stormwater Utility District (SUD)

Background:

A New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant application was submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in October 2003 accompanied by nine letters of intent (Mamaroneck Town and Village, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Port Chester, Rye City, Rye Brook and Scarsdale) to participate in a Regional Stormwater Utility District. Larchmont joined the group by adding its letter of intent in April 2006. The grant, *Creation of a Regional Stormwater District for the Lower Long Island Sound Drainage Basin*, was awarded on May 18, 2004 in the amount of \$100,000. The required 50% local match is comprised of \$45,000 in cash (\$4,500 from each of the ten participating municipalities) and \$83,000 in in-kind services. The participating municipalities have pledged their financial and administrative support for their proportional share of the local match by resolution of their governing bodies. In response to letters sent to State Representatives and Senators (March 2004) requesting member item funds for the project, State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer forwarded an additional \$3,000 towards the grant.

The grant provided funding to hire an experienced professional consulting firm to produce a district management and operations plan providing for the appropriate methodology for establishing a regional stormwater utility district (SUD) including a governing body and funding mechanism (fee supported) for the implementation of identified stormwater pollution preventive measures within the lower Long Island Sound drainage area. The SUD is an effective way to deal with the issues of stormwater management, compliance with the Phase II regulations and flooding.

The contract with DEC went into effect at the end of August 2005. After the Request For Proposals process, Malcolm Pirnie Environmental Engineers with their consulting attorney Lester Steinman was selected (see Fifth Annual Report for detailed account). Each Mayor/Supervisor was sent a list of required information to start the process, and was asked to appoint a representative to work with Malcolm Pirnie. From April through August, the latter worked with all ten municipalities to obtain the necessary data. At the September 2006 LISWIC meeting, Richard Franzetti and Michael Beyer of Malcolm Pirnie provided an update of preliminary findings. This was followed by a summary table of collected data that was sent to the ten communities to review and verify.

Current Year in Review:

Contact with the individual municipalities continued as information for the report was gathered. The consultants working with the Board of Representatives developed the basis for proposed

fees. Also detailed were various operation and maintenance scenarios. Presentations were made to the LISWIC Board for a better understanding of the material to be included in the final report.

The Town/Village of Harrison requested inclusion in the RSMD study in May 2007, and Pelham Manor joined in September. This brought the number of participants to twelve, the full complement of LISWIC members.

A Regional Stormwater Management District (RSMD) Steering Committee consisting of Administrator Stephen Altieri, Town of Mamaroneck, Mayor Steven Otis, City of Rye, Village Manager Alfred Gatta, Town-Village of Scarsdale, Assistant to the Manager Daniel Sarnoff, Town-Village of Scarsdale, City Manager Charles Strome III, City of New Rochelle and Village Manager Christopher Bradbury, Village of Rye Brook, met to review costs, governance, fee structure and the creation of a model Resolution to be adopted by each participating government. The following recommendations were made:

1. Each municipality in the district should be given equal voting rights.
2. Of the total revenue collected, funds will first be allocated to Operation and Maintenance costs. The remaining funds shall be used for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) 30% of which will be set aside for individual municipalities on a pro rata basis for local CIP projects. This would allocate funds to the communities that contribute a larger portion of the revenue funds for their local projects.

One full copy of the *Feasibility Report Regional Stormwater Management District* with a CD and sufficient copies of the Executive Summary (see LISWIC website www.LISWIC.org) were sent to each Board in August. A sample resolution of support created by Lester Steinman and Mayor Steven Otis was given to each municipal board asking for their pledge of support for the RSWMD report. The certified Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of Rye Brook on September 11, by the Town Board of the Town of Mamaroneck on September 19, by the Council of the City of New Rochelle on September 24 and by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck on September 24. The Seventh Annual Report will note actions of remaining Boards and Councils, and the steps to be taken to actually form the District.

Newspaper publicity included an article by Ken Valenti of *The Journal News* (September 17, 2007 “Flood district planned for area”) and an editorial in *The Journal News* (September 21, 2007 “Radical cooperation”).

Historic Harbor Festival

LISWIC decided not to have a table at this year’s event in the Village of Mamaroneck, but continued to sponsor the Norwalk Aquarium exhibit, a fun learning experience for children about the creatures of Long Island Sound.

Flow Management- Westchester County

Susan Gerry, Senior Assistant to County Executive Andrew Spano, met with LISWIC to discuss upcoming flow management testing that the county would be undertaking. LISWIC was the most efficient source for reaching out to so many involved communities at one time. The county

will be continuing its efforts to eliminate sources of infiltration into the sanitary sewer system by installing flow meters in trunk mains. This will assist them in determining where dry-weather flows are present. Maps and a list of flow meters were distributed to LISWIC members indicating the locations where the meters are to be installed. The meters will be placed in existing manholes and monitoring data will be sent remotely to the County.

Ms. Gerry returned with Ralph Butler, Commissioner of Public Works, and Thomas Lauro, Acting Commissioner Department of Environmental Facilities, to continue the discussion. Involved in this project would be the Mamaroneck Sewer District (New Rochelle, Town of Mamaroneck, Scarsdale, White Plains, Harrison, Village of Mamaroneck, Rye), Blind Brook Sewer District (Mamaroneck Village, North Castle, Harrison, Rye and Rye Brook), New Rochelle Sewer District (Pelham Manor, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, New Rochelle) and Port Chester Sewer District (Port Chester, Rye Brook).

Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness

During June 2007, a submission was sent to County Executive Andrew Spano detailing LISWIC's history and its work to-date regarding formation of a Regional Stormwater Management District. It was requested that this document be submitted to Governor Spitzer's Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. To date, nothing further has been heard regarding same.

Improving Government Efficiency Conference

This conference held on October 5, 2007 at SUNY New Paltz was sponsored by the New York State Department Of State (DOS) and Pace University's Michaelian Institute. Its main thrust was the Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) program promulgated by the DOS. A panel consisting of Lester Steinman, Alfred Gatta and Phyllis Wittner presented the history of LISWIC and the feasibility of establishing a regional storm water district.

APPENDIX-I

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - October 2006- September 2007

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Harrison		
Hugh Greechan		Town Engineer
Robert Wasp		Commissioner Public Works
	Stephen Malfitano	Supervisor/Mayor
Larchmont		
Anne McAndrews		Trustee
Marlene Kolbert		Trustee
	Elizabeth Feld	Mayor
Mamaroneck, Town		
Stephen V. Altieri		Town Administrator
Phyllis Wittner		Councilwoman
Mamaroneck Village		
Leonard Verrastro		Village Manager
Robert Yamuder		Asst. Village Manager
	Christie Derrico	
	Thomas Murphy	Trustee
Mount Vernon		
Curtis J. Woods		Deputy Comm. Publ.Wks
New Rochelle		
Charles Strome		City Manager
Omar Small		Asst. to City Manager
Pelham		
Richard Slingerland		Village Manager
Terri Rouke		Village Clerk
	Devron Wilson	Admin. Aide
	Harry Pallett	General Foreman
Pelham Manor		
John Pierpont		Village Manager
Maryalice Barnett		Personnel Manager

APPENDIX I- cont.

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - October 2006- September 2007

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Port Chester		
Keith Rang		Asst. to Village Manager
Gary Raconiello		General Foreman DPW
	William Williams	Village Manager
Rye Brook		
Christopher Bradbury		Administrator
Victor Carosi		Village Engineer
	David Burke	
Rye City		
Steven Otis		Mayor
Scott Pickup		Asst. Manager
Paul Shew		City Manager
George Mottarella		Engineer
Scarsdale		
Stephen Pappalardo		Asst. Village Manager
Daniel Sarnoff		Asst. to Village Manager
	Alfred Gatta	Village Manager
	Elizabeth Marrinan	Village Planner

Coordinator: Elizabeth Paul