

LISWIC
SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT- October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008

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 understanding 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 Bylaws were amended in January 2008 to change the fiscal year from June 1-May 31 to the calendar year (January 1- December 31). Other amendments changed the dates for the annual election and Annual Report from October to January.

The Executive Committee officers re-elected in January 2008 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 sit on the Executive Committee were 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. (See Appendix 1). A part-time Coordinator serves as the staff aide. Meetings are held monthly on an as needed basis. Subcommittees are formed when specific issues are to be investigated.

Treasurer's Report

The treasury is maintained by the Village of Larchmont under the supervision of the LISWIC Treasurer. Treasurer Verrastro presented to the Board of Representatives the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2008. Expenditures were for maintenance of the web site, administrative work, and supplies. A balance of \$13,927.45 was noted.

Regional Stormwater Management District (RSMD)

Background (see Fifth Annual Report for detailed account):

A New York State Environmental Protection Fund 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 by the New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). 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. State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer forwarded an additional \$3,000 towards the grant. All twelve municipalities supported the grant.

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. Individual municipalities were contacted to supply information, and the consultants worked closely with the Board of Representatives to develop their report.

The 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, (Scarsdale), City Manager Charles Strome III, (New Rochelle) and Village Manager Christopher Bradbury (Rye Brook) continued to meet to review various aspects of the report.

The *Feasibility Report Regional Stormwater Management District* was sent to each municipal chief elected official and Board during August 2007. 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 RSMD report.

October 2007- December 31, 2008:

To date, the certified Resolution of support was adopted by the Board of Trustees of Rye Brook, the Town Board of the Town of Mamaroneck, the Council of the City of New Rochelle, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck, the City Council of Rye, the Board of Trustees of Port Chester and the Board of Trustees of Larchmont.

LISWIC was fortunate to obtain the services of Douglas Goodfriend of Orrick, Sutcliffe and Harrington, a bond counsel firm, to begin the process of writing legislation for submission to the Assembly and Senate of NYS. Attorney Lester Steinman, who wrote the chapter in the *Feasibility Report* dealing with legal options, agreed to continue to work on this matter with Mr. Goodfriend.

A “Q and A” document was prepared by the RSMD Steering Committee to respond to questions posed by municipalities that did not return Resolutions of Support.

It is interesting to note that LISWIC was approached by the Byram Watershed Coalition representing North Castle, Port Chester and Greenwich, CT to request that this group be included in our watershed studies. However while flowing into Long Island Sound, LISWIC did not believe that the Byram River should be part of our study area at this time.

However, believing that White Plains should be included in the lower Long Island Sound watershed, numerous letters were written to Mayor Joseph Delfino to discuss this matter. Unfortunately, he was not receptive to LISWIC’s overtures.

Meetings for the rest of the year were devoted to discussion and revision of the draft legislation.

MS4 Permit

Pat Ferracane of the NYSDEC attended the November 2007 meeting and presented a summary of the proposed amendments to the SPDES General Permits for Stormwater Discharges. Changes were proposed to the permit regulating construction activities, GP-0-08-001 and the permit covering Municipal Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), GP-0-08-002. The new permits are to go into effect on January 8, 2008.

Also attending that meeting was Cesare Manfredi, President of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester (FCWC), who presented comments on the proposed draft SPDES permits. In the wake of the April floods, FCWC requested that NYS not only regulate stormwater quality, but stormwater quantity. FCWC proposed that the NYS guidelines be rewritten to require that the post-construction volume of stormwater being discharged from a site be no greater than pre-construction volumes.

Letters of Support

LISWIC endorsed the grant application of the Westchester County Department of Planning for “Stormwater Retrofit and Wetland Bank Stabilization and Restoration at Scout/Parkway Field, Bronxville” to improve water quality in the Bronx River which eventually flows into LIS.

Another endorsement was sent to the Department of Transportation on behalf of the City of New Rochelle who was applying under the Transportation Enhancement Program for a grant to mitigate nonpoint source pollution in LIS caused by highway storm water runoff especially carrying floatable debris.

Westchester County

Legislator Thomas Abinanti, Chair of the Committee on Environment and Energy, proposed a law to “create a new agency and countywide district to develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan for Westchester County.... Presently, the county does not have a law or program that comprehensively addresses regional drainage and flooding management.” LISWIC representatives attended two meetings on this subject to inform them of the work that LISWIC has been doing regarding the formation of a Regional Stormwater Management District.

APPENDIX-I

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES .October 1, 2007- December 31, 2008

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	
<u>Harrison</u>			
Robert Wasp		Commissioner Public Works	
<u>Larchmont</u>			
Anne McAndrews		Trustee	
Marlene Kolbert		Trustee	
	Elizabeth Feld	Mayor	
<u>Mamaroneck, Town</u>			
Stephen V. Altieri		Town Administrator	
Phyllis Wittner		Councilwoman	
	Nancy Seligson	Councilwoman	
	Elizabeth Paul	Environmental Planner	As of October 2009
<u>Mamaroneck Village</u>			
Leonard Verrastro		Village Manager	
Robert Yamuder		Asst. Village Manager	Until 1/10/08
	Thomas Murphy	Trustee	Until 1/10/08
	Tony Fava	Trustee	Until 1/10/08
Kathy Savolt		Mayor	Began 1/11/08
	Robert Yamuder		Began 1/11/08
<u>Mount Vernon</u>			
Curtis J. Woods		Deputy Comm. Publ. Wks	
<u>New Rochelle</u>			
Charles Strome		City Manager	
Omar Small		Asst. to City Manager	
<u>Pelham Village</u>			
Richard Slingerland		Village Manager	
Terri Rouke		Village Clerk	
	Devron Wilson	Admin. Aide	
	Harry Pallett	General Foreman	
<u>Pelham Manor</u>			
John Pierpont		Village Manager	
Maryalice Barnett		Personnel Manager	

APPENDIX I- cont.

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES .October 1, 2007- December 31, 2008

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

Coordinator: Elizabeth Paul