

**LISWIC**  
**EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT- January 2009 through December 31, 2009**

LISWIC amended its by-laws in January 2008 to make its fiscal year reflect the calendar year and to have its Annual Report and Annual Meeting in January as opposed to its previous fiscal year of October 1 to September 30.

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 seeing how best to alleviate 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 for one year terms in 2009 were Phyllis Wittner, Chair (Mamaroneck Town), Steven Otis, Vice Chair (Rye City), Leonard Verrastro, Treasurer (Mamaroneck Village- resigned March 2009), Anne McAndrews (Village of Larchmont) elected Treasurer April 24, 2009, Christopher Bradbury, Secretary (Rye Brook). The two members from the Board of Representatives who remained on the Executive Committee were Daniel Sarnoff (Scarsdale) and Scott Pickup (Rye City).

The Board of Representatives consists of two members and up to three alternates representing each municipality. A part-time Coordinator serves as the staff aide. Meetings are held monthly or as needed. Subcommittees are formed when specific issues are to be investigated..

The Treasurer's Report maintained by the Village of Larchmont covered the period September 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. It was submitted and presented to the Board of Representatives by Treasurer Mc Andrews at the Annual Meeting on January 15, 2010. Expenditures were for maintenance of the web site and administrative work. No dues were collected in 2009.

**Regional Stormwater Management District (RSMD)**

**Background** (see previous Annual Reports for more detailed account).

A RSMD Steering Committee consisting of Administrator Stephen Altieri (Town of Mamaroneck), Mayor Steven Otis (City of Rye), Village Manager Alfred Gatta and Assistant to the Manager Daniel Sarnoff (Town-Village of Scarsdale), City Manager Charles Strome III (City of New Rochelle) Village Manager Christopher Bradbury (Village of Rye Brook) and Phyllis Wittner (Chair LISWIC) met to review costs, governance, fee structure and the creation of a model Resolution to be adopted by each participating government. One full copy of the *Feasibility Report Regional Stormwater Management District* with a CD and copies of the Executive Summary 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 RSMD report. The certified Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of **Rye Brook** on September 11, 2007, by the Town Board of the **Town of Mamaroneck** on September 19, 2007, by the Council of the **City of New Rochelle** on September 24, 2007 and by the Board of Trustees of the **Village of Mamaroneck** on September 24, 2007. The **Village of Larchmont** adopted the resolution of support on January 28, 2008, the **Village of Port Chester** adopted it on February 19, 2008 and the **City of Rye** did so on March 5, 2008. The remaining municipalities seemed to have adopted a “wait and see” attitude.

## **2009**

The Board of Representatives decided to go forward with plans for creating the RSMD with the seven municipalities mentioned above. A letter was sent to the five governments that did not send a resolution of support notifying them that the RSMD legislation would be sent to Albany to the bill drafting committee. Adoption by the state legislature and approval by the Governor are required. As Counsel to Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Mayor Otis took the matter forward (April-June 2009). Assemblyman George Latimer agreed to assist as well.

## **Westchester County and Stormwater Management District**

### **Background**

In 2008, 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 storm water management plan for Westchester County...” Conversations ensued between LISWIC representatives, Mr. Abinanti and other members of the Committee on Environment.

## **2009**

LISWIC invited Legislator Abinanti to its September 25, 2009 meeting to discuss his proposed legislation. A most meaningful discussion led to the conclusion that a LISWIC Stormwater Management District Steering Committee should meet with Mr. Abinanti to see how and if both concepts could be melded into a viable solution from both the municipalities’ and county perspectives. In preparation, the LISWIC Steering Committee and attorney Douglas Goodfriend began redrafting RSMD legislation to include the role of Westchester County in forming the watershed district. Mr. Goodfriend has been an invaluable asset in writing first the legislation that went to New York State and the current revision.

## **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**

Ron Etringer from the DEC Albany Division of Water spoke regarding the Regulated Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) program and its requirements for a storm water management plan that must include public education, public involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction of stormwater runoff control, post construction stormwater management and pollution prevention. The purpose of these regulations is to manage the quality of stormwater flow.

The problems of the Total Maximum Daily Load (of nitrogen) confronting our sewer

districts was addressed by Lorraine Gregory (DEC Albany). She spoke about what is and will be expected of the municipalities who must participate in this program. All four sewage treatment plants (Blind Brook, Mamaroneck, Port Chester and New Rochelle)<sup>1</sup> must be upgraded with the districts sharing the tremendous costs. Currently underway are the upgrades at Mamaroneck and New Rochelle.

An article entitled *Protecting Long Island Sound by Upgrading Sewage Treatment Plants* can be found on the LISWIC website ([www.LISWIC.org](http://www.LISWIC.org)). The article is meant to provide an in depth explanation of the subject of Total Maximum Daily Loads and the mandated solutions.

### **Westchester County Update on Point and Non-Point Programs for the LIS Watershed**

In April, personnel from Westchester County (Leah Radko, Michael Coley, David Kvinge) and Shay Gavin from Savin Engineers spoke to the Board of Representatives about the consent order and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restrictions that will be imposed on nitrogen discharges into Long Island Sound (LIS). The County's Waste Water Treatment Plants will need to be upgraded to reduce the amount of nitrogen being discharged, and local municipalities may be required to install retrofits in their stormwater systems to remove nitrogen and pathogens. This will be a very expensive undertaking overall.

The Mamaroneck and New Rochelle Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) will both be upgraded through the installation of Biological Nutrient Removal systems. These are very expensive projects that will necessitate increased fees. In Mamaroneck, the project to start in 2010 will use existing tanks with a special medium to grow nitrogen-eating bacteria; a system of pumps will be installed. Projected cost is \$40 million. The New Rochelle upgrade of adding a bio-filtration system will begin in 2011 while primary system upgrades and other improvements will begin in 2010. The consent order also requires Westchester County to perform flow monitoring in all four sewer districts to determine how much flow is coming into the plants from each municipality.

At LISWIC's October meeting, Thomas Lauro, County Commissioner of Department of Environmental Facilities, and Shay Gavin returned to update the group about the status of

- the county's flow monitoring program which will determine the amount of storm water running from one municipality to its adjoining neighbor;
- the status of the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) project;
- the status of the non-BNR work at the New Rochelle WWTP;
- a NYS DEC grant for added nitrogen work at the Blind Brook WWTP;
- the county's non-point source study pursuant to BNR Consent Order;
- what is being learned about the new TMDL model for LIS.

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<sup>1</sup> Blind Brook District: part or all of Rye City and Town, Harrison, North Castle, Westchester County airport, Purchase College. Mamaroneck District: part or all of Mamaroneck Town, Harrison, Purchase, White Plains, Larchmont, New Rochelle, North Castle, Rye City and Town, Scarsdale. Port Chester District: part or all of Port Chester, Rye Town. New Rochelle District: part or all of New Rochelle, Larchmont, Pelham Manor, Mamaroneck Town.

APPENDIX-I

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES - January - December 2009

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
<b>Harrison</b> Robert Wasp		Commissioner Public Works Supervisor/Mayor
	Joan Walsh	
<b>Larchmont</b> Anne McAndrews Marlene Kolbert		Trustee Trustee Mayor
	Elizabeth Feld	
<b>Mamaroneck, Town</b> Stephen V. Altieri Phyllis Wittner		Town Administrator Councilwoman Councilwoman Environmental Planner
	Nancy Seligson Elizabeth Paul	
<b>Mamaroneck Village</b> Leonard Verrastro Kathy Savolt Richard Slingerland		Village Manager      Resigned March 2009 Mayor Village Manager      April- Dec. 2009
<b>Mount Vernon</b> Curtis J. Woods		Deputy Comm. Public Works
<b>New Rochelle</b> Charles Strome Omar Small		City Manager Asst. to City Manager
<b>Pelham</b> Robert Yamuder Terri Rouke		Village Administrator Village Clerk General Foreman, DPW
	Michael Shriman	

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<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
<b>Pelham Manor</b>		
John Pierpont		Village Manager
Maryalice Barnett		Personnel Manager
<b>Port Chester</b>		
Gary Racaniello		General Foreman DPW
Christopher Russo		Village Manager
<b>Rye Brook</b>		
Christopher Bradbury		Administrator
	David Burke	Asst. to Administrator
<b>Rye City</b>		
Steven Otis		Mayor
Scott Pickup		Asst. Manager
	George Mottarella	Director of Public Works
<b>Scarsdale</b>		
Stephen Pappalardo		Asst. Village Manager
Daniel Sarnoff		Asst. to Village Manager
	Alfred Gatta	Village Manager
	Elizabeth Marrinan	Village Planner

Coordinator: Elizabeth Paul