

LISWIC

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT – January 2010 through December 31, 2010

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, Rye, and White Plains, 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 elected for one year terms in 2010 were: Charles Strome, Chair (City of New Rochelle), Stephen Altieri, Vice-Chair (Town of Mamaroneck), Anne McAndrews, Treasurer (Village of Larchmont) and Phyllis Wittner, Secretary (Town of Mamaroneck). The two members from the Board of Representatives elected to the serve on the Executive Committee were Scott Pickup (City of Rye) and Christopher Bradbury (Village of Rye Brook).

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report, maintained by the Village of Larchmont, covered the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. This report was presented to the Board at its January 15th, 2010 meeting. Based on this report, it was determined that there are sufficient funds available for LISWIC's operations. It was unanimously decided that there was no need to collect dues for 2010.

REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (RMSD)

BACKGROUND: (See previous Annual Reports for more detailed account). After several years of planning, discussion and the development of a *Feasibility Report – Regional Stormwater Management District*, and the drafting of several versions of legislation creating the Stormwater Management District to eventually be submitted to the State, it was determined that approval by the State Legislature and Governor would be highly unlikely and LISWIC's focus should be on the development of a Westchester County Stormwater Management District.

WESTCHETER COUNTY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BACKGROUND: In 2008, Westchester County Legislator Thomas Abinanti, Chair of the County Board of Legislators Environment and Energy Committee, proposed a County law to “create a new agency and countywide district to develop and implement a comprehensive storm water management plan for Westchester County...” During 2008 and 2009 conversations ensued between LISWIC representatives and County officials on this idea. Legislator Abinanti appeared at the September 25, 2009 meeting to discuss his proposed legislation. As a result, LISWIC formed a Stormwater Management District Steering Committee to meet with County officials to develop a viable piece of legislation for both local municipalities’ and the County’s perspective.

During 2010, this Steering Committee, led by Al Gatta, held many meetings and conversations with County officials to develop appropriate County Legislation. The following is a review of that process in 2010:

At the January 15, 2010 LISWIC meeting, a new draft (#6) of the proposed legislation to create a regional stormwater district was presented. This draft authorized the County to establish a district in partnership with the local municipalities where the County provides the legal authority and the decision-making powers remain in the hands of the local municipalities. The steering committee sought comments on this draft from the full Board of Directors. At the March 3, 2010 LISWIC meeting, Al Gatta lead a further discussion of the proposed draft law and provided the following highlights:

- Organization of districts and programs on a watershed basis.
- Watershed and Stormwater Advisory Boards would serve the County as advisors and recommend priorities for capital projects.
- Watershed and Stormwater Advisory Boards would be required to have a watershed wide comprehensive plan and capital improvement program with funding priorities before any of the member municipalities would be eligible for County funding.
- Member municipalities would be required to have maintenance and repair funding in their annual operating budgets and commit to maintain stormwater facilities in their communities.
- The legislation would facilitate a local role in decision making in regard to County funding of capital projects. Final authority would rest with the County for a yes or no vote only, and would not allow substitute projects.
- The legislation would create a methodology for the County to establish stormwater fees to help pay for County funding of potential capital projects.

It was decided that the draft legislation would be sent to each LISWIC municipality's chief elected official and LISWIC representatives. At the April 23, 2010 LISWIC meeting, Al Gatta presented a local law, introduced to the County Board of Legislators by Legislator Abinanti. This legislation would authorize the establishment of a flood control program. The LISWIC subcommittee of Al Gatta, Chuck Strome and Anne McAndrews reviewed the County's proposed law and reported their recommendations to the rest of the LISWIC representatives. At the August 6, 2010 LISWIC meeting, Al Gatta reviewed his discussions with Peter Eschweiler of the County's Flood Action Task Force. Those discussions were designed to compare the differences between the County's law and LISWIC's law. In September, 2010 a new draft was prepared as a result of those discussions. Between October and December 2010, a final piece of legislation was presented to the Board of Legislators and was adopted. Unfortunately, the legislation was vetoed by the County Executive in December. (It should be noted that in early 2011, legislation was again approved and this time signed by the County Executive.)

WHITE PLAINS BECOMES MEMBER OF LISWIC:

During 2010, the City of White Plains officially became a member of LISWIC. In August, Dennis Power, Councilman from White Plains attended the LISWIC Board meeting and indicated White Plains' desire to become a member of LISWIC. At the October 1, 2010 meeting, LISWIC unanimously voted to accept White Plains as a member and to amend the Bylaws to reflect their membership. The City has signed the IMA and paid their initial dues and as a result is now a member of LISWIC.

OTHER ISSUES:

The following matters were also considered by LISWIC in 2010:

In January, the document *Protecting Long Island Sound by Upgrading Sewage Treatment Plants* was posted on the LISWIC website. Also in January, at the LISWIC Board meeting the Guest Speaker was Ana Hiraldo, of Westchester County, who gave a presentation to the Board on the County's efforts to provide shared municipal services. At the April 23, 2010 Board meeting, Nancy Seligson, Councilwoman from the Town of Mamaroneck, discussed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Phase II Stormwater management program and asked the LISWIC representatives for suggestions for improving the program.

APPENDIX – 1

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES – January – December, 2010

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Harrison		
Michael Amodeo		Town Engineer
	Joan Walsh	Supervisor
Larchmont		
Marlene Kolbert		Trustee
	Josh Mandell	Mayor
	Anne McAndrews	Trustee
Mamaroneck Town		
Stephen V. Altieri		Town Administrator
Phyllis Wittner		Councilwoman
	Nancy Seligson	Councilwoman
Mamaroneck Village		
Rich Slingerland		Village Manager
Dan Sarnoff		Assistant Village Manager
	Norman Rosenblum	Mayor
Mount Vernon		
Curtis J. Woods		Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
New Rochelle		
Charles B. Strome, III		City Manager
Omar Small		Assistant to the City Manager

APPENDIX-I – con't

LISWIC BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES – January – December 2010

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Pelham		
Robert Yamuder		Village Administrator
Terri Rouke		Village Clerk
	Michael Shirman	General Foreman, Department of Public Works
Pelham Manor		
John Pierpont		Village Manager
	Maryalice Barnett	Personnel Manager
Port Chester		
Christopher Russo		Village Manager
Gary Racaniello		General Foreman, Department of Public Works
Rye Brook		
Christopher Bradbury		Village Administrator
	David Burke	Assistant to the Administrator
Rye City		
Scott Pickup		City Manager
	George Mottarella	Director of Public Works
Scarsdale		
Stephen Pappalardo		Deputy Village Manager
Elizabeth Marrinan		Village Planner
	Alfred Gatta	Village Manager
	John Goodwin	Assistant Village Manager
White Plains		
Dennis J. Power		Councilman
LISWIC Coordinator: Elizabeth Paul		