

Long Island Regional Planning Council

Summary Minutes

Meeting of October 25, 2016

LIPRC Members Present

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Jeff Kraut, Treasurer
Nancy Engelhardt, Secretary
Elizabeth Custodio
Ed Romaine, Supervisor
Michael White
Theresa Sanders
Ralph Scordino, Mayor
Anthony J. Santino, Jr., Supervisor

Staff and Guests Present

Richard V. Guardino, Jr.
Elizabeth Ridge Cole
David Berg
Christopher Plummer
Christopher Schubert
Michael Petre
Maura Sperg
Olivia Winslow
Kevin Moran
James Van Dyke
Richard Amper
John Ellsworth
Andy Kraus
Steve Hodjiyane
Patti Bourne
Ryan McTierney
Joe Cuomo
Stephen Terracciano
Sherry Southe
Emily Humes
Megan Porter
Michael L. Borsuk
Tom Dolan
Frank Dolan
Clinton Plummer
Eric Swenson

Tatyana Golikov

Meeting Commenced:

John D. Cameron, Jr., opened the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

John Cameron welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Jeff Kraut, Secretary
Nancy Engelhardt, Secretary
Elizabeth Custodio
Ed Romaine, Supervisor
Michael White
Theresa Sanders
Ralph Scordino, Mayor
Anthony J. Santino, Jr., Supervisor

We do not have a quorum.

I would like to welcome Town of Hempstead Supervisor Santino.

I would like to welcome our new Executive Director who is a familiar face to all of you, former vice-chair, Rich Guardino.

I would also like to welcome Elizabeth Cole, our Deputy Executive Director. This is her first meeting.

Brief Chairman's Report

* I like to ask each of you to remember in your thoughts and prayers all the members of our Armed Services who continue to put themselves in harm's way each and every day so that we can enjoy the quality of life here in America.

* There are major challenges being faced by the country, globally and nationally, and we are not really addressing some of the major challenges because of the discourse in this election.

* The state elections are two weeks away and Long Island has considerable sensitivity to that election because when there has been a shift in power in the state senate, the power then rested

entirely in the City of New York and that does not bode well for Long Island in regard to funding of major programs, particularly school taxes and school funding.

* Locally, municipal budgets are challenged. We have two town supervisors here and we also have a village mayor who can attest to the challenges that they continue to face trying to balance budgets, particularly complying with the state imposed tax cap. It is an issue which becomes more and more difficult each year with continuing escalating entitlement costs. Next year the average increase in the Obama health care rates will be 25%. It will be a major challenge for government and private industry.

* Certain governments are facing additional challenges of governance with some law enforcement actions on top executives. It is going to make doing business that much more difficult.

* The Planning Council has been very busy over the last few months working actively on the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. David Berg will make a presentation later in the meeting.

* We have been involved in a couple of procurements and I will let our Executive Director, Rich Guardino, speak to those issues.

Executive Directors Report

I would like to thank the council for this opportunity. It is very exciting for me.

We have put out two Requests for Proposals. One on a Property Tax Alternative Study to take a look at what is going on in other jurisdictions in terms of their strategies.. The second on Communications and Social Media Strategies. Both were returnable on October 18. We have had multiple responses from credible consultants. We are in the process of evaluating those proposals and the goal is to come back to the Council at the next meeting with recommendations to retain consultants for both those studies.

We are in conversations with the DEC on almost a daily basis about the Nitrogen Action Plan. There is a conference call every week. Dick Amper was good enough to recognize the Long Island Regional Planning Council at his gala last week and especially recognize John Cameron for the work on LINAP. Ed Romaine was also recognized for the terrific environmental work that he does in Brookhaven. There is a training session for municipal planning and zoning officials at Hofstra on November 1. There will be a presentation by Michael White and Jim Gennaro on the Nitrogen Action Plan. There is a presentation on November 10 by the National Center for Suburban Studies on Sustainability.

* David and Elizabeth are working on a Newsletter for the Nitrogen Action Plan.

Presentation by Clint Plummer, Vice President for Development for Deepwater Wind

“Offshore Wind – Cost Effective Clean Energy and Economic Development for Long Island”

* Offshore wind is a massive industry. The first off shore wind farm was built off the coast of Denmark in 1991. It has become a massive global \$20 billion global industry. The wind turbines have gotten much bigger, more cost effective and more efficient. The machines we just installed on our Block Island project this summer are some of the largest in the world. They are over 600 feet above the water and they extend below the water 100 feet to the sea floor and another 200 feet beneath the sea floor. Collectively they are about the size of an 80 story building.

* The US Department of Energy expects that by 2020 there will be 30,000 people working in the off shore industry up and down the east coast. Long Island is positioned to be a regional hub and a leader not only in American off shore wind but in the global off shore wind industry. New York City and Long Island are among the biggest demand centers for electricity anywhere on the east coast. This project is a 30 megawatt project located 30 miles off the coast of Block Island and

19 miles east of Montauk. This is the first project in the United States and was intended as a stepping stone to larger projects.

* One of the places that has the most significant near term needs for new sources of power is the South Fork of Long Island. It has seen sustained growth from 250 megawatts going up to 400 by 2025. The area is challenging and expensive to build there. LIPA put out a procurement looking for new sources of energy to serve the needs of the South Fork. Deepwater responded with a project we are calling South Fork Wind Farm. It is a 90 megawatt project designed to echo the same technology we employed on Block Island. It is cost effective. We are locating the project 30 miles

off shore and not visible from any beaches. We will be able to deliver the energy directly to where Long Island needs it.

We see this as a first step to kicking off a major new industry here. We have identified new sources of energy. By using this new technology we can have clean energy and cost effective energy. By moving forward with this project Long Island will be host to the largest off shore wind project in America which positions Long Island to be a national leader in the development of this industry.

Question and Answer Period

Could you discuss how the project is going to be organized?

Long Island is very well positioned to be a home to fabrication and logistics for off shore drilling. One of our biggest challenges is the supply chain; the existence of ports and vessels and skilled trades that could be used to help support our industry. We have a time line for the logistics plan. We are currently negotiating a contract with LIPA. Assuming we finalize that at the end of the year, we will move into our execution phase. It is better for us to be building locally because it is cheaper than having to ship things in. The challenge is the lack of port

facilities. In Block Island we had to use four different ports in Rhode Island because there was no single port big enough. This is about a process, not a single project, this is about building an industry.

There has been this long debate that says if you want clean energy you have to pay a premium for it. We think that is false. Renewables are becoming increasingly competitive every day. Over the long term off shore wind will be the most cost effective.

There are a lot of interesting small technologies such as sail boats with solar panels and small wind turbines. For the home application small wind and small solar have pluses and minuses. Small solar is easier to install. If you have the space small wind can make sense.

Presentation by David Berg, Project Manager

“Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) Update”

John Cameron: The Long Island Regional Planning Council was charged with the responsibility of co-managing the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. In order to move that forward the DEC and the LIRPC did a solicitation to select a Project Manager. We have been aggressively working on this project for the last couple of months and David Berg, the Project Manager, is going to give us a report today of where things stand and how we will move forward with the project.

David:

LINAP is a partnership among the NYSDEC, the LIRPC, the two counties, a number of environmental and other NGO's and municipalities across the Island.

LINAP is an effort to deal with nitrogen pollution from a number of sources but primarily from waste water, fertilizer and to some extent storm water. Nitrogen pollution impacts our water resources whether it is our drinking water or surface waters.

Why is nitrogen a problem? Excessive nitrogen loads from fertilizers and waste water, septic systems and cesspools entering the ground water and flowing through the ground water into our

surface water where high levels of nitrogen cause algal blooms and algal blooms cause low dissolved oxygen. There are three major estuaries on Long Island: the South Shore Estuary Reserve, the Peconic Estuary and the Long Island Sound. In 2001, the EPA set limits for nitrogen and as a result a lot of the nitrogen plants on Long Island and in New York City began to upgrade their facilities and as a result we have significant lower nitrogen discharges into the sound. In 2010, the DEC listed the entire Great South Estuary as impaired with a nitrogen problem. In 2012, hurricane Sandy brought to light a lot of problems relating to nitrogen including the sea level rise issues and the need to elevate and make more resilient a lot of south shore communities and homes. In 2014, the DEC issued a research paper that looked at the

impacts of nitrogen on title wetlands and found that title wetlands were negatively affected. These title wetlands help protect us from future storms. In 2014, the counties started the SCUPE to upgrade on site systems to innovative alternative systems. In 2015, Suffolk County issued a Comprehensive Water Resource Management Program that set the stage for a lot of the LINAP initiatives that Suffolk County had already undertaken. In 2015, the state funded LINAP with \$5,000,000 and in 2016, a scope was developed. In 2016 an additional \$1,000,000 was added for work in the Peconic Estuary. There are 280 stakeholders and the following work groups were formed:

Towns, Cities and Village groups

Estuary program and protection committees

Environmental and Trade groups

Academics and land use planners

Engineers and technical experts

Federal, state and county authorities

NY Rising communities

In June a revised final scope was issued and we have been working on advancing the text. Other sewerage feasibility studies have been conducted for a number of communities across Suffolk County.

What do we hope to accomplish with LINAP? To identify the sources of nitrogen in impacted water bodies. Clearly, we already know what the problem is, it is waste water, fertilizer, salt water and a few other contributors. We need to know specifically what's inside each of the water sheds. Is waste water the primary problem? Is fertilizer or storm water the problem? But we need to know the end point. How much nitrogen can be discharged into an estuary before we have a problem? Well, we already have a problem. So we have to work backwards and say how much nitrogen do we have to remove from the discharge before we have clear waters again. And that number is different in different places. Some places can support a greater nitrogen level than others. We need to know what that number is. Is it pounds of nitrogen a day discharged? The project is an action plan so what action can the municipalities take to reduce nitrogen? LINAP is organized in two phases. The first early action is well under way having started late last year. It is anticipated that in a year, year and a half these are the tasks for early action by LINAP: Where are the boundaries for the sub water shed in order to figure out the loading for each? We will look at how much nitrogen is going into each sub water sheds. Hydrodynamics refers to circulation in the water and we have to understand how much circulation there is and how that contributes to the nitrogen movement. Some areas are higher priorities than others. We have to find out how much do we need to bring nitrogen down. Long term LINAP is three to four

years. We need to know how much this is going to cost and who is going to pay for it. Nassau has significant funding from the state to upgrade the Bay Park Treatment Plant. They are also looking at some of the unsewered areas in

Nassau County. Does it make sense to sewer there or are there other solutions? Waste water is the primary focus.

Once we figure out what the solutions are we will require a considerable amount of funding. The sources of funding include the Environmental Facilities Corp., state programs, the Department of State, Community Development block grants through FEMA, Empire State Development and the DEC's own grant programs.

Where are we right now? The June scope is posted on the DEC's website. We will be working with DEC to upgrade that website. There will be presentations, documents and meeting minutes. We will be issuing a newsletter soon and then bulletins regularly to keep people updated on what goes on.

We are working on a Request for a Proposal to do a lot of the tasks and particularly long term LINAP that are not being conducted by Suffolk and to augment the efforts of the County. We will ultimately engage consultants to move us forward.

Statement from Michael White

The Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection's (LICAP) mission is to have a regional approach for the protection of the Long Island Sole Source Aquifer focusing for the most part on the drinking water. I am one of the nine voting members. A State of the Aquifer Report has been produced. The report is on the website. The commission looks at the condition of the aquifer from both a quantity question and a quality question. There has been tremendous support from the counties, the state DEC is involved, and USGS has done tremendous work as you can see from Light Path and LINAP. We have had really important contributions from the Suffolk County Water Authority. If you go to the LICAP website there is an innovative opportunity called Water Trap. You can go to that site and you can click on an area and look at water quality by real live reported water samples submitted to the Health Departments in the State of New York. While LICAP is more focused in drinking water quality, clearly nitrogen is an issue for both elements. While we have had some wells over the years that exceed the nitrogen drinking water standard, it is not necessarily a real contamination problem in terms of drinking water. However if you are seeing high nitrogen you may be concerned about what else might be in that water. The next task of LICAP is to produce a Ground Water Management Plan with a prime focus on drinking water quality that has to converge with the LINAP Plan in terms of the overall nitrogen management issue.

Next Meeting: To Be Decided

Adjournment

* The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.