Long Island Regional Planning Council

LIRPC Meeting – June 14, 2023
Zoom Virtual Meeting Summary Minutes

LIPRC Members Present
John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Michael White, Vice Chair
Jeff Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Elizabeth Custodio
Mayor Barbara Donno
Nancy Engelhardt
Jeff Guillot
Mayor Robert Kennedy
Supervisor Ed Wehrheim

Staff and Guests Present
Richard V. Guardino, Jr., Executive Director
Elizabeth Cole, Deputy Executive Director
Missy Leder, Executive Assistant
Rachel Titus, Program Coordinator

Richard Annitto
Greg Schundler

Alan Belniak
Mark Smith

News12 Long Island
Fox 5 New York
WPIX 11 News

Lena Maun DeSantis
Heather Johnson
K Koerner
Beth Lamoureux
Emily McGhee
Patrick O'Hara
Kerri Ann Souto
Eric Swenson

Meeting Commenced:
John D. Cameron, Jr., opened the meeting at approximately 10am.

John Cameron:
Good morning and welcome to our June 2023 meeting of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. Thank you for joining. Our Executive Director, Rich Guardino, will now conduct a roll call.

Rich Guardino:
Welcome, everyone. Thank you all for being with us this morning.

Roll Call
John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Michael White, Vice Chair
Jeff Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Elizabeth Custodio
Mayor Barbara Donno
Nancy Engelhardt
Jeff Guillot
Mayor Robert Kennedy
Supervisor Ed Wehrheim

Pledge of Allegiance - Nancy Engelhardt

Alan Belniak:
Thank you for joining us this morning. After some opening remarks and some orders of business, we'll have a presentation. After that, the comment and question opportunity are given to members of the LIRPC. After the members of the LIRPC, we will turn to the public to ask questions and share comments in one of two ways. You can use the Q&A function below. If you move your mouse to the lower section of zoom, the Q&A button will pop up and you can type in your comment, and I will read it aloud. Alternatively, you can use the raise hand feature, which is also below. That sends a signal to us that you'd like to speak or comment. I'll call out your name, send a command for you to unmute your mic and you'll then have a couple of seconds to share your comment or question. Please note, this meeting is being recorded. With that, I'll turn it back over to John.

John Cameron:
Thank you, Alan. Rich, would you please begin the business portion of the meeting.

Adoption of the Minutes from February 15, 2023.
All in favor.
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2023-107 authorizes an agreement for consulting on nitrogen loading to groundwater in Towns and Villages in Suffolk County with CDM Smith. CDM Smith prepared the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP) for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services as part of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP). The Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan is critical to the success of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan and CDM Smith developed nitrogen loads as part of the plan. The analysis uses loads in the wastewater plan to estimate the components of nitrogen loading to groundwater from on-site wastewater disposal, fertilizer, pets, atmospheric deposition, and sewage treatment plant discharge to groundwater and sewage treatment plant nitrogen loads to surface water

for each of the 10 Towns and 32 Villages in Suffolk County. The cost of the analysis is not to exceed $28,300.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-107: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Michael White
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2023-108 authorizes an agreement for consulting on the Nitrogen Smart Communities Program (NSC) with Anchor QEA, LLC. The LIRPC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to complete the pilot phase of NSC, a program created by LINAP to promote local awareness and action to reduce and/or eliminate nitrogen from municipalities on Long Island. The NSC program has the capability of reducing nitrogen pollution in degraded water bodies and protecting areas before impairments occur. Municipalities will follow a series of steps to earn tiered levels of NSC certification based on activities and associated point rewards. This is like Climate Smart Communities. We have approached the Town of North Hempstead and the Town of Smithtown requesting their participation in the pilot program and they have expressed interest in participating. They have been enthusiastic, and we appreciate their support. The RFP was issued on January 4, 2023, and sent to 65 firms. A Selection Committee was formed. Mayor Barbara Donno, member of the Council, sat on the committee along with Sue Van Patten from NYDEC and Sarah Healy, also from NYSDEC. Rachel Titus, our Nitrogen Smart Communities Consultant, Liz Cole, and I were also on the Committee. Two proposals were submitted and the Anchor QEA, LLC proposal best met the requirements of the RFP. The Selection Committee interviewed and negotiated with Anchor QEA, LLC. A final amended proposal was submitted. The Selection Committee recommends Anchor QEA, LLC as the consultant for the NSC pilot program with costs not to exceed $226,500.

John Cameron:
Rich, is it correct that the NYSDEC is the source of those funds?

Rich Guardino:
Yes, that is correct. It is part of the grant that we have from NYSDEC, and they have recommended this program and are full participants.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-108: Nancy Engelhardt
Seconded: Jeff Kraut
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2023-109 authorizes grants totaling $10,000 to the schools with the top proposals that participated in the 2023 STEM Challenge Program. As part of LINAP, the Long Island Water Quality Challenge promotes project-based learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Long Island schools and helps students develop a greater understanding of how their classroom curriculum can be applied to protecting Long Island's crucial water resources. The competition focuses on reducing nitrogen pollution and connects students, teachers, and their communities to the overall LINAP initiative. The top proposals came from Plainedge Middle School,

Southwoods Middle School in Syosset, South Side High School in Rockville Centre, and Sayville High School. Last week, we were at three of the schools and the receptions were excellent. Some of you may have seen the Newsday coverage. Yesterday, we were at Syosset, and it was really inspiring. The sixth graders there were the youngest group that submitted a proposal this year and they are doing a great job. This is just a terrific program in terms of getting young people involved with our LINAP initiative.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-109: Jeff Guillot
Seconded: Michael White
All in Favor: So moved.

PRESENTATION

Rich Guardino:
This morning, we have a presentation by Richard Annitto, LiRo GIS Inc. Vice President, and Greg Schundler, LiRo GIS, Inc. Business Analyst on "Long Island's First Waterfront Zoning and Uses GIS Inventory." The LIRPC retained LiRo GIS Inc. in June 2022 to conduct a study on Long Island Waterfront Uses and Zoning with the primary objective to build a GIS based inventory of Long Island waterfront uses and zoning. Coastal resources and ecosystems constitute significant economic benefits to Long Island's regional economy, especially in terms of coastal tourism, commerce, recreational services, and result in an expansion of businesses as well as improvement of aquatic ecosystems. This central database created by LiRo will serve as an important resource for Long Island. With that, let me turn it over to Richard.

Richard Annitto:
Thank you, Rich. Good morning, I'd like to thank the Council for giving us the opportunity to present our findings. Geographic information systems (GIS) is a well-established technology used by local government. At its heart, it is a digital map. All local governments on Long Island have some form of GIS in their operations. In the real world, it is prevalent behind the scenes. When you call 911, GIS helps get the right location; when you get your newspaper delivered or you get a package from Amazon, GIS is behind the scenes. It's the science of location. We used the science of location to help build the waterfront database that integrates local zoning, assessment data, state property codes, and a wrinkle of commercial data. The commercial data was very helpful in terms of finding certain types of businesses in the study area.

In order to present this, we came up with the concept of a story map. Instead of using PowerPoint, we can use an integrated map. We're going to use a combination of words and pictures. We've released a prototype version on the Council's website and can work to improve its performance with any feedback.

Greg Schundler:
Thanks so much for having us and thank you for the opportunity to do this work. It's definitely groundbreaking.

The story map is available on the LIRPC website. There is a header for the Waterfront Zoning and Uses GIS inventory may. Within that, there will be a hyperlink to this story map so if you have a PC, you can follow along there. Just a warning that these datasets are massive, so it may take some time for certain maps to load.

The first thing to establish for a waterfront GIS zoning inventory is to define what we mean by waterfront. Sometimes these things are intuitive linguistically, but when it comes down to GIS, the precision of the technology requires you to specifically define what is meant by waterfront. We looked at some data sources and settled on a waterfront being a quarter mile buffer around Nassau and Suffolk counties.

These maps are all interactive and you can expand the map to your full screen which I recommend so you can scroll and zoom. What you can also do in these maps is you can click on a certain element of the map. I can click here for example and that would be the Town of Oyster Bay's waterfront zoning. This allows you to see which parts of that quarter mile buffer of the map belong to which municipality. Something that we also did was break out the municipalities from the towns since that's the level of jurisdiction for zoning.

In this map, I'm simply showing the same quarter mile study area and the 79 jurisdictions that it intersects. Of course, that's not all the jurisdictions on Long Island, it's only those that have a quarter mile coastline buffer waterfront as defined. The 79 jurisdictions involved in the study have different zoning categorizations. When you put them all together, there's nearly 600 unique zoning designations on Long Island. Many of them did not have GIS format for the zoning so we had to collect paper maps and photos and we went through a process called digitization, which is to ground that information in the digital system which requires drafting.

Richard Annito:
In many cases, Greg had to go to a municipality and take a picture of their zoning map behind the building counter. We took that photo, and we did what is called geo referencing. There's a story behind every local government's zoning, map, and zoning categories.

Greg Schundler:
With 600 local zoning categories, you start to see that you can group some of them. We took those 600 local zoning categories and to the best of our logical ability, consolidated them into 36 general zoning categories. There is a cool feature in story maps that allows you to look at two layers at once. As an example, on the left side, we have the local zoning designation, and you can see the rainbow of colors here, each representing its own zoning designation. We can click into that and see that it is District B, or residential B which is 5,000 square foot plus 12.5% excess. The zoning code comes down to that kind of precision specificity. What we created is a map where you can see the general zoning categories. Dark grey is residential. One of the best parts of the consolidation was to put the other residential in one bucket so that we could start to look at commercial waterfront uses.

So here, this purple is very clear. When I click that parcel, what you're going to see is these other parcels highlighted. I'm going to dock this dialog so we can get it out of my way. This is now highlighting all the commercial parcels that were put into that general zoning category on the entire island. I can now zoom

out and see all those highlighted parcels that got that general zoning category. There's a lot of data in these maps that you can navigate.

We integrated the information from the New York State parcel program, which collects data from county and town assessors with standard state issued codes for 280 different property classes. Some of those are clearly waterfront uses such as aquatic oyster lands, fish and aquatic plants, or marinas. The map to the right shows that data which is called “point data” and each parcel is labeled with one of those 280 property classes. We have layered that on top of the zoning areas.

Another feature of these maps is a legend which is on the bottom left and I can pop that out. A label is assigned to each of the colors defining property classes. These are the 36 general zoning categories. As an example, we have a marina on this parcel. If we click on that we get this little pop up and see that was in our general zoning category for commercial and our local zoning would be “bus 1 commercial.” Each link here corresponds to the property type classifications from New York State.

Once we had the land uses in the zoning, the idea was to do a cross sectional analysis. This chart is only an excerpt from the full analysis. The idea is to look at those 36 general zoning categories against the 280 property classes from New York State and see if they describe one another.

One thing to keep in mind is that the precision of this analysis is incredible. It also allows you to hone in and define what you want to look for. Here, for example, if we look at marine from our general zoning category, we can go down and see how the properties file in according to these property classes. We can see that there are 450 marine zoned parcels that have a state land use of one family year-round residence. On the other hand, we can look at what the state considers the 570 marinas and see that 556 of them end up in a business zone, and only 53 end up in a marine zone. Marina and marine are only one letter apart linguistically, but as you can see, the way it shakes out is much more nuanced, and maybe a little bit contradictory as well. Each designation could be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Perhaps there was a local decision-making body or board for zoning appeals that made some decision or perhaps some land was grandfathered in with the use or zoning. Alternatively, there might be some legal arrangements between private parties, like an easement or something of that nature. Once we have the zoning and the uses together, the idea would be to use this in application with development planning or economic studies. The rest of the presentation explores what that would look like.

We were encouraged by LIRPC to check out the HR&A Advisors’ “Long Island’s Emergent Blue Economy” Study. That study used NAICS codes, (North American Industry Classification System), which are a way the federal government and the Bureau of Labor and others categorize businesses in the United States. It defined six core sectors in the “Blue Economy” as aquaculture and fisheries, marine construction, maritime transportation, offshore winds, marine research, and tourism and recreation. This is an example of a chart from that study which examines where employment has increased or decreased in these various sectors by counting the number of jobs over ten years. Notably, that study did not restrict the Blue Economy to the waterfront and instead included all of Suffolk and Nassau counties.

So, how can we cross our work with their work? First, we obtained the precise location data of 100,000 businesses in the coastal zip codes of Long Island and filtered those 100,000 businesses into those Blue Economy categories. In this map you can see the “confetti” which represents all business locations in XY precision. For example, here in Miller Place City there is a code 541614, which means process physical distribution and logistics. Let’s look at another one. This one's more manageable than the last one, because there's only about a dozen or so little economy businesses. You can see how you can aggregate this data by the zip code. So, what you see here is the darker blues have a range of 144 to 248 businesses and the lightest blue which has 18 or less of these blue economy businesses. You can really start to see the hotspots of this, quote, “Blue Economy.” From there, you can dig deeper and see the diversity of various businesses.

As a note, these coastal zip codes reach much further inland than our original quarter mile waterfront definition which makes sense because the Blue Economy businesses don't have to necessarily be on the waterfront.

The great thing about GIS is that according to definitions you can really kick the tires on somebody’s concept or definition of something and that helps firm it up or ground it even better. It also helps to find outliers and hotspots. So here, using the general zoning categories we had, I counted all the businesses in the quarter mile buffer. We total the number of businesses in those general zoning categories, and you can see that 25% of the Blue Economy is in a residential district and about 33% is in a business district with 20% in commercial. But then there is this rich mix of the mid-tier of these industrial and marine waterfront types of uses. The three metrics available through our business data were the number of businesses, an estimated sales number, and an estimated number of employees. Here we rank those general zoning categories from 1st to 16th place and you can see that they all have relatively similar metrics in terms of economic activity, estimated sales, number of employees.

Richard Annito:
The waterfront and marine uses are consistently in the top 10 for the most part, which I think is one of the most important things that we recognized here. Because of that zoning we can now begin to pick out where those marine businesses are in terms of counts, sales, and employees.

Greg Schundler:
Getting back to the zoning theme, we are also able to create similar kind of summary statistics, not just for ZIP codes, but for actual local zones. If you remember, I said there are 600 zoning categories on the local level in Long Island. These are 600 points, representing the number of businesses in the Blue Economy and this is an even higher resolution in terms of that Blue Economy data. By zooming in, we can explore these points and the zoning data behind it.

For example, right here in Sayville, this is the commercial zoning category and I want to call your attention to these sometimes called “cards” which you can flip through. Here, I can zoom out and I can see the general zoning category, all over the island and I can also see the local parcels highlighted. So, these are all business one commercial, and you'll notice that these are outside of the quarter mile

buffer. Sometimes we were able to get more parcel data than the quarter mile buffer, but they were not factored into the blue economy analysis for this local zone exercise. The third card will just highlight those parcels that were considered in that local zone for the calculation.

Next let's look at Islip. In our study area, you can see that these parcels highlighted are included in the Town of Islip local zoning, category "bus one" summary statistic for several blue economy businesses, according to the Define NAICS codes. The precision of all that was a mouthful, but it just speaks to the precision of the studies you can conduct using this GIS database.

On to another theme, we were able to go through a FOIL request, obtain all the buyout and acquisition point data XY locations for Nassau and Suffolk counties. You can see from the legend that the red dots are acquisitions, and the greens are buyouts, and these are from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR). Here you can see these are the local zoning categories. Again, 600, I'm scrolling through them all. I don't expect you to recognize those by the color. Again, we have this pop-up part of the application, so I can come in and look at what these two are in the commercial zone. These points are buyouts and they're in a commercial local zone.

A lot of these data points have incredible other attributes on it. For instance, you can get the buyout and sale price information and obviously some of that information is sensitive to show on a location. So, like the analysis for the "Blue Economy," it was possible to summarize the GOSR data by various geographic units. I am aggregating it by zip code here and you can see that green means a low amount and red means a high amount. What is measured by the colors is the total closing amount in US dollars of all GOSR buyouts and acquisitions for each zip code relative to all the zip codes. This is a way that you discover hotspots. Clearly, here we have a red hotspot. The circles also provide information representing the number of buyouts and acquisitions. Of course, they're closely correlated, but there's places they might deviate. For example, here we can see two circles of similar size indicating a similar number of buyouts and acquisitions, but this one is colored red meaning the total amount paid for those was much higher than this large circle. We can click on the zip code again and get that number of $62 million and 155 properties in the Town of Babylon. Again, I did that aggregation of statistics with the local zones and then you can see which zones had the most buyouts and acquisitions and which had the largest payout for those. We can go into this large circle and can see that this is the Town of Babylon and within the highlighted areas, which show zoning description C and is residential.

Last, but not least, a third theme to explore is electricity generation. The point data here is available from the World Resources Institute. It's called the global power plant database and includes large power plants like the Barrett gas facility at 670 megawatts, but it also includes 2.2 megawatts oil power plants and includes solar farms at 31 megawatts. So, it's both large and small power plants. It's pretty good coverage for a free public dataset. Here you see the Block Island wind farm with 30 megawatts Block Island oil. We started the map with the Barrett gas plant. In this map, we made the zones color transparent enough that you can see the satellite imagery underneath it. You can see the power plant facility, all the associated infrastructure (transformers, storage tanks, etc.). I can click on this, and it will give me the commissioning year, the primary fuel, the other fuel, the owner of the power facility, the

year that the data was taken, and the estimated generation of gigawatt hours in a given year. Again, we can click through the cards. So, this is the local industrial district Y, which is a general zoning category industrial in the Town of Hempstead.

We all know wind power is major and current theme as are other energy sources like solar power and fossil fuel power plants. You can define your search and your query by any of those and you can filter by what we call attributes in GIS, which are characteristics like size of the megawatt facility. You can say I only want to see fossil fuel power plants that are less than 20 megawatts in these jurisdictions that are this distance from the coast. It works much like how you filter for properties on Zillow.

This is the conclusion slide. It is a nice photo from that quarter mile buffer area. I will just reiterate, this LIRPC Waterfront Zoning and Uses GIS Inventory provides a never before available resource for exploring the complex mosaic of Long Island's waterfront at any scale from the parcel to regional level. Understanding waterfront zones and uses for the “Blue Economy” is a challenge that inevitably requires subjective definitions and categorizations. As you saw through the examples of the zoning and uses inventory application, GIS data supports the exploration of such subjective parameters. GIS data can be layered and statistically analyzed to bring new insights to other data layers, cultivating a greater understanding of the truth on the ground. As a publicly available data set, the Waterfront Zoning and Uses GIS inventory will be a tremendous resource that can be filtered, analyzed, presented, and shared in dynamic ways.

Thank you.

John Cameron:
Council members, do you have any questions?

Jeff Kraut:
Greg, this kind of shows the economic vitality of our shoreline, which is part of the objective. Do you also have risk assessment to that economy? Are you able to put the FEMA flood maps overlaid as a layer?

Greg Schundler:
Yes, we are. There's also layers for Sandy inundation, which I think, basically match the FEMA flood plains.

Jeff Kraut:
For regulatory, it is important to pay attention to that shoreline, think about how to protect it and not over develop it at one level. There must be regulations that support appropriate use of that line.

Greg Schundler:
In other layers, for example, there's something called land cover or even pavement. There are also micro watersheds. For given sections of the bay, you can find out all of the hydrology including streams,

creeks, rivers, and the drainage area for that place. You can calculate what percentage of that is impervious surface. There is so much information here.

Jeff Kraut:
I play with the tree canopy GIS layer sometimes to look at climate issues.

John Cameron:
Jeff, the point you raised is very important because what we're trying to do is provide a tool that planners in the government as well as the private sector can use to evaluate which parcels are valuable and what should be preserved. The information can be used to determine changes in zoning. The risk assessment is crucial to determining which properties are very valuable and which are subject to damage with another Sandy like storm. Bob Kennedy, having been so affected by Sandy, maybe you have some thoughts to share.

Robert Kennedy:
I have a couple of questions on this. Have you outlined the Cobra zone? The Cobra zone is an area along the easternsouth side of Long Island that you're not allowed to develop, according to FEMA regulations. The federal government has a Cobra zone which should be reflected in here. It marks exactly where you're allowed and not allowed to develop along the shoreline by federal regulation.

John Cameron:
Mayor Kennedy, we gave them a scope, but you bring up an excellent point here. We should talk to Rich if there is additional work, we are interested in.

Robert Kennedy:
The second question is, is there any concern about too much information on these power plants getting out to the public?

Greg Schundler:
It is publicly accessible. Any of the data on the maps are highly configurable to hide data if we choose. As you saw, we can also aggregate it into a shape that's not a specific XY location. There are various ways to mitigate concerns of that nature, which we did with buyouts and businesses.

Nancy Engelhardt:
I am not sure I understand why it would be a concern if it is public information.

Robert Kennedy:
I would be concerned about the main gas line feeders coming into the power plant. If there was some type of a plan to interrupt the service, giving exact locations of let's say a jet engine specifically located on a piece of property that provides the electrical just makes it a little bit more vulnerable to security. I don't know what the federal regulations are with GPS or Google Earth, but I question providing a lot of information publicly about fuel storage on or near the water.

Michael White:
I also wonder if this can be taken a step further, to look at the uses in the water as well as control and jurisdiction of those waters as well as those bay bottoms? It might be interesting to investigate what's there and what can be there (whether it's marinas, mooring fields, discharge pipes). It would also be interesting to know who has control or is taking ownership, which might lead to different local zoning.

Greg Schundler:
Absolutely. I think a lot of that is in here.

Richard Annito:
I believe we have GIS data available about the oyster bed locations. That can also be overlaid on the map.

John Cameron:
To make it clear, I believe what we're doing is taking all publicly available information and assembling and collating it in a useful format. We're not putting any proprietary information out there. We're not looking to present some risk to our major infrastructure, etc. Can I confirm that this is all readily available but involves more work to attain?

Richard Annito:
Yes, that's correct, John. Many municipalities on Long Island already publish their zoning data in GIS format. The counties also publish and make available the parcel level data and the state publishes the property classification points. So yes, the only thing that was not publicly available previously was the business data that we purchased from the firm AXL. From that data, we made sure we removed very specific information about the business, the name, their revenue, etc. which really shouldn't be publicly available. Everything else is publicly available. Still, there are a lot of different things that can be added to the map to really expand its capabilities to do analysis.

John Cameron:
To Michael's point, the Blue Economy includes some bay bottoms and underwater activities, shellfish harvesting for example. So those classifications and ownership or zoning would also be useful. Do you agree, Michael?

Michael White:
Yeah, that's exactly right. It'd be very helpful.

John Cameron:
We will have a conversation and we welcome anyone to email us regarding ideas for other useful data that could be included here. We can also have a conversation with LiRo about maybe expanding their scope. I think what we're recognizing here is the potential that this GIS data presents and where we could possibly go from here. I appreciate that.

Greg Schundler:
I just wanted to offer one more thing. As you can see, there's a lot of flexibility in the scale of the analysis and the location of the analysis. There are a lot of details and a lot of different data layers. One thing that we didn't explore under this scope is temporal change which is a whole other axis of analysis that you can add. I just wanted you to know that time is an axis of analysis as well.

Nancy Engelhardt:
No questions, I just would like to comment that knowledge is power and the detail of this analysis is fantastic. Jeff and Mayor Kennedy brought up some good additions to this. Also, as a FYI, the Long Island Community Foundation, the Regional Planning Association and CUNY are collaborating on a Zoning Atlas project across Long Island for different purposes as it relates to patterns of housing and trends and areas where zoning could be changed for affordable housing. As we discussed earlier, layering information is very helpful and I think having this incredibly comprehensive data map of Long Island can lead to many things as it relates to future planning. I think we know there's a lot of potential.

John Cameron:
There is much potential and so many opportunities. This data can help with the opportunities and the risks in any business or investment decision.

Alan, do we have any hands raised for questions from the audience?

Alan Belniak:
We currently have no hands raised in the audience, but we do have a couple of questions in our Q&A. Just as a reminder for those in the audience, if you have perhaps joined late, you can ask a question by raising your hand by hovering over the raise hand icon in the lower tray of zoom controls. Alternatively, you can type a question in the Q&A box by clicking on or tapping on Q&A and typing your question.

The first question comes from Patrick. Patrick asks, “Has the LIRPC looked at trying to collect and centralize zoning/land use related GIS data from municipalities into one place to make further projects like this looking at other subjects easier?”

John Cameron:
The Council has not specifically done that, but we think this is a wonderful start. We're open to conversations amongst the Council and with our funders. I think there is a lot of potential.

Richard Guardino:
Nancy, you may want to talk a little bit about the Zoning Atlas, it's currently underway.

Nancy Engelhardt:
I think we're having a preview next week of the prototype that's being done with CG CLI who's been partners at this and RPA and CUNY. We are working with RADC so that we could plan forward regarding

statistical information about zoning patterns throughout Long Island. This will help to analyze zoning characteristics in relation to the land use patterns. We can facilitate and potentially restrict and think about ways where we can have inclusive affordable housing. The Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center is also a partner. This is the first ever in New York State and aligns completely with the National Zoning Atlas. So again, another first Zoning Atlas. I think it will be very useful for all of us in planning.

Alan Belniak:
Great, thank you for that.

While Greg was presenting, I found the URL for this presentation and I put it into the chat so when this content has stopped being shared, you might be able to access it in the chat box.

The next question in our Q&A queue is from Manish. Manish asks, “Do inundation layers include FEMA 100-year and 500-year flood plains, a sea level rise data, slash data, sea level rise storm surge in this GIS?

Richard Annito:
I think this goes back to Michael's question of the risk component. So, all that data is publicly available. We've used it for other municipalities and the same kind of questions about sea level rise, so it could absolutely be added to the map. The question is whether the Council wants to expand a future phase to add the risk component to the analysis.

John Cameron:
We can certainly discuss it.

Alan Belniak:
The last question is “How often will this analysis be updated?”

Richard Annito:
That's a work in progress to be determined. There is not too much change in local zoning. I think it goes to Greg's comment about the temporal analysis. Every year the taxable status date in New York State is around March 1, the roles close and at some time in July, a new parcel dataset would be issued by both counties. In theory, you would probably do a yearly update to make sure that your land use is up to date and then try to figure out a way for those municipalities to update depending on their maintenance cycle. There are so many municipalities involved and each one may have a completely different program update and maintenance.

John Cameron:
I think we would assess as to whether it's been a significant change or not on an annual basis to see if it's appropriate or not.

Alan Belniak:
With that, I don't see any other hands raised and no other questions in our Q&A.

John Cameron:
On behalf of the Council, I would like to salute LiRo and both Rich and Greg for an outstanding presentation and, maybe more important, for such great work. We all recognize that the body of work is very important and very useful. Our island is highly dependent upon all water uses. I think you did an excellent job. Thank you very much.

Richard Annito:
Thank you to the Council for letting us present and we look forward to the future.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
John Cameron:
The presentation today on our waterfront zoning and inventory was very informative. Long Island is inextricably linked to our waterfront both economically as well as recreationally. The waterfront also positively affects our quality of life. With all the challenges we face here on Long Island, we believed it was important to highlight the value of our marine resources and our dependence upon them. Our neglect could have irreversible effects in the future.

While the Long Island Regional Planning Council is most focused on the challenges and opportunities presented to us on the island, we are not isolated from the key issues affecting our state and our nation. Depending upon the media outlets you access, each day we are either bombarded with the news of the indicted former president or the calls for the investigation of a sitting one. There are problems with fugitive migrants entering the country and governors of some border states transporting them. Many of these migrants choose sanctuary states which have caused social, political, and budgetary problems throughout the country. In fact, some communities on Long Island have been affected by migrantspotentially being transported from New York City. Oil prices combined with supply side challenges for the transportation of goods has contributed to significant inflation. Federal spending on various programs, including the war in Ukraine, has also contributed to the economic problem. Major division between our elected leaders and Congress continues. Crime in our nation's cities is contributing to an accelerated flight from urban areas presenting both a challenge and an opportunity for Long Island to manage some of the business and resident exodus from New York City.

The New York state legislature has just completed its 2023 session, with many of the Governor's priorities remaining unaddressed. The Governor's proposed housing initiative, while laudable in its goal, was never crafted to be acceptable to suburban communities. Back in 2010, our Council prepared LI2035, a 25-year sustainability plan. We identified the myriad of challenges that Long Island faced for its future viability. Of all those evaluated, we identified the two primary impediments to Long Island's future sustainability as being a lack of diversity in (rental) housing and an unsustainable tax burden. On a positive note, our inventory of rental housing has grown in the 12 years since the release of our plan although there is still much work to be done if we're going to be able to retain our young work

workforce and our aging population on Long Island. The 2% New York Property tax cap adopted last year has been positive but other work is necessary if we are going to be able to stem the tide of Long Islanders migrating to low tax states. Growing our local economy can generate jobs, sales, and income tax revenues, it can also grow our commercial tax base, which can greatly help to grow the tax rate without burdening the residential base. As a nation's oldest suburb, our infrastructure, whether it be roads, water, wastewater, drainage, or power systems is in critical need of major upgrading. We currently have a unique opportunity with the federal government's $1.3 trillion Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the New York State $4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act providing major sources of funding. If secured, these funds can enable us to address this major problem.

As identified in the four thematic areas of LI2035 (the economy, tax and governance, infrastructure, environment, and equity), we have major challenges to address if we're going to leave our island in a better place for future generations than what we inherited. We are now at the midpoint of our 25-year plan and the good news is that we've made some positive strides, but the bad news is that we have much more to do. The longer it takes us to resolve our critical issues, the more challenging the problems will become. So, let's get going onward and upward together. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Rich Guardino:
That was an insightful and great analysis John. Thanks for going back to our LI2035 study and giving us perspective on it.

Just briefly, the balance of payments study by PFM consultants (that the Council approved at the last meeting) is underway. We're looking at expenditures and revenue between Long Island and the state and federal government. That analysis should be complete sometime in the fall and we'll present it at a meeting later this year.

The STEM Challenge program is in the fourth year. We had 14 proposals this year and many were excellent. Over the past two weeks, we've hosted award ceremonies and it's inspirational to see all these young people participating and being part of our Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan.

In May, in collaboration with the New England Interstate Water Control Commission, the Council launched the Long Island Garden Rewards Program. This initiative allows homeowners to be reimbursed for implementing small scale water improvement projects on their properties. Currently, the program has gained significant attention, and we have numerous participants taking part. This is another one of the initiatives under the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan.

Finally, thank you all for supporting the consultant for the Nitrogen Smart Communities Program. We're going to get started with that immediately. The great news is that we have support from our Council Member Ed Wehrheim. Supervisor Wehrheim and the Town of Smithtown are now officially registered as the Suffolk County pilot after passing the resolution at their most recent board meeting. Thank you so

much Supervisor. We also look forward to working with Jen DeSena from the Town of North Hempstead with the Nitrogen Smart Communities.

John, that concludes my report.

John Cameron:
Thank you, Rich.

John Cameron:
Do we have any other new business from the Council? Are there any questions or comments from the audience?

With that, we will close the meeting for today. Thank you everyone.

Motion to adjourn. So moved. All in favor.