

Long Island Regional Planning Council

LIRPC Meeting – October 26, 2023 Zoom Virtual Meeting Summary Minutes

LIRPC Members Present

John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Michael White, Vice Chair
Jeff Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Supervisor Don Clavin
Elizabeth Custodio
Mayor Barbara Donno
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

Alan Belniak
Katherine Heaviside
Mark Smith
Tammy Strauss

Vinny Falkowski
Andrew Fera
Peter Scully

News12 Long Island
Fox 5 New York
WPIX 11 News

Brian Aerne
Liz Alexander
Vincent Amicizia
Mary Brower
C Carrano
Lionel Chitty
Patricia DelCol
Joe Deruiter
D Devoe
Nicole Formisano
Daniel Galbraith
Thomas Gallagher
Dean Gandley
Michele Golden

Leo Guthart
Gary Haber
Peter Hans
Sarah Healy
Kristina Heinemann
Mark Hopkinson
Chris Kobos
Jay Korth
Brittney Kovary
Kaite Laible
Deanna Laney
Sarah Lansdale
Margaret Larsen
Larry Levy
Andrew Mirchel
Steve Raciti
Ed Ragan
Robby Rooter
Brian Schneider
Daniel Segal
Manish Shah
Sue Van Patten

Meeting Commenced:

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

John Cameron:

Good morning and welcome to our October 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
Supervisor Don Clavin
Elizabeth Custodio
Mayor Barbara Donno
Supervisor Ed Wehrheim

John Cameron:

As we do with all of our meetings, we will start off with the Pledge of Allegiance. I'd like to ask you to keep in your thoughts and prayers, all those victims of violence, whether it be in in Maine or in other areas of the world, whether it be in the Middle East, in Israel, or in Ukraine. Our thoughts and prayers

also go to the men and women of the armed forces, who continue to put themselves in harm's way so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we do each and every day.

Pledge of Allegiance – Barbara Donno

Alan Belniak:

Thank you for joining us this morning. After some opening remarks and some orders of business, we'll have two presentations. After that, the comment and question opportunity is 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 June 14, 2023.

All in favor.

All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:

Resolution 2023-110 authorizes an agreement with the partnership of Hofstra University and the Town of Hempstead to continue Water Quality Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting within the surface waters of Nassau County's south shore through September 30, 2024. The partnership of Hofstra University and the Town of Hempstead for water quality monitoring began in 2019. The current contract for water quality monitoring expired on September 30, 2023. The monitoring program provides baseline data against which to evaluate the changes to nutrient loading that are expected in the next decade as a result of infrastructure changes that are being implemented that will radically alter the magnitude of nitrogen inputs to the South Shore. These changes include:

- Upgrades to the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility (SSWRF), conversion of the Long Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant to a pump station and rerouting the sewage to SSWRF.
- Rerouting treated effluent from the SSWRF to the Atlantic Ocean through a connection to the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant ocean outfall.
- Sewering the households and businesses in Point Lookout that are currently using septic systems.

The funding for the program is from a state grant with costs not to exceed \$194,800.

John Cameron:

Thanks, Rich. One other construction activity that the county is implementing is the diversion of the Long Beach sewage treatment plant. Their treated effluent plant is now going to be converted to a pumping station and that will be diverted over to Bay Park too. There are very significant changes

occurring in Reynolds Channel and Hempstead Bay which can have some very promising effects on our water quality. Hofstra will be able to monitor that and let us know what the changes will be.

Michael White:

In terms of the availability of the data for other agencies or researchers. How will we be fostering that?

Rich Guardino:

I'm going to talk about that during the Executive Director's report. Save the Sound's QuickDrops is collecting the data and is going to make it publicly available. I'll go into that in a little more detail, Michael, when we get to the Executive Director's report, but there is a process for doing that.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-110: Jeff Kraut

Seconded: Michael White

Recused: Don Clavin

All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:

Resolution 2023-111 approves the Independent Auditor's Report performed by Anthony Basile, CPA, P.C. Basile is also a professor at Hofstra. The LIRPC engaged the Basile CPA firm on February 28, 2023, to perform an audit of the financial statements of the LIRPC for 2022. The key finding of the audit is on page 28 and page 29 of the audit in a memo that was addressed to members of the Council: "The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards." The Officers of the Council have reviewed the audit, and they recommend approval of the Independent Auditor's Report for the year 2022.

Jeff Kraut:

I'd like to move the motion and just to assure everybody that as you heard, we met and reviewed the Audit Report. We met with the auditor without management, and we were very pleased with the outcome of the audit and the way the work was performed. There are no issues.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-111: Jeff Kraut

Seconded: Supervisor Ed Wehrheim

All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:

Resolution 2023-112 ratifies the purchase of the Federal Funds Information for State Grants Database in the amount of \$5,000. Public Financial Management Group (PFM) is currently doing a tax burden analysis for Nassau and Suffolk residents and businesses that focuses on taxes and other revenue contributed versus the expenditures provided by New York State and by the United States Federal government. In order to complete the analysis, PFM required the Federal Funds Information for State Grants Database 2023 Enacted Budget for Year 2024. Since the Federal Funds Information for State limits the purchase of the database to public entities, the LIRPC purchased the database. PFM will use the database for their analysis and the \$5,000 cost will be deducted from the PFM consulting retainer. It

is no cost to the Council, but because it is over the \$2,000 threshold, we are asking the Council to ratify the purchase.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2023-112: Barbara Donno

Seconded: Michael White

All in Favor: So moved.

John Cameron:

Next on our agenda we have the first of our two presentations today. Both presentations deal with issues affecting the environment and the overall health of Long Island and our waters. We'll start with the presentation regarding Suffolk County. I'll let Rich provide an introduction.

Rich Guardino:

We're absolutely delighted to have Peter Scully with us this morning. He's the Deputy County Executive for Administration for Suffolk County. You all know Peter, who has done an incredible job in Suffolk County in terms of water quality issues. We all know the issues that arise because Suffolk does not have the same sewage treatment plants that we have in Nassau County. Peter has done an incredible job over the last few years. I'll let him talk about not only the infrastructure, but also the tremendous work done in terms of those innovative alternative septic systems that are being implemented in Suffolk County. Thank you so much for being with us.

PRESENTATION

Peter Scully:

Thanks for the introduction. I have quite a few slides. I'll try and run through them quickly and leave some time for Q&A after the presentation by Nassau County. As Rich pointed out, Nassau County is far ahead of Suffolk County in terms of water quality and wastewater infrastructure. Nassau County is largely sewerage. I think about 75%. Suffolk County is largely unsewered. Again, I think about 75%. Suffolk is trying to catch up. Nassau appears to be moving ahead with other important infrastructure improvements that we will hear about today. I'm just delighted to hear about sewerage Point Lookout.

I'm going to move through a planning process that has been underway for almost 10 years. Suffolk County does finally have a long-term wastewater infrastructure plan, but I want to emphasize as we get into it, that the need for the plan is nothing new. This is a report that was issued by the first County Executive Agency in 1961 and dated January 6, 1962, urging the Board of Supervisors to move forward immediately with a plan to sewer Suffolk County. It's a very interesting document, many of the negative environmental impacts he predicted, unfortunately, have come to pass. He characterized cesspools and septic systems as nothing more than a temporary solution. I love the last sentence in which he says, "It can be expected if steps are not taken soon, our local governments may be considered delinquent in duty enforced by others to action." Here's a few articles that we use to impress upon the community that this is not a new issue. These are articles that appeared in Newsday in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Unfortunately, the reality is that 70 years later, we still have over 380,000 cesspools and septic systems in Suffolk County. Twenty thousand of those are on commercial properties. We have downtown

business districts that don't have sewers and are struggling. In our downtown business districts that do have sewers, places like Patchogue, Babylon, Port Jefferson, and Huntington, are flourishing. Fortunately, we do have many sewer projects under construction and in the pipeline.

This is a slide that we got from The Nature Conservancy that shows people in the community how excess nutrients from cesspools and septic systems find their way into the environment. I always point out that the fish don't look so happy.

Another educational slide pointing out that nitrogen pollution causes excess nutrients compromising our drinking water supply, polluting bays, and harbors, and degrading the ecosystem. The economic implications in terms of lack of economic growth in some of our downtown areas are clear. Recently, we've been cautioned by folks from Stony Brook University about potential links between excess nutrients and linkages to cancer. That research is still ongoing. We know that the degradation of coastal wetlands has made our coastal communities more vulnerable to storm surge.

These are examples of what excess nutrients do to our environment in ways that are visible to us. Discolored water, rust did, brown tide and red tide are obvious. Beach closures in Suffolk County are very frequent. The map on the right was created jointly by Stony Brook University and The Nature Conservancy and shows the harmful algal blooms and other excess nutrient related water quality impacts that result from excess nutrients in one season alone. You can see there are far fewer in Nassau County. Suffolk had more algal blooms than any other area in the country at this point.

So, economic impacts, we have a lot of downtown areas where we have vacancies due to lack of flexibility in terms of uses of property. We're trying to address this issue. We have an active program, but the impacts due to lack of sewer infrastructure are real.

Our tourism economy is largely dependent on surface waters. Tourism spending is huge. These figures are from a recent Newsday article. Sustainability, in terms of our tourism economy, depends on clean water and clean water infrastructure. This slide is used to show folks that this is not a Suffolk County specific or unique problem. There are problems with cesspools and septic systems all over the nation and all over the globe. We're somewhat proud of that excerpt from the article about Hawaii because other states at this point have been contacting Suffolk County to ask about how we got our program up and moving so quickly. We'll talk about that a little bit more in a minute. This is an article from Newsday from 2019 emphasizing the fact that we can turn the tide on water quality issues. The visual is striking if we just have a long-term plan and a funding source.

We've made significant progress since 2014 and we have appreciated the strong support of the state of New York through virtually every step. We have received financial support from either the Governor and/or the DEC (which is a great partner). The Long Island Regional Planning Council has also supported us through the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) initiative, which began in 2015.

The LINAP management team, to their credit, immediately focused on Suffolk County and lack of wastewater infrastructure as an early action, no regrets situation, to be addressed and urged the development of long-term Wastewater Infrastructure Plan. DEC contributed funding to that. As you can see that plan is called the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. It doesn't roll off the tongue, so we've taken to calling it the Clean Water Plan in public presentations. The Plan was completed in 2019 and approved by the legislature in 2020 to move towards the implementation process of the Plan. A key piece of that being the establishment the Countywide District. The LINAP management team provided a grant for a feasibility study into the creation of the District which is a building block for action. Additionally, earlier this year, the state legislature approved a state bill called the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act which we'll talk about in a little bit that would allow us to move forward with implementation steps. So, we've made a lot of progress in 10 years and we're on the one-yard line moving to the implementation phase.

We are proud of the support for the Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. Support has come across the board from organized labor, the building trades, and the environmental community. We are particularly proud of this tribute to the science-based nature of the plan from Dr. Christopher Gobler, the renowned Chair of Coastal Ecology and Conservation at Stony Brook, vouching for the science of the plan.

The plan is amazing. It delineated more than 190 individual watershed areas throughout the county. It is the first time that has ever been completed. It also established nitrogen reduction goals for every one of those watershed areas. It's heavy science for those who are who are into science. To simplify, it is a roadmap to guide priorities in terms of replacing or eliminating 299,000 cesspools over the complete life of the program, either by connecting parcels of sewer, or by installing new clean water, septic technologies.

These graphs are important just because they put in perspective what the primary sources of excess nutrients in surface waters are. In addition to cesspools, there are other sources of excess nutrients or nitrogen to surface waters including fertilizer and atmospheric deposition. But on a percentage basis, in all the studies that we've seen, the primary focus is on cesspools and septic systems as the major source of over two thirds of the excess nutrients to surface water, hence the importance of addressing cesspools and septic systems.

To make our plan work, two things need to be in place. One is an organizational structure. I want to acknowledge the strong support that we've received from John Cameron for more than 10 years. He has urged us to move forward with that countywide structure and to expand the denominator, so to speak, to make all these programs possible. The second thing that needs to be in place is creating a recurring source of funding to serve as a local match for both sewer infrastructure and for these new clean water septic technologies. Those of you who have been around for a while are aware that until the 1980s, the federal government was a major contributor of financial support for local sewer systems up to as much as 75%. They're no longer in that business, which makes it more difficult to implement sewer infrastructure. Having a local match to use when you're seeking grant funding is incredibly important because the key to the success of this plan is to make it easy and affordable for property owners. No

plan can work unless it's supported by the community and is easy and affordable. Sewer infrastructure is so very expensive that if the burden of financing sewer construction falls solely on property owners, it's just not economically viable.

The goals of the plan in a broader sense are to restore and protect water quality and promote new economic investment in downtown business districts. This plan will be implemented in phases, which we'll talk about in a minute. In phase two, which begins in 2024, calls for the elimination of 177,000 cesspools and septic systems over the next 30 years either by connecting parcels to sewers or installing clean water septic. That's the largest number of any phase. Again, creating a dedicated source of funding to make that affordable for homeowners is critically important. We need to maximize federal and state funding to make sewer expansion affordable for property owners.

Real quickly, this is an old drawing that I dragged out of the closet and blew off the dust. In the overall scheme of things, there are three wastewater solutions, sewers, obviously, innovative alternative septic systems, which we'll talk about in a little bit and where we've made a lot of progress, and then the idea of a neighborhood cluster system or a smaller sewage treatment plant that can serve an entire small community. We're still looking for an opportunity to land one of those. They turn out to be a little bit of a challenge.

Over the life of the program, the plan would eliminate 299,000 cesspools or septic systems and as many as 35,000 parcels in the county would be connected to sewers. 264,000 parcels would have their cesspool or septic system replaced with a new clean water septic because in many places in the county sewers are just not a cost-effective solution. We have major sewer construction underway now. The cost per parcel of connecting an area to sewers, based on real data current data for projects under construction, is over \$120,000 per parcel. These new advanced septic systems are costing about \$26,000. So over the life of our program, were it to be approved at the ballot by the voters, it would provide \$4.2 billion in County local matching funds over the life of the program, equal amounts for sewers and for clean water septic (\$2.1 billion), even though the number of parcels being connected to sewers is significantly lower because the cost per parcel for sewers is significantly higher.

This is the first phase of the plan. We are now in this phase, and it runs through the end of 2023. It has us continuing our voluntary upgrade program for homeowners who want to take on a grant from the county or the grant from the state or perhaps even a grant from the towns of Southampton, East Hampton, or Shelter Island. These towns have their own programs to upgrade their cesspool or septic system to a new IA or clean water septic technology and completion of sewer projects we have under construction.

Phase two, which is to begin in 2024, ramps up the program to address all the highest priority areas. Policy decisions include, whether we should be requiring homeowners to upgrade their systems upon failure with new technology but providing them with the financial resources to make that possible, or even to require (as they did in Rhode Island) homeowners to upgrade a system upon property transfer and provide resources to make that possible. Those are policy decisions that are yet to be made. Phase

two would have us moving into the near shore, zero to two year contributing areas, surface water priority area ranked one, and groundwater drinking water priority area one. The red outlined areas are sewer projects. In this second phase the total parcels upgrade would be 207,000 across the two phases through the life of program to 2068. As I indicated earlier, we would then move into Phase Three. This would include further upgrades and the remaining priority areas which are the blue parcels. At the end of that time, we'll have upgraded 299,000 parcels which is no small feat.

The next slide highlights where the sewer projects which are part of the plan are located. You can see that much of the activity is centered around the South Shore, usually in relatively close proximity to existing treatment works, so we don't have to go through the process of creating new treatment works. We have the County's regional facility at Bergen Point which was expanded by the County by 10 million gallons per day. Capacity is now available to connect communities like Deer Park, Oakdale, and Sayville. They've been waiting decades to connect but it is a matter of finding funding to make it affordable for those property owners. Here you can see the other projects that we're working on in Smithtown, St. James, and Kings Park.

We do have a lot of construction underway. The county scored a major coup in the years after Superstorm Sandy. I was still at DEC as a regional director when we began talking about trying to pull down some of the post Sandy resiliency funding to do sewer infrastructure under the premise that nitrogen pollution was degrading wetlands along the south shore of Suffolk County making communities more vulnerable to storm surge. That worked out and we now have significant sewer construction underway on the south shore including the Forge River Project in Mastic, in the Town of Brookhaven where we have new sewage treatment plant construction underway at the cost of \$224 million. We also have the Carlls River Watershed Project where we're connecting 2,400 parcels to the Southwest Sewer District. We also recently broke ground on the long-awaited sewer project to connect the Kings Park business district to the Suffolk County Sewer District number six (Kings Park). Speaking of Kings Park, I want to acknowledge and express my appreciation to Supervisor Wehrheim and the Town Board for their strong leadership and partnership. We also broke ground recently on a sewer project in Central Islip that will connect that revitalization area to Sewer District number three. We also have a lot of other projects that are still in the pipeline which will not advance if we don't have a new source of funding.

This list of projects includes just the ones that are moving forward through design to get them "shovel ready" so that we're in a good position to seek state and federal funding. You'll see the total funding need is about \$1.28 billion but this is hardly the entire pipeline. The Smithtown business district is a project that we've been working on closely with Supervisor Wehrheim and the Town Board and will be shovel ready by early next year. We've worked together and managed to amass about \$33 million in grant funds, but we have a long way to go on that one. Deer Park and Oakdale/Sayville are examples of communities that have been waiting for years to be connected to the Southwest Sewer District to the tune of almost three quarters of a billion dollars. There's a lot of capital funding needed to move those projects forward.

There are many areas of the County where sewers are not a cost-effective solution. In those areas, we are pursuing the use of nitrogen reducing septic systems. These are cost-effective and efficient alternatives to sewers. There are millions of them in the ground around the world. One manufacturer alone in Japan's Fuji has more than 2 million systems in the ground. Some of them have been in place since the 1970s and are still functioning effectively with the replacement of only minor components. They are extremely durable. In Suffolk County nearly 4,000 of those systems are in the ground to date.

Here's a photo of a system installation underway. These things are interesting to see and interesting to watch. If you pull the lid off a cesspool, you know you're near a cesspool. If you pull the lid off one of these systems, you would not know that you're near one of these systems. They are a pretty clean operation. This is a list of the technologies that have gone through what we consider to be the most stringent certification process for use of technologies that's in place in the country. We decided not to simply accept data from manufacturers showing their performance in other states, but instead to require them to perform in Suffolk County. It turned out to be a prudent thing for us to do as there are a couple of technologies that have not been able to meet our stringent standard of 19 milligrams per liter.

I wanted to emphasize that it's not simply a matter of authorizing the use of these technologies in the County. It took a multipronged effort to build the sound foundation to begin the use of these products on a broader scale by first doing pilot testing to see that they work. Next, as the County Executive pointed out earlier, because these technologies are active technologies, we need an industry to support them. We need trained and certified people to do installations and maintenance because if the systems are not maintained, they don't work well.

We began working with the industry in 2015/2016. The Suffolk County Legislature enacted a licensing law requiring people to be certified and trained and began providing training to folks who are interested in becoming familiar with the technologies. It's given life to a new industry in Suffolk County. We now have multiple companies who are employing hundreds and hundreds of people who perform installations and maintenance. We created a responsible management entity. We designated, by Article 19 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code, our Department of Health Services as the regulator of installation and maintenance. We then went through a process of enacting code amendments with a supportive working group comprised of the environmental community, the business community, and town and village officials. We advanced amendments to the Suffolk County Sanitary Code to initially prohibit the replacement of a cesspool with a cesspool in kind, and then to require the use of these IA technologies for new construction. Now we are busy putting new technologies in place, identifying priority areas for advanced treatment, and pursuing a funding mechanism.

Here you can see a quick snapshot of our grant program, which is very, very successful. At this point, we have received over 4,300 applications from homeowners to date. We continue to get over 70 applications a month. We have been awarded \$40 million by the state of New York to expand IAs in Suffolk County. The county itself has expended about \$200 million. The program is robust and public participation is great. We had an unusual development in 2020 as the pandemic hit. We expected to see activity decline, but what we saw instead is that during the period between January 2020 and

September 2020, participation spiked. Staff believes this was due to people staying at home taxing cesspools and septic systems leading to failures and replacements.

This is some repetitive information we use for communities about the investment of \$4 billion over 50 years, and the need and importance of a local match.

This year in Albany, we began to get big support for the idea of giving the public and Suffolk County a right to vote on the establishment of our Countywide District and a new funding source. The state legislature included language in the state budget with a lot of pushing and prodding from community groups, organized labor, building trades. It is called the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act, and it authorizes the County to advance a ballot measure this year to allow voters to decide on the establishment of a dedicated fund for wastewater infrastructure. The language authorized 1/8 of a penny which would cost about 12 cents on a \$100 purchase and would generate \$3.1 billion through 2060. The ballot measure would also extend our existing Drinking Water Protection Program which otherwise would expire in 2030, providing an additional \$1.4 billion for sewers. We have very, very strong support from a broad coalition that has helped to work to move this planning process forward.

We looked at a variety of potential funding sources and with the help of our stakeholder coalition came back to sales tax as a good option because there would be absolutely no increase in property taxes and no new fees, most of the sales tax revenues are generated by people who visit and not people who live here, and 1/8 of a penny is nearly invisible. The voters in the County have repeatedly voted to support the use of sales tax revenues for environmental purposes.

We built language into the state authorizing legislation, making clear that in light of concerns about our actions by government in the past, these funds could only be used for water quality improvements in Suffolk County. This essentially puts the funds in the lockbox. We also created an advisory committee and a board of trustees to oversee the funds and to do annual independent audits and reports for the legislature. Accountability and transparency these days are very important to the voting public.

In addition to the water quality infrastructure, we also look forward to creating greater efficiency in Suffolk County. We already have 27 sewer districts in Suffolk County, and they're unfortunately managed in a way that they have varying billing methodology. We think by streamlining our sewer system and consolidating all the existing districts into a Countywide District in a separate zone of assessment, we can reduce costs, streamline investments, stabilize rates, and prevent large fee increases moving forward.

Our existing sewer rate structure is problematic. There are multiple ways of collecting sewer charges because the ways sewer districts were created over time were changed. We have some folks who are paying an AV charge and a tax bill and then a separate bill from our Department of Public Works. Some people are paying a flat rate only based on a bill from the county DPW. Others are just getting an AV charge and a tax bill. We have a two-tier flat rate system. Some of our commercial properties are billed based on water usage and some are built solely on the assessed value of property which is blind or does

not consider how much water they use or how much sewage is generated. The column on the right shows the widening of different and unfair charges that people pay on the residential and commercial side. We have two sewer districts right next to each other, one District 5 in Huntington, and the average homeowner paid \$1,339 in 2022 and then nearby in Kings Park the average homeowner was paying \$157. This is hard to believe, but true. We have two examples of two commercial uses. One is a dry use mini storage facility in Bellport that has an employee bathroom and doesn't generate much wastewater at all being charged \$12,000 and then nearby there is a wet use storefront restaurant being charged \$2,500. These are almost indefensible, and we look forward to a uniform billing methodology under which all residential property owners are paying the same amount for the same service and all commercial properties are paying based on the same methodology and based on water usage and how much sewage they generate.

Anybody who reads the papers knows there was a lot of activity this year about the effort to try and get the ballot measure authorized by the State Legislature moved and to make sure that the ballot measure occurred on election day. That will not happen. But these two bills are still pending in our County Legislature. One would amend the Suffolk County charter and extend our drinking water protection program, which otherwise would expire in 2030, and would establish a new Water Quality Restoration Fund supported by an additional 1/8 of a penny in sales tax. The second would establish the new Countywide Wastewater Management District which is very important to moving the plan forward.

We've made a lot of progress over the last 10 years. The plan that the LINAP management team and other stakeholders elevate as being necessary was completed in 2019 along with the GEIS. In 2020, the County Legislature unanimously approved the findings resolution. Earlier this year, the State Legislature enacted the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act to allow the County to move forward with a ballot measure this year and the County Legislature has held hearings. The question becomes will the plan be implemented?

I know I provided a lot of information in very short period. I look forward to the Nassau County presentation and to answering any questions folks may have.

John Cameron:

We appreciate it. Thank you, Peter. Before we move on to our next presentation, I would like to salute Peter Scully and his leadership. We would not be where we are without him. If you look and compare the work that has been done in Suffolk County, evaluating the potential environmental impacts of wastewater discharges, the effect of nitrogen on surface waters, coalescing all the various business, labor, environmental and professional groups together to get this support. Peter's leadership has been exceptional. I don't know anybody else who could have pulled this together any better than Peter. On behalf of the Council, I want to say thank you, Peter, for your leadership. We look forward to the County Legislature becoming enlightened and providing the right leadership to establish the District so that the County can control its own destiny moving forward to protect the public health, environmental health, and the economy of Suffolk County. God bless you, Peter, for all you've done.

Peter Scully:

Thank you. Thanks to the Council for your support. I appreciate it.

Rich Guardino:

We're delighted to have with us once again, Andy Fera who is the project director for New York State DEC. He's going to be sharing with us a construction progress update on the Bay Park Conveyance Project. They've made tremendous progress. This infrastructure program is probably the largest currently taking place on Long Island. It's a complicated engineering project and Andy's done a terrific job moving it forward. With that, I'm going to turn it over to him.

Andy Fera:

Thank you, Rich. While we get the presentation loaded this morning, I just want to introduce myself and my team. As Rich mentioned, my name is Andy Fera. I am the Project Director for the Bay Park Conveyance Project, and I am with the New York State DEC. I am also joined by Deanna Laney, who is a critical member of my team as well as Vinny Falkowski, Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County Department of Public Works. This project is a partnership between the New York State DEC and Nassau County. It's great to see multiple levels of government coming together, working together collaboratively to deliver a project of this magnitude for something as important as water quality. It's been great working with the County for the last few years and I am excited to brief you on some of the tremendous progress that we've made over the last three years. So, with that, we'll go into some project background. I'm probably going to go through the slides a little quickly, knowing the Council is vastly aware of the problem that we're looking to solve.

As was reported earlier in the meeting, the South Shore Water Reclamation facility, formerly named Bay Park has largely been reconstructed and improved over the last 10 years, but still that treated effluent is rich in nitrogen as compared to the nitrogen levels that we would like to see in the Western Bays and due to the limited mixing capacity of the Bays there is not really an economically viable way to treat that effluent, so the alternative that we're pursuing instead is to redirect that effluent over to the Cedar Creek facility. Cedar Creek has an ocean outfall far offshore in deep waters providing tremendous mixing capability, which naturally diffuses nitrogen and will effectively show zero water quality impact to any waters beyond 100 feet of that diffuser. It's a natural way of getting rid of that nitrogen without having that impact in the Bays which remains stagnant over a period of time. This project consists of a pump station and then a 10-mile force main. I'll go through that in detail a little bit later in the presentation.

There are three benefits that we highlight for the public when presenting. The first is storm protection. The root structures of marshlands grow to a depth that they need to obtain nitrogen nutrients. With the abundance of nitrogen in the Bays, those root structures just don't need to grow as deep, which reduces the storm protection that they can afford the south shore of the island. Second, there are quality of life factors. Swimming and recreation in the bays have reduced or fallen to the wayside in recent years due to water quality. Finally, there are economic effects. Shell fishing and industrial uses in the Bays are reliant on water quality. Tourism benefits come with improved water quality and people spending time around the Bays.

This slide shows us all the progress that's been made to date. Those green lines are going to show you the force main pipe that has been installed to date. What you'll notice is that it's effectively just about complete. We do have one segment of microtunneling from shaft eight to seven. There's a reason why I'm naming that in reverse order. That's the last drive that we have left to install pipe. This force main includes two miles of microtunneling on the west or Bay Park side of the alignment. There's 7.3 miles of slip lining along Sunrise Highway and 1.6 miles of microtunneling. Again, that's on the east side or the Cedar Creek alignment. And again, just that one drive which is slightly over 2000 feet of pipe is all that remains. We actually launched the machine and started mining that drive this morning. So, that drive is underway, and we project that to be complete most likely middle of November at which point, we would have all the pipe installed.

The last thing I'd like to cover on that slide is the blue circles that indicate active work locations. Although it says active work locations, that does not mean that we are there day in and day out. Really, we are not present at most of those locations anymore. However, we are still working on final restoration on the microtunnel alignments on the east and west side which means we are closing our supportive excavation and restoring the land to the pre-existing condition. On the work pits on Sunrise Highway, we are doing full depth asphalt repair which is kind of a sequenced event that I will discuss later in the presentation. So, although it looks like we are everywhere at once on this slide, really there are only a couple of isolated locations that we have work crews active. The rest are fenced off, closed, and waiting for some restoration work to progress.

I'll just remind folks of some construction techniques and terminology that I'll use in the presentation. Microtunneling is a technology that we're using to work generally north to south, here meaning those alignments on the Bay Park side or the Cedar Creek side. To do this, the machine is launched from a below grade elevation that can be 20 feet below grade or six feet below grade. It happens from a microtunneling shaft. The machine is jacked laterally into the earth, it mines some of the earth, mixes it into a slurry, and it pumps that sand. Luckily, we're working in very friendly Long Island sands here. The machine pumps that sand up to the surface where it is separated from the slurry, de-watered, and is hauled away. The pipe is effectively installed behind the machine. There's never a void in the earth behind the machine to prevent any settlement at the surface.

Slip lining is a very similar technology except earth is not mined. Slip lining is installing a new pipe inside of the existing steel aqueduct under Sunrise Highway. We're very fortunate to find that the steel aqueduct that was installed in 1905 was in really good condition for its age. Structurally, it was in great shape and only required a little bit of cleaning and dewatering but was a great shell to install this new piping. In this location we are installing an approximately 60-inch fiberglass pipe which is joined by couplings every 10 feet to 20 feet. Then the annular space between that fiberglass pipe and the steel aqueduct pipe is grouted for stability.

The last terminology I'll describe is supportive excavation. The supportive excavation is what makes it safe for us to work from those below grade depths. When we are talking about microtunneling, those

are cutter soil mix panels, or secant piles, which are concrete structures that form a perimeter that makes it safe for us to work from 20 to 60 feet below grade. On Sunrise Highway, that generally means steel sheeting, which allows us to get closer to 15 feet below Sunrise Highway. The work on Sunrise Highway is now complete but during the peak of construction, we had steel sheeting underneath the highway and then we would have to put concrete planks back over that steel sheeting in order for traffic to move. We were only working on Sunrise Highway from 9pm until 6am.

Going into construction updates. This first slide shows a unique type of SOE I described as cutter soil mixing. This is something that Long Island friendly sands gave us the opportunity to do and is not a widely available opportunity. The way this is constructed is a large disc, effectively tilled the earth down to a predetermined elevation. Here you see it going down about 40 feet. As those discs are removed from the ground still turning, a cementitious grout is injected and effectively forms a barrier of concrete using the native sand as an aggregate. At the bottom when we are finished, you see where we constructed the launching and receiving locations. The parts of that concrete which are flat are going to be where the microtunnel boring machine comes in and out of that shaft.

Getting into the project by the numbers. This slide shows us the significant progress that we've made over the last nearly three years. This slide shows that we are 99% completed. However, we're complete with design. Some folks don't want to say 100% until the last drawings are completed at the end of the project. There are also design changes as there are with any type of project to accommodate improvements to that design. I'll provide an example here on Sunrise Highway. We have vent pits to release air from the force main, which as originally designed were kind of like candy cane structures that stuck out of a sidewalk. We are pursuing a design modification to put those below grade where they're not a nuisance and they're not seen at the surface.

Getting into construction. 14 out of 14 microtunnel shafts have been completed with over 16,000 feet of that pipe stalled. As I mentioned earlier that last drive started today and should take 2-3 weeks which will complete the microtunnel effort. Along Sunrise Highway, 24 pits have been constructed, 37,920 linear feet of sliplining is complete, and the grouting of that pipe has been completed as well. The remaining work on Sunrise Highway is to finish hydrostatically testing that pipe and then to perform that final restoration with full depth asphalt repair. Hydrostatic testing is a major endeavor that we are working on right now. We have about 10,000 feet of the 37,000 fully tested. The remaining still need to be tested and it's a very technical as we are testing at twice the operating pressure. In some areas we need to hold that very high pressure for two hours and then we add water at the end of the test to monitor how much water that pipe takes. At that pressure, the air in the pipe does some funny things so we want to make sure that we are condensing that air rather than risking any potential leak in the system. That work is ongoing right now and we are hoping to complete that hydrostatic testing, especially on Sunrise Highway, in the next month or so and hopefully can complete final paving by the end of this season. If we don't get all that final asphalt work done this season, what you'll see will be some temporary paving.

Let's move on to the Bay Park shaft 1. I want to explain a little bit of how the project works at this location. This photo shows the new pump station that's being constructed. Keep in mind that the cinderblock wall that you see is the structural nature of it. The exterior that will be installed matches the new buildings at the facility, which is that blue and silver appearance. This is a work in progress, but as you can see, we're getting close to enclosing the new pump station. This is where the new pumps that redirect that effluent will reside. The wet wall to the pump station is hard to see, but it is effectively the basement of this structure.

On the left side of the photo, you see some yellow formwork, and this is what we call the divergent structure. Below grade here is gravity flow from the final tanks that currently goes to the existing pump station, which is that tan building on the right in the background. Here, we've constructed a divergent structure which will first divert that treated effluent into the wet bulb, the new pump station. If for any reason, whether its capacity or maintenance, the water level would rise in that wet well, it would overtop a weir, which would direct the balance of the remaining effluent to that existing pump station. While conveyance has a 75 MGD capacity, and the plant has an average daily flow of about 54 MGD, we don't anticipate using that a lot, but is a precautionary measure. If there is a significant storm event or if the system is down for maintenance, or that existing pump station is a redundant measure, it kind of happens naturally so there's not a lot of opportunity for operational error or anything of that of that nature.

Next, I will talk about the microtunneling progress. In the tunneling industry, it is common practice and good luck to name the tunneling machine. On this occasion, we thought it would be fun to involve the local schools instead of doing it ourselves. We reached out to all the local elementary schools, and we had an MTBM naming contest. Ultimately, we had a little over 30 submissions, which were a combination of video or written submissions. Generally, they were in group submissions so in reality, we reached and received submissions from over 130 fourth graders. It was a great response from the local schools and students. They put a lot of effort into it, and we are proud of our effort to include the kids. In the end we came up with two winners for our two machines. The first name that we announced was Marsh-Mellow. This group used the definition of mellow that we don't typically think of as often. Basically, they were thinking of the definition of mellow as unencumbered stating that we're freeing the bays of nitrogen, allowing the marshlands to grow, and providing greater storm protection. The other winning name was the acronym POSEIDON, Project Of Science to Eliminate an Incredibly Damaging Overabundance of Nitrogen. We felt this was a pretty profound understanding and I was really proud of these students. In order to make these submissions, the students had to understand the water quality issues in the bays, the impact of nitrogen, and the source of that nitrogen. It was a great initiative that we're proud of. Throughout the presentation, we refer to Marsh-Mellow and POSEIDON. We also had a naming event at the County Park to show the students the MTBMs they had named and how they function.

Now I will discuss the progress that we've made. From BP 1 all the way up to shaft 5, the tunneling is complete and the pipe has been installed. What we're working on now is making sure that pipe is able to

pass the hydrostatic test. Once that test is completed, hopefully in the next couple of months, those shafts will be back filled and returned to use.

Interestingly, we were able to avoid a disruptive shaft build where six was originally planned to be built at East Rockaway High School. We were fortunate enough to get a contractor with experience performing curve drives, which are more complicated and less frequently used. There are only a few contractors that could build this. We eliminated shaft six and replaced that with a long curve drive. I am happy to report that this is finished and show that it is a 2,300-foot drive with a 5,000-foot radius curve and avoided the East Rockaway High School property entirely.

The last drive that we have left is Bay Park shaft 8 to 7. The machine launches from the Bay Park shaft 8 location and heads south to the Bay Park 7. We're hoping to complete that around November 13th dependent on some variability. I am happy to report that Bay Park 8 to 9 drive, which gets us up to Sunrise Highway, has been completed.

The next slide discusses roadway restoration. We would all like to be off Sunrise Highway as soon as possible. Here you can see the general progress of that restoration. The green circles represent the areas that are nearly complete. The orange circles depict areas where we are waiting to simply grind down that temporary pavement, put down that final top course asphalt, and line the roadway. The blue areas show where we are pouring concrete. We're hoping to complete this paving by about Thanksgiving, contingent on Mother Nature cooperating and giving us warm temperatures.

Moving on to ancillary areas that are not discussed as often. There are connection points to the microtunnel alignment and the Sunrise Highway alignment which are open trench activities. Here we are in Cedar Creek shaft 6. This connection required that we trench through Lakeview Road. The work was completed, and the road is opened back up.

Moving on to that Cedar Creek alignment. That center photo is a great opportunity to showcase what the microtunnel boring machine looks like as it enters the receiving shaft. We are complete from Cedar Creek shaft 1 to shaft 6. That fourth main has been completely installed. We're working on backfilling those shafts and making sure that all those pipes are in good condition to pass the hydrostatic testing. After testing the microshafts will be backfilled and returned to the original owner.

At Cedar Creek, adjacent to shaft 1, we have what we call a receiving tank. Once the effluent arrives at Cedar Creek, it goes into this receiving tank to provide some hydraulic head stability. The port you see on the left would be the intake and goes up into the tower. That tower maintains a specific water elevation level to provide the pressure to discharge out in the ocean. The pump station at the Bay Park facility is only providing the pressure and head that's necessary to maintain the elevation in this tank, and then this tank is actually providing that head, which will discharge along with the Cedar Creek effluent out into the ocean outfall diffuser. This tank has been constructed and we are working on painting this tank, which is a pretty significant endeavor due to its size.

Moving on to tree removal and restoration. We did our best to protect trees, however, there were areas where we needed more space so some trees needed to be removed. The contractor is replacing trees one for one. We have done an extensive inventory of all the trees that were on this site before anything was removed and we've done an assessment of what will be the best replacement options. Where we will replace 2 for 1 or 3 for 1. Especially in the Cedar Creek shaft 5 and 4 areas, we've considered vegetation as a sound, visual, and safety buffer. Those plans are being finalized and will be available on our website once completed in the coming weeks.

The project puts out a monthly look ahead, e-blasts, and goes door to door canvassing in an effort to keep the community informed regarding construction impact to neighborhoods and businesses. With the Cedar Creek 4 and 5 drives, we were in some pretty tight neighborhoods and we did all we could to reduce noise impacts and let everyone know what to expect during the weeks we were there.

We have a dedicated 24/7 hotline and email that's monitored, and we maintain a Facebook site. We generally report what's happening at each location, specifically microtunneling locations where you see the fencing. We've also maintained a Community Outreach/Information Center which is located on the project alignment on Sunrise Highway. It was unfortunately underutilized. However, we operate that office by appointment for anyone with questions for the project team.

The next slide shows our contact information. One of the questions I'm sure I'm going to get is, "When is the project going to be complete and turned on?" I expect that we will be done with public facing construction by the end of this calendar year depending on weather and replanting. I'm expecting we will be able to first turn the system on in early June. I would caution that predates the testing and commissioning segment which will be a little over six months in order to capture various weather events. So, we will likely be intermittently conveying low flow to the outfall beginning in the June 2024 timeframe, but full capacity will be closer to December 2024.

That wraps up our presentation and I would like to pass it back to the Council for any Q&A. Thank you again for the opportunity to share with the Council today.

John Cameron:

Thanks so much. This was an excellent presentation and update. As we've discussed in the past, this project has the potential to have a transformational effect on the environment in the Western Bays. It's a legacy project. Our hats go off to Nassau County for the vision and pursuit and to the DEC for their oversight and diligence to collaborate on this important project. Thanks so much for your update, Andrew.

Council members, do you have any questions?

Supervisor Wehrheim:

I want to add to your comments John. I want to thank Peter for his expertise and for being part of our team working to expedite the future sewerage of all three major business districts in the Town of Smithtown. Peter, thank you for your partnership and all your help. It's been a wonderful experience.

Peter Scully:

We have a lot more work to do. We're not done yet. We're going to get there.

Michael White:

I reiterate the thanks to Peter for all his work.

One question on the IA systems and I know there are grants involved. What is the typical remainder cost a resident must pay after the receipt of a grant if they are selected?

Peter Scully:

That depends if a homeowner gets very competitive pricing and whether or not they're in a town that has its own program for additional funding. One of the things that's important is controlling pricing under the program so that we're spending grant money and getting good value for the install. One of the things that we did was to use a program feature that the State of Maryland uses for their Chesapeake Bay restoration program. We went out to the industry with what's called a solicitation of quotes to every manufacturer. We said, "No manufacturer is required to participate in our program. Any manufacturer is welcome to participate. We want to provide guaranteed pricing to our grant recipients. We request a quote for the best pricing for a two-bedroom, three-bedroom, or four-bedroom house." The pricing is controlled. The average pricing of the system, under our program is now about \$26,000. You can receive \$20,000 directly from the County grant and State grant, \$5,000 more if you're low to moderate income household, and \$5,000 more if you add a shallow freshwater drain field or any sort of polishing unit to your installation. So, \$30K is available through the County programs. If you're in the towns of Southampton, East Hampton, or Shelter Island, there are programs that can add to that total. On the East End, most people are not paying anything out of pocket at all. On the West End, if people are paying anything, it's usually the engineering costs for the installation. New York State Education law requires that the plans for the installation of these systems be stamped by an architect or an engineer which is one thing that the homeowners are required to pay for and it costs about \$2,500.

Alan Belniak:

Dean writes, "Didn't the Suffolk legislature say they want to change the way sales taxes are given to sewer districts versus IA systems? From 50/50 to perhaps 75/25. This can only be done when the New York State Legislature is back in session January."

Peter Scully:

First, I don't think any of us can speak for the Suffolk County Legislature, but we are working closely with the Legislature on these issues and are hopeful that the Legislature can reach consensus on a path forward. The commenter is correct that state authorizing legislation that will allow us to move forward would require that of the new one eighth of a penny, 75% of the funding be used for IA systems and

25% for sewers, but the overall program, which also involves an extension to the drinking water protection program, would allow for equal funding for sewers and individual clean water septic systems. So, we know the Legislature has been talking about the funding split and trying to find consensus on a way forward. This may be one thing that they're looking to change. Dean is correct. If the goal is to modify the State authorizing legislation, that could only be done by the State legislature if it is back in session. So, we'll see how things develop. We are hopeful that they're going to clarify the path forward. I hope that's responsive to Dean's questions.

Nicole Formisano:

You had mentioned that extra pump station as a redundant measure, in case there was a large rainfall event. I'm just wondering if you know how many inches of rainfall we'd have to get to necessitate that extra pump station for it to be put into use?

Andy Fera:

That's a great question. Unfortunately, I wouldn't be able to answer that question precisely until after we're able to test and commission the system. Models aren't perfect. The 75 MGD capacity that we have in the system could very well be more than that. There's also a question about the time effective getting to Cedar Creek and how much Cedar Creek is used in the outfall, the effective capacity of that outfall, as well. We expect it to be in excess of an inch of rain in a short period of time, but it's tough to predict exactly at this time. And just to be clear, that that pump station is really only for the balance. So, let's say that we will talk in terms of MGD. If we say that the pump station only ends up having a 75 MGD capacity, and at a certain time that the plant treats 80 MGD, maybe that five MGD balance which would overtop the weir and go to that that pre-existing pump station.

Bernard Coletti:

I had one question about when they were talking about a 50/50 split or a 70/30 split and how they're going to divide the funding. Is one of those options just to do it based on what's more applicable in that area? For instance, in an area where a new IA system would have to be installed and there are sewers available close by it would make more sense to go on a sewer system versus in an area where sewers aren't even close, it would make more sense to use IA systems. Shouldn't the decision be made on a case-by-case basis?

Peter Scully:

Yeah, I can respond to Bernard who is asking about the Suffolk County long term plan. So, your point about the logic of sewerage where sewers make sense is part of the program policy decision making. Those decisions really need to be made long in advance of people coming in for an individual grant for a septic system. Our Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan has a complete list of sewer projects that are proposed for funding and that information is available to you. The way the funding would be divided won't be based on the situation of an individual applicant, but on the overall plan and the areas where sewers are called for and the areas where IAs are called for. That is the key decision-making point, as you indicated, but it's not made at the funding end of the pipe but rather made at the program end. Anytime you feel you have additional information needs, don't hesitate to reach out to me at the County Executive Office.

Bernard Coletti:

Okay, thank you. Appreciate it. Just trying to educate myself.

John Cameron:

I think on behalf of the Council and all the attendees, I would like to thank both Andrew and Peter for outstanding presentations, documenting and detailing very important projects here for the future of the Island.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John Cameron:

As you know, Long Island is affected by the events that happen at the state, country and worldwide level. I think we all know that since our last meeting, the world has certainly become a much darker place as the war in Ukraine continues to exact a toll and countless human lives.

On October 7, the Nation of Israel was attacked through barbaric acts of violence against innocent citizens from infants to the elderly. While territorial battles will always have defenders of each position, what should be indefensible is the intent to eradicate a certain population due to a specific religion. Demonstrations both here and abroad in support of this effort at genocide, are regrettably reminiscent of Nazi Germany, and remind us why America's Greatest Generation fought for the freedom of all people, regardless of their race, color, or religion. Unfortunately, we are only seeing the beginning phases of this ominous conflict, which has potential to spread throughout the Middle East region and beyond.

In defense of the attack, America will spend hundreds of billions of dollars to fight for democracy, freedom, and self-determination. These unanticipated federal expenditures will only serve to add to our multi-trillion-dollar debt that threatens the economic wellbeing of the country.

This financial problem is only adding to our other national challenges including the millions of undocumented migrants, escalating crime, and significant inflation. All these issues will undoubtedly be major sources of disagreement and debate over the next 12 months as we enter a presidential election year.

In our state, challenges continue to mount as evidenced by the most recent census that indicates that record numbers of New Yorkers are voting with their feet by moving out of the state. What is noteworthy is that not only are people moving to the typical receiving states of Florida, the Carolinas, and Tennessee, but many are also now moving to the adjoining states of New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. That shift may be more indicative of the new normal of hybrid work environments and the problems that exist in New York City with the flood of migrants and elevated levels of crime.

Here on Long Island, we are dealing with an unsustainable tax burden and a lack of rental housing product, both issues identified in 2010 in the LIRPC LI20235 study. These issues continue to plague the

Island. While we absolutely need to address our housing issue and increase our housing stock, if we don't grow our economy, there won't be many workers looking for that housing. Other issues identified in LI2035 continue to exist and some have intensified in importance. Not only the quality of our drinking water, but also the quantity of that precious and critical resource is becoming even more important. The USGS is finishing up their study of our Island's aquifers in the next few months. We plan to have them present their report at one of our Council meetings in early 2024. Suffolk County's failure to adopt the Countywide Wastewater Management District places the County in a more tenuous position in attempting to protect the public health environment and the economy of the County. Solid waste disposal is becoming an even greater issue with the impending closure of the Brookhaven landfill. While other locations will be sought for construction demolition and debris waste disposal, resource recovery ash will need to be transported off the island, adding significant expense to the Island's residents and businesses who send their garbage to the Hempstead, Islip, and Huntington resource recovery plants. It is critical that we move from studying our solid waste problem to doing something about it. There is much more I can discuss but frankly, as we all know as Long Islanders, we have no problem complaining about our challenges, but actually doing something about it is another story.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Guardino:

I had mentioned earlier the tax burden analysis that PFM is working on for Nassau and Suffolk County businesses and residents focusing on the taxes and revenue generated versus the expenditures provided by the state and federal government. That report is being drafted and we are planning on having a presentation on the analysis at our next meeting in early December.

Our Long Island Water Quality Stem Challenge related to LINAP is now in its fifth year. The goal of this initiative is to connect students, teachers and communities with the issues addressed by LINAP. This year's challenge invites teams of students to develop and design a green infrastructure project to reduce nitrogen pollution on school grounds. A Request for Expressions of Interest was released September 26th with the due date of November 13th. If any of you are aware of schools that might be interested in participating, there's still plenty of time to apply. We can follow up and explain the process to them.

The Expanded Homeowners Rewards Program, which enables homeowners to be reimbursed for taking on small scale water improvement projects on their properties, is underway. The Council worked with the New England Interstate Water Control Commission to create the program to make it available to property owners island wide. The program was launched in May and to date over 200 property owners have been reimbursed. We're going to pause at the end of this month and reopen it again in the spring.

The Council passed a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Town of Hempstead to transfer LINAP funds to the town to retain Cashin Associates for preparation of an aquaculture lease license feasibility study in Hempstead Bay. The preparation of the feasibility study of possible shellfish and seaweed aquaculture in Hempstead Bay will provide essential information needed by the Town to

consider adopting a lease license program. The study is almost complete, and the public outreach plan is being developed.

Finally, the Council passed a resolution authorizing an agreement with Save the Sound to train Long Island water quality data generators on how to participate in a new data platform called QuickDrops. QuickDrops will make community science data collected throughout the region easily available to regulators, advocates, academics, government officials, and agency experts, paving the way for more regional science driven decision making. Training modules have been developed and a full release of QuickDrops is expected next year. Michael White had asked me earlier about the data that is being collected in Hempstead Bay. There is a report on our website right now on water quality trends in Hempstead Bay from 1968 to 2022, which is available to the public. In addition to that, they just finished their work on the water quality program for 2023. We'll be putting that data up as well. They participate in the water quality database so once QuickDrops is fully operational, all that data will also be available through QuickDrops.

That completes my report. Let me just mention on a very positive note, our Councilmember Barbara Donno and her husband are being recognized by the American Red Cross this evening at an event. I want to congratulate her and thank her for her contributions to the American Red Cross.

John Cameron:

Thank you, Rich.

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

Michael White:

I just want to make one final comment. I would like to point out that I believe all of us would agree that it is just a phenomenally wonderful thing to see a successful huge public works project be completed on schedule here on Long Island. We can do it here on Long Island. When we look at projects like Third Track and this one and all the sewerage initiatives that Peter spoke of, we realize we are in a good place on Long Island.

John Cameron:

Thank you very much for making that point. It's great. There are a lot of successes that need to be celebrated.

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

Motion to adjourn. So moved. All in favor.