Long Island Regional Planning Council

LIRPC Meeting – March 12, 2025
Zoom Virtual Meeting Summary Minutes

LIPRC Members Present
John D. Cameron, Jr., Chair
Michael White
Jeff Kraut, Treasurer
Theresa Sanders, Secretary
Supervisor Don Clavin
Nancy Engelhardt
Jeff Guillot
Mayor Barbara Donno
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

Alan Belniak
Katherine Heaviside
Mark Smith

Chanda Washington
Neal Lewis
Richard J. Zapolski, Jr., P.E.
John C
Angie Apolinaris
Anthony Core
Chris Engelhardt
Michael Yeosock
Dr. Ileana Carillo
Michele Golden
Mary Byrne
Bob Danielson
Allyson Murray
John Huttie
Pam Panzenbeck
Susan Poser
Charles Flagg
Jonathan Lamantia
Patti Bourne
Joshua Lucas
Patrick O'Hara

Hannah Reichle
Sol Marie Alfonso-Jones
Marilyn Pimienta-Powers
Caitlin Curry
David Sabatino
Catherine Murdock
Tyler Cobe
Steve Diamond
Emily D'Antonio
Ryan O'Mara
Angie Apolinaris
Virginia from WPIX News
James Ammerman

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

At this time we will start with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wehrheim, since you have a flag, could you please lead us in the Pledge.

Supervisor Wehrheim:
Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Guardino:
Good morning and welcome to the meeting of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. My name is Rich Guardino, and I'm the Executive Director of the Council. We have a very exciting presentation this morning, and we thank you all for joining us. And with that, I'd like to do a roll call of the council members.

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

At this time we will start with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wehrheim, since you have a flag, could you please lead us in the Pledge.

Supervisor Wehrheim:
Pledge of Allegiance

Rich Guardino:
Next, I am going to turn it over to Alan to talk about procedure for the meeting.

Alan Belniak:
Thank you for joining us this morning. My name is Alan Belniak with VHB. I am here to help support this meeting today. After some opening remarks and some orders of business, we'll have a presentation. After that, the comment and question opportunities 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 microphone, 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 and Rich.

Adoption of the Minutes from the December 4, 2024 Meeting.
All in favor.

<u>Election of Officers for the 2024 LIRPC</u>

Motion to Accept John Cameron as Chair of the Long Island Regional Planning Council: Michael White
Seconded:
John Cameron abstained
All in Favor: So moved.

Motion to Accept Michael White as Vice Chair of the Long Island Regional Planning Council: John Cameron
Seconded:
Michael White abstained
All in Favor: So moved.

Motion to Accept Jeff Kraut as Treasurer of the Long Island Regional Planning Council: John Cameron
Seconded: Barbara Donno
Jeff Kraut abstained
All in Favor: So moved.

Motion to Accept Theresa Sanders as Secretary of the Long Island Regional Planning Council: John Cameron
Seconded: Supervisor Wehrheim
Theresa Sanders abstained
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-101 approves the Independent Auditor's Report performed by Anthony Basile, CPA, P.C. for the year 2023. The key findings of the report are "The results of our test disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards."

The Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Council have reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report for 2023 and recommend approval.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-112: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Michael White
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-102 authorizes an agreement with Anthony Basile CPA, P.C. to perform an audit of the LIRPC for the year 2024. The Executive Committee recommends retaining the Basile accounting firm for the 2024 audit and the Resolution authorizes an agreement at a cost not to exceed $19,500.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113: Mayor Kennedy
Seconded: Jeff Kraut
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-103 authorizes an accounting consulting extension agreement with Straus CPA, PLLC. The Executive Committee recommends extending the contract with Straus CPA, PLLC through December 31, 2025 at $190 per hour not to exceed $11,000.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113:
Seconded: Michael White
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-104 authorizes a renewal of an agreement with Epoch 5 Marketing, Inc. for consulting services including public relations, social media, education, and marketing strategies for the LIRPC and the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. The Executive Committee recommends this resolution authorizing an agreement through December 31, 2025 for an annual sum of $42,000.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113:
Seconded:
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-105 approves the Financial Summary for 2024 and the Projected Budget for 2025. The Executive Committee has reviewed the 2024 Financial Summary and the 2025 Projected Budget with the staff of the Council and recommend approval.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113: Jeff Kraut
Seconded:
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-106 authorizes an agreement with The Research Foundation of the City University of New York to enhance the Long Island Zoning Atlas. The Atlas is a comprehensive online platform that

provides a view of zoning patterns across Long Island as well as detailed information for each of the 1,200 individual zoning districts across Long Island. This morning we will have a presentation of the Atlas. These services are to be provided at a cost not to exceed $40,000.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Jeff Guillot
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
esolution 2025-107 authorizes an agreement with Siena College Research Foundation to conduct a public opinion poll of Homeowner Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Residential Fertilizer Use. The Council issued a Request for Proposals soliciting bids to conduct a poll focused on homeowner attitudes and behaviors related to fertilizer use on lawns and gardens. The poll will also provide effective messaging and communication strategies to encourage homeowners to reduce their fertilizer usage. A selection committee of NYSDEC staff and LIRPC staff reviewed the proposals submitted and recommend The Siena College Research Foundation as the best value proposal.

The cost of the poll is not to exceed $85,000 and a copy of the bid is attached.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Jeff Guillot
All in Favor: So moved.

Rich Guardino:
Resolution 2025-108 renews the contracts and extends the terms of the Personnel Services contracts for Richard Guardino, Executive Director, Elizabeth Cole, Deputy Executive Director, and Missy Leder, part-time Executive Assistant. The 2024 LIRPC Summary of Work was previously forwarded to members of the Council.

This resolution is recommended by the Executive Committee of the Council. The Personnel Services contracts and extensions for Richard Guardino, Elizabeth Cole, and Missy Leder expired on December 31, 2024. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is to extend the contracts for Richard Guardino, Elizabeth Cole and Missy Leder to December 31, 2025, with a 4.5% cost of living increase in salary for the calendar year 2025. The salaries for the calendar year 2025 with a 4.5% cost of living increase would be:

No health insurance is provided to the staff nor is there a pension program for the staff. The Executive Committee recommends a $7,750 stipend for each employee toward health care costs for 2025.

Motion to Accept Resolution 2024-113: Jeff Kraut
Seconded: Jeff Guillot
All in Favor: So moved.

PRESENTATION
Steve Romaleski:

And so at this point in time, we have a presentation on the Long Island zoning Atlas, and we're privileged to have with us Steve Romaleski, and he is the director of the CUNY mapping service, the Center for Research at the City University of New York. And with that, I'll turn it over to Steve, and Steve, thank you for being with us this morning. Thank

you so much. Really appreciate it and appreciate your support for the project. Thank you. I'm here with Gwen O'Shea from Community Development Long Island, and we're going to go through a couple of slides to give some context and background about the Long Island zoning Atlas. And then if we have time, we'll go to the website itself, and you can see a quick demo of the features of the site. And during the presentation, we'll talk about the things that we plan to do, excuse me with support from the planning council. So actually, I'm going to share my screen and go to the slides and turn it over to Gwen to take us through kind of an intro, and then I'll get into the features of the Atlas. Thank you very much.

Gwen O'Shea
Perfect. Thanks, Steve. Thank you all for being here, and thanks for the time and the support the great work that Steve and his team continue to do as it relates to the Long Island zoning Atlas. And as Steve noted, I know many of you on. Call and in the meeting, have already had the opportunity to take a look at the zoning Atlas and see some of the great components and what an amazing resource it is for us from a regional perspective. But I did, just for those of you that may not be as familiar, want to give a little bit of background on what is a zoning Atlas and how we are at this point in time, really looking to enhance the Long Island zoning Atlas. So from a broader perspective, you know, the goal of a zoning Atlas is really to standardize, centralize and make accessible to everyone information about zoning. And in doing so, it really allows us objectively to see, really, from like an apples to apples comparison, have an understanding of trends in the region. But also, and probably more important, is strengthen our planning as we think about housing production, transportation infrastructure, food security and climate response. And so the first zoning Atlas was actually, you know, we were talking earlier, before the meeting started, about just hitting the five year anniversary since COVID. And the first zoning Atlas was was started in 2021 and while it wasn't that long ago, it has really spread like wildfire across the country, with 24 states already developing their own zoning atlases as a way to respond to what we know as the national crisis, is our housing crisis. That's not specific to Long Island in New York, but really something that all states are struggling with as we think about supporting our communities. And so while the national zoning Atlas was kicking off in 2021 cdli actually was also doing some work that really helped to be foundational here for the Long Island zoning Atlas, it was through our internship program, which, at that point in time, we didn't know how long COVID was going to last. So we thought, let's, let's take on a pretty intense project, which really included identifying, locating and documenting all of the zoning districts of all the towns, cities and villages within Long Island. And as you can imagine, given the size and scope of our municipalities and the different levels of capacity within all of those municipalities as it pertains to their zoning code. It was, it was a pretty big task to undertake, but the team really did a fantastic job compiling all of that information. And as we were had just finished compiling that our colleagues, which are noted here on the slide, the rouse Foundation and the New York Community Trust, we're looking at how could they further support housing production on Long Island. These are two foundations that have for a very long time looked at regional planning and sustainability, and so they pulled together a coalition of a cross section of different individuals to collectively brainstorm and strategize about different policies or legislation that could help enhance and advanced development of housing opportunities here on Long Island. And in doing so, they they really looked across the country for innovative pieces of legislation or policies or tools like the zoning Atlas that could be used to further that development. So it was through one of these coalition calls that we all were introduced to the zoning Atlas and recognizing some of the foundational work that had been started through our

internship program, Roush and the New York Community Trust committed to figuring out how we could potentially put a zoning Atlas together for Long Island and so to further the process, we were able to work very closely with RPA and cdli to further the advancement of some of that information relating to zoning districts. And we really, the group, streamlined all of those different municipalities all the way. They memorialized those zoning districts, they streamlined it into the same format to really then prepare the data that would be necessary to create this mapping tool. And as that was happening, it was clear that there was only one entity that really could take the lead on putting this together in a user friendly, objective way, and that is Steve and the team at CUNY, who, as you all know, did an unbelievable job in working with the Roush foundation to create the Long Island index. And so it was then that Steve joined the group, and the Long Island zoning Atlas, you know, was created. However, we know that that didn't happen without many other individuals supporting the process, because this is extremely labor intensive that needs to be continuously updated. And I should note that that was one of the pieces that the core group was really committed to, was ensuring the integrity of the and the quality of information that was in the zoning Atlas. And so it was through a cross section of many different entities, as you can see here on the slide, those that supported, sort of the foundational and then the ongoing support. Support of the zoning Atlas. And I think it's really important to highlight the diversity of those here that supported association for better Long Island Long Island Association, Long Island builders Institute, obviously, some of our foundations that we've already noted, the ideas and Suffolk County Economic Development, really recognizing the need and the desire for this type of tool to allow all of us collectively to move the development forward on long Alan that we know is so desperately needed for our economic growth. And so we have had this tremendous support. We are so thankful for the additional support. And we'll talk a little bit more, and Steve will highlight some of the work he'll be doing to again, not only maintain, really, the integrity and the quality of this tool, but add some additional components that have been requested from those that are using the tool with regularity. So with that, I'll turn it over to Steve to talk about the work that allowed the map to be a map that you can use today.

Steve Romaleski:
Thank you very much. So I'll give a little bit of background about how we took all of the information that cdli and others put together and into a map form. And then I'll go into some slides that show the Atlas itself, just by way of background. So my team at the City University New York's Graduate Center, as Gwen mentioned, we were the organization that provided the interactive map for the Long Island index, and we do a lot of that kind of work. That's what the CUNY mapping service does. We partner with a number of organizations, not just here in New York but nationwide on things like census participation and health care and demographic information, and we really try to make sure that we can create online tools that are easy to use, that distill a lot of complex information into meaningful, accessible, actionable information, So all of the information, as Gwen said, was compiled from all of these, all of the 100 plus municipalities on the island into a spreadsheet that highlighted, in a standardized way, all of the key aspects of the zoning ordinances for all of these municipalities. And then what we did is we combined that information with boundary maps in GIS or Geographic Information System format to be able to visualize these patterns on the online many towns already have their zoning boundaries and GIS format. Not all of them, and almost no villages incorporated villages have GIS their data in GIS format. So we did have to do a good amount of work, not only to compile those already existing digital maps, but create new ones based on paper maps and PDF maps, but that has all been done, and now the Atlas is developed. It was launched in December of 2023 and I'll go through a couple of slides that highlight the features of the Atlas. So one thing to keep in mind is that you've probably seen zoning maps online that a number of towns have launched, which is great, and they provide all the detail that you need for all of the different, the many, many different types of zoning districts. This map looks a little different because

the purpose of the zoning Atlas is really to focus on, does zoning provide an obstacle, or does it facilitate a variety of housing options? So it's really focused on housing, residential housing, and so you can see a bird's eye view. First of all, this is the first time all of this information has been compiled in one place to see the zoning patterns across Long Island, we categorize the zoning districts in three ways. Are they primarily residential? That's the kind of yellow color on the map. Are they mixed residential? That's the pink areas, or non residential? So all of the we include all of the commercial and industrial zoning districts, but the focus is where zoning impacts housing. And we also show in the various shades of green on the map the environmental areas, that even though the zoning in those areas might allow residential, let's say or something else chant, you know, realistically, the environmental issues or the environmental considerations would prevent housing. So it gives you a more realistic picture of where the possibilities are. So this bird's eye view is really important. It's the first time that it's been put together. But then you can go further and get a sense of where zoning impacts. Housing, such as if you filter the map, you can see where single family housing is allowed by zoning. So it's most of Long Island. And then you can drill down further to see where zoning allows only two family housing, or three or four plus family housing, you can see the universe dwindle very quickly, and so this gives you a sense of what some of the issues are, again, as zoning relates to the possibility for diverse housing development. This bird's eye view is very important. But then you can drill down even further, down to the local street address or parcel, or, you know, detailed location. And so you can search by street address or click on the map to get detailed information or a detailed picture of the zoning patterns. And then you can also see for each zoning district detailed information about the district. This is all based on that spreadsheet information that cdli and others collected and that we continually update going forward for each of the housing types that are allowed by the zoning we have information again in a standardized format, so you can compare apples to apples across zoning districts, whether it's the type of housing as a lot, as of right or not, and different characteristics of the zoning so you can see at a glance what the possibilities are. We don't want you to just take it from us. We also include a link to each municipality's zoning code online. Pretty much all of them are online. I think a couple of them are still in PDF format, but most of them are in a searchable text format, so you can see exactly what the latest zoning precise requirements are and more detailed requirements. We don't include all of the zoning requirements in this kind of summary display, and then you can do more analytical analysis. So if you make the zoning layer more transparent, you kind of see reveal what's underneath. And then you can show, for example, the actual land use patterns based on data from NASA and Suffolk County's GIS teams. This is information that we originally had compiled through the Long Island index project, and now have moved over to the zoning Atlas, and so you can see what the current land use patterns are compared to zoning, which is forward thinking about what the land use possibilities could be. And also we show the downtown areas across Long Island, half a mile around each Long Island Railroad Station and other downtown centers, even if there's no train station there. This is also something that was highlighted as part of the Long Island index map, and now we've included in the zoning Atlas, and you can also see the LR routes and the bus routes, and so you can get a sense of transit oriented development and downtown possibilities. We've started to add, we've added an initial layer of overlay districts, but we hope to expand on that much in much more depth through the support of the Regional Planning Council. We've also started to enhance the map by including other data sets of interests, such as flood zones, and so you can see where you can how you can do some initial analytics. It's not the end all and be all, but it gives you a an opportunity to get a sense of so in this case, this is a zoning district that's a mixed residential district, even though it's called a business zone, and there's already, even though it prohibits three family housing, there's already three family housing at that location. And so that might be either an opportunity or a concern. One important thing to emphasize about this zoning Atlas is that it provides detailed information for everyone to use, and so it's kind of a foundational way of understanding what the patterns are and the issues are, so that the discussions, or perhaps arguments about this are less based on anecdotes and

more based on facts on the ground and actual analysis that everyone has access to, because this is freely available online, and then you can see nearby what the patterns are. You could reveal the actual land use through aerial photographs, and then use that information in the discussions about how zoning might change what housing possibilities are there or not. And go further. Once you have that information, you can then identify who represents. The zoning district that you're the location that you're interested in. We actually just updated all of the legislative districts with the latest redistricting maps from Congress, county the state. We also include town council districts where they're available, and then we show service districts or special tax assessment districts, for the location that you're looking at. You can see that in the right side panel, and then you can display the boundaries of these districts across Long Island. This is also something that we started with the Long Island index, and something that we want to continue with support of the Planning Council to update all of that information. There about 600 or so of these special taxation districts of about 10 types, and so we'll talk about that in a moment. So that was kind of a quick review of the map. If we have time, I'll go to the actual map and give you an example of how it works. We can enter an address and zoom to that location, but just a quick update about what we've done so far and what the Forward Thinking plans are. So we've compiled all this information, we've launched the Atlas. We're very keen on trying to make sure that the information is accurate and up to date, and so we're always incorporating feedback, and very eager to get feedback from organizations and individuals, and we've been interacting with a number of municipal staff about their data to make sure it's accurate and up to date, and also going through updates on at least an annual basis. And so some of that, as I've mentioned, has been going on. We're also very keen on making sure that people understand how to use the Atlas. So we're going through various tutorials and workshops wherever we have the opportunity to do so we've given presentations to the Long Island commercial developers, to the Real Estate Institute at Stony Brook and others. And with support of the Regional Planning Council, we have four areas of enhancements that we'd like to focus on. One is to really build out the information about the overlay districts, because that's you're all the zoning experts. I don't know as much about zoning as all of you do. I know how to make maps, but overlay criteria are very important about how they might change what's allowed or not based on the base zoning. So we want to really expand that information. So far, we've added the boundaries and just the indicator of what type of overlay district it is, but all of that detailed information that is part of the zoning Atlas for all of the base zoning districts we haven't collected yet, and we want to do that and also update some of the maps of the overlay districts. Demographic information is really key, and we want to explore the best ways of incorporating that. As you may remember, as part of the Long Island index, we had different layers of display of demographic characteristics and patterns, and so we might try to do that here. We might try to display demographic statistics, population counts and percentages for each municipality, indoor for each zoning district. But so there are a number of options, and we want to go through that and incorporate census and demographic information to enhance the information that's already part of the Atlas. As I mentioned, the special districts, we need to go through and make sure all of the boundaries are up to date, and all of the contact information for each of them is up to date. And then one feature that we weren't able to add when we first launched the site, but we know is important, is the ability to instantly create a printable layout from the map. You know, there's a lot of components on the map itself, a lot of information that's being compiled. And we want to make it easy for people to be able to export a map as a graphic image, to include in a report or testimony that they're giving to a planning organization or the zoning board, and also to be able to print that map so they can share it with others, and so that's another component that we'll add with support of the Planning Council. We also have other ideas and plans to enhance the Atlas. Again, we really appreciate feedback and encourage you to let us know what you think should be done better or differently. But one key thing to highlight, and Gwen can talk about this also, is we hope to work more closely with New York State, Empire State Development through their their pro home program and Long Island forward, because the information

that's been. Compiled through the Atlas, is a lot of what they need to really implement their program effectively and efficiently, and so we hope to partner with them going forward in a way that not only helps the where the state entity and the regional economic development group to analyze the information, but also assist specific municipalities that want to become pro home municipalities, and provide them with information and analysis that can relatively easily be accessed through the zoning out. So I'll end there, and I guess let me change this, if I may, to the Atlas itself, and maybe we have a minute to quickly go to the map. Yeah, I think we're good. So I'll go to my hometown. I was born in Baldwin. I went to school at Stony Brook and worked actually, why don't I just type in my old address? So you type in an address, it highlights the location on the map. We can zoom in close. In this case, it's residence B zone in the town of Hempstead, and it allows single family housing. It allows ADUs as of right with these conditions. And you can see all of the overlapping administrative and legislative districts. And if you wanted to see where the extent of those districts was, you can zoom that didn't work right to the extent of the district. And if you wanted to see where other characteristics were, such as flood zones, you could add those to the map and see how close this is. My parents house got quite flooded after superstorm Sandy. And we also show again bus routes and train routes. And you could also see all of the legislative district boundaries if you wanted to across Long Island or just for the location that we're focused on. And you can, as I showed initially, you can see filter the map to show which areas are allow as of right or by public hearing, one family to family, three or four plus family zoning. I should emphasize that if you're a municipal official, you know your zoning well, and if a planning group or developer is interested in just one municipality, it's not that complicated to get all of this information, or at least some of this information. But the benefit of the Atlas is by providing and visualizing this Information Island wide, it provides a comprehensive understanding and way of accessing this information, and provides the same type of information for all organizations across Long Island that are interested in responding to and solving the housing crisis and enhancing planning and doing that in a coordinated regional way, and while still respecting the local needs and local characteristics and concerns that each municipality has. So I'll stop there. If people have questions, happy to go through them and go through other examples, if people are interested in seeing specific locations on the map. And Gwen, do you have any thing to add to I just

Speaker 5 38:56
wanted to add. Thank you, Steve. I think it's important, again, from a context perspective, for for individuals to understand the depth and breadth of work that you all put in. So this is Long Island zoning Atlas. It is not statewide. It is the only zoning Atlas in New York State. And it is, while it's only for Long Island, we have more zoning districts in the state of Connecticut as a whole. So just to speak to again, you know, the amount of work that Steve's team put in is is really extraordinary. But to also share a concrete example, as Steve was talking about, in terms of looking at sort of island wide opportunities, we've been doing a lot of work with Suffolk County, and they are, as you all know, the county executive is very committed to housing opportunities. And one of the efforts that we're working on there is taking a look at where there are as of right development opportunities. And then the county is taking a look, through the Department of Health, at where there is capacity from a sewer and water perspective, to then again, help in advancing where there might be. Quicker development opportunities to address the housing needs. So there's a lot of really great conversations happening, not only with municipalities, but other entities, you know, engineers, development companies, that have reached out architect firms. So really, there's been a tremendous interest. And municipalities themselves have reached out to, you know, share feedback and gratitude for having this information available in such a way.

40:28
Thank you, Gwen, the questions from the council,

Speaker 3 40:33
I guess I'd like to follow up something that Gwen was just pointing out. So we know in Suffolk County, in addition to zoning, there's effectively a total overlay with respect to control of density of development, particularly housing, based on infrastructure, specifically sewer infrastructure. So I would guess that this may already have Sewer District overlays. But I think at some point you know not only looking at the zoning issue as potentially being an impediment to to the density development that would require for affordable housing. I think the infrastructure question should be part of it as well, absolutely.

Speaker 4 41:12
So we that's a very good point. We do include sewer districts. I should emphasize that these were initially digitized and can compiled where there's Long Island index project probably about 10 years ago. We're pretty confident that they're up to date, and we've done some checking, but they're definitely not completely up to date, and so we do need to make sure that they're up to date, and but that is something that we you know, it's, it's critical to include,

Speaker 5 41:42
I'm sorry, Steve, just my comments about the county sharing capacity is not related to the sewer districts, but rather where there are stand alone septic treatment plants at other developments that may have capacity. That's what the Department of Health is looking to pull together, which would then help support where there might be other development opportunities that could tap into that capacity,

Speaker 1 42:04
you know, to Michael's point, so while it may not be an official district, and to your point, Gwen is the there are numerous there's couple 100 package plants in Suffolk County, which, as we know, and I believe Libby was doing some work on, and the county is doing some thing to having a study done on available capacities at these plants. So to Michael's point, also, Steve, will you be indicating the location of where these treatment plants are? We

Speaker 4 42:34
could? We don't have that on the map now, but that's a good point. We should

Speaker 1 42:38
and the county. Can we, you know, we can all collaborate on that. But it's very good point, because if there's treatment plants there, and you have a lot of developments which, frankly, have a lot of excess capacity that can be utilized to in adjacent areas to support some new development, absolutely.

Speaker 5 42:57
And I think it's important to know too, right? Part of the intention is, as we talk about you usually, where there is a standalone treatment, it's for a larger facility that the hope here, with this tool, is also where there might be smaller development opportunities, right? It's certainly not to suggest that all new development needs to be, you know, in the hundreds. While that's certainly great to see when that happens, we recognize the diversity of each municipality and the uniqueness and you know, recognize that development you know, can happen from three units, you know, to 300 units, but just making this information available to see where those opportunities lie is really key to enhancing those those developments. Thank you.

Speaker 1 43:39

You know the one aspect of that, if I may, is that you say, Why? Why would a small say, packaged plant at a residential development in Suffolk want to avail themselves of additional sewage from an adjoining area? Is economics. If the you know, if you already have the capital there, and there's operating costs. There's economies of scale. So if they pick up some additional flow, it can be done more, much more cost effectively, than the new development, having to build their own plant or to actually tie into the county's district and maybe some extensive distances for sewering, you can reduce the overall operating costs per per user. So I think there's a lot of win win there,

Speaker 6 44:29
Steve. And you know, I got a compliment. You know, as somebody who was part of the Long Island index from its first meeting, you've come a long way. I mean, I have never been able to get all of the different outlines of all the different, you know, election, municipal districts, order districts. I mean, this is a phenomenal resource where you've liberated information, or not only, you know, for government, but for the average citizen. Alan, for community groups, it's a tremendously powerful tool. And I, I really got to applaud you on this, and it's, it's the kind of thing that the council needs to support, not that we have to be the source of every piece of data. But it would be nice, you know, Gwen, with your organization as well that there's a portal where, whatever you're looking at in in Long Island, there's one portal we can get census data, housing data, poverty data, emergency, you know, education data for for conversations and thinking about the future. I and this is just tremendous. Steve, the only other thing I would thank you very much. Yeah, I would ask is, and this came up when we were talking about working on this early on the index, when the average homeowner looks and uses this to say, what is this zone for? And I'm and makes an economic decision, and if the data is not correct, there needs to be some sort of disclaimer that this is not to replace your own due diligence and going into the town and and checking the title, and, you know, the zoning, because these things do Shift, and sometimes there's a lag. So you you just have to make sure, either in the FAQ or some warning, sure the individuals do not rely on this, yeah, for those kind of decisions. But this is phenomenal. And thank you. Yeah,

Speaker 4 46:26
thank you very much. That's something, that's something we'll we have disclaimer language, but we'll make sure that as possible

Speaker 6 46:34
well, for what it's worth. But I know that was a big issue when we yeah, this many years ago. Nancy,

Speaker 7 46:42
oh, I was just saying that was a good point that Jeff made about the waiver with that. But just again to ditto what he's saying and a little more. I mean, just the transparency and accessibility of this information, so that we can really have a visual look at our land use and informed zoning, you know, information, it's just so important as we continue to plan for the future. So this is fantastic. Thanks. GWEN And Steve. I've seen this come along as part of the New York Community Trust, and it's just such an amazing tool for Long Island. So great. Thank

Speaker 4 47:17
you for the trust support and the soul Marie Jones support, she's been

47:21
Yes, also, I would think

Speaker 1 47:24
for the development community, rather than trying to, you know, put a round peg into a square hole, they can actually see where the zoning actually facilitates or is conducive for their type of development. And I think we possibly could eliminate a lot of the friction that is encountered at a lot of development hearings, of looking to get changes zones, etc, and development community can more cost effectively look at where, where it's properly zoned, and where the needs are. So I think, like we talked about this, why the council is trying to advance it, and we salute you, Steve and and, and also, you know, the presentation, first of all, and it's, it's really, think it's excellent. So when thanks so much. You've always been a leader here on on this initiative, and we're looking forward to continue to collaborate together on this.

48:22
Thank you very much.

Speaker 3 48:25
And I just have one more question, in terms of the access, are there links to various organizational websites to access this, like from the county or Libby or Lia How would How would one find the greater access?

Speaker 4 48:41
Well, some of the supporters have added links. I think Libby has the link. And there have been a few articles in Newsday about the project that have linked to the map. Cdli, of course, has a link to it. We encourage as many organizations as possible to add links so it's more widely accessible. That's not under our control, but it's something that we think would be a great idea and something that we talk about whenever we give presentations. So the more the word gets out about that, the more use the site will get.

Speaker 5 49:16
We encourage you all to because it is an open site, you know, to have a link on your website, referring people here. And while we haven't done a mass er strategy around it, we did have a press event when we launched, as Steve mentioned back in December of 23 but the word has gotten out. I mean, we've had over 30, close to 35,000 visits to the site, which is pretty amazing, and there is ongoing users who are using it multiple times, which is also speaks to, we believe you know, the importance and the benefit that the tool has to offer. Yeah,

Speaker 7 49:52
so when you you have said 30,000 visits to the website, so do you have the analytics to see? See who's using it, etc, and what capacity

Speaker 4 50:03
the analytics. The analytics don't really provide that level of detail, but we do have the number of, as Gwen said, the number of new visits, returning users. We can see which organizations link or which websites link to this, so we can get a sense of that, yeah.

Speaker 7 50:23
I mean, it just seems that every sector across the region could use this for various things, you know, housing production and transportation, even food you know, even food insecurity. I mean, I could just

imagine that this is like the big visual picture of our resources and our challenges. This is wonderful. Thank you.

Speaker 4 50:43
Through, if I may, through each of your organizations or areas that you focus on, if you see, if there's an opportunity for us, to me and Gwen in particular, to give a presentation or a kind of a tutorial about how the zoning Atlas what it is and how it could be helpful for those your particular area, we'd be happy to do that. We're eager to get the word out about this, so we encourage you to think about that and follow up with us

Speaker 5 51:12
and the tool. Just one last point you know to what Steve was saying can help advance work that other entities may be doing, right? So as Steve mentioned, with the governor's pro homes, opportunity for additional funding, municipalities have to complete an application, and that data is in this tool, right? And so it saves municipalities quite a bit of time by pulling that through this tool. And Steve and the team are available our team as well to assist municipalities, which is why we're we're hoping to, you know, really be incorporated into some of those projects through ESD.

Speaker 4 51:51
I think Patty Bourne has her hand up, Patty, who's very helpful in providing data about Long Beach. Thank you,

Alan Belniak 51:58
John, would you like me to pivot to the audience?

Speaker 1 51:59
Uh, yes. I was just going to say, please do Thank you. Okay, and

Alan Belniak 52:04
we'll, we'll start with Patty Steve, as you pointed out, so Patty, you should now have the ability to unmute your mic and then share your comments or questions.

Speaker 8 52:14
Hi, good morning. First, I have to thank the Long Island Regional Planning Council. This is such exciting and wonderful example of what you're doing and the importance of what you're doing all these years, 17 years. John, congratulations, because there's no center city. You know. We have no one pulling Long Island together. So it's terrific. And congratulations to Gwen and Steve for this terrific opportunity tool. It's come so far. It's I'm just sitting here like almost shell shocked about what you can do and the possibilities, and the fact that you've been able to get additional funding so you can continue doing what you're doing. And it's a great idea to work with the state. We're a pro housing community, and your example, Gwen, of the future, using this as a tool for what we do, as well as our general work is terrific because we do a lot of grant works. I do have a kind of specific but general question, and that is, now that we have this great tool, how do we use it for the future of updating and looking for how we should meld, how we should shape our zoning for the future, and I'm specifically talking for where I work, in the city of Long Beach. We've recently done our comprehensive plan, and we now have a planning board, and now we're going to look to do a zoning update after 35 years. I know there are a lot of other communities that are in similar situations that need to update their zoning. So my question to everyone is, I don't know if you've thought about for this tool of providing samples, examples, standards of what

would be good when you update your zoning. For example, there is zoning tools like form based codes and incentive zoning versus just regular use of zoning, as well as the Planning Council to assist us all individually, because we are individual communities who work on our zoning so that we can make it reflect more where we want to go, and the information that we gain from this tool say, Oh, this is great, but how can we make it better for the future? Thanks.

54:18
Thank you, Patty. Thank

Speaker 4 54:20
you again. Thank you for your support of providing data that we've been able to incorporate into the Atlas and in general. And that's a great question and and suggestion about thinking about how to develop what municipalities have learned through the Atlas into recommendations for improved zoning ordinances and improved policies. We've thought about that, but and maybe Gwen can talk about this more, but we haven't gone into that yet, but that's something that I think is really worth considering and then thinking about how best to move ahead on that.

Speaker 5 55:00
I hate to put a question back on you Patty, but I would, we would love to hear, you know, from those of you in the municipal space, what are, you know, like those top three or four or five templates that could be helpful? And then I think that could be something we can consider, you know, how, how much can we create, sort of a standardized template? Or are there ways you know that municipal we could assist the municipality, uniquely, in meeting some of those needs? So would welcome to hear you know from you if there are sort of top issue areas that could be created to support municipals effort and before

Speaker 4 55:38
Patty response, just to add one more aspect to this. So as Gwen talked about early on, there is this national zoning Atlas project that's trying to foster the development of atlases like this across the country to better understand zoning and how it impacts housing everywhere. And they've certainly done work along those lines of trying to highlight what works what doesn't. And so we can look to them also for examples of that and see if people that have done things outside of Long Island, we can bring that back to Long Island. So that's something to consider as well.

Alan Belniak 56:19
Great Patty. Patty. You should have the ability to There you go.

Speaker 8 56:22
Thanks. Yeah, that's a good question. You know, as you were talking Gwen, I was thinking that on Long Island, as we know, we're very diverse in terms of land use patterns. Long Beach is one extreme, the highest density. Then we have other places which just have single family homes. So there are different issues, I think, two things that come out of it. One idea is that we know there are people out there and talk to others, especially for whatever reason right now, who are concerned about change, zoning changes, new housing for maybe some uneducated reasons, as well as gut feelings. So anything that we can do to make people understand better that zoning changes is a good thing, because it needs to reflect where we are, where we want to go, versus where we were 40 years ago, because we can't go back in time, and we need to keep our communities quality communities. But the second specific thing, rather than because I could give you examples from Long Beach, but that might not be as helpful as more of a general, general inquiry. So what I suggest is, and I would happy to work with you on this, is to

get some planners together who work for municipalities, and maybe some who are in the private sector, who are consultants, and talk in general about things they'd like to see changes in zoning, as well as come up with some ideas of as I raise the issue, if you can update your zoning, what do we need to do? What's important, which is not two things. One, it would give you some general concepts of what's going on on Long Island. And secondly, it would provide education information to individual communities through their planning staffs building staff to go back to their elected officials and say, you know, maybe there are really good reasons why we should be updating our zoning now versus waiting five or 10 years, because I imagine a lot of times with zoning, it's either change is a problem or where we're going to get the money to update the zoning, or it's not our priority right now. So maybe if we can make that more of a priority, especially looking through the Atlas at areas where the zoning really needs change. I mean in Long Beach. I mean Superstorm Sandy, we've never reacted to that change in the economy. We've never reacted to that. So I can go on and on, you know, so environmental justice communities reacting to those needs as well. So if we can help communities, maybe even inch by inch, rather than taking, you know, a mile or a yard to move forward through working together, in other words, what I'm suggesting, and not putting all the work on you, of course, but saying that we could work together because we have, you know, groups and planners, if you want to convene something is to say, how can we move forward and use this as a tool for people to see the importance of taking this seriously and not just what we have now, but where we should be?

Speaker 1 58:56
Great. Thank you. Thank you, Patty. I think most of you know patty is been in the leader in planning on the island here for many, many years. She actually has had the experience of both cities in Nassau County on Long Island here Glen COVID and Long Beach, as well as playing director in Nassau County. So Patty has been a leader championing what long Alan really needs for many decades. So, Patty, thanks so much for what you do, and you look forward to continuing work together. Absolutely. Okay. Any other comments or questions?

Alan Belniak 59:34
I do not see this last call at the moment. I do not see any other hands raised, John and our Q and A module is empty, so I think for now, unless anything rapidly comes in, we're probably pretty good to continue. Okay,

Speaker 1 59:48
great. Listen, I'd like to, on behalf of the council, like to thank Steve and Gwen and you know, the work that's been done to date has actually absolutely been valuable, but the future work, I. Think is going to be golden for the for the island here, and we look forward to your work product. Steve, do you know how long it would be before Rick and expect a product?

Speaker 4 1:00:11
I think we'll probably be able to move ahead pretty quick. And there's some things that will be easier. Some things will take more time. So I would say, you know, in a month or two, we'll have some progress, and we'll continue going forward through the year.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
John Cameron:
thank you. I'd like to digress somewhat from what I normally do. As you all know, I usually start off looking at the initial perspective, as well as in the state and then the local. And I think we all know since our last meeting that what's been happening nationally and the federal government is is not something I

could really probably encapsulate in the next two hours. So what's been happening under the Trump administration, and the one thing I'd say is that is certain, is that that which was, that which was certain is no longer is no longer certain, and change is definitely in the wind. So we'll have to see where it goes. Obviously, the economic policy is causing some angst on on, with regard to, in particular, stock market, etcetera, and internationally, with regard to conflicts over in Russia and the Ukraine and Middle East etcetera, about to see where it goes. But we're definitely in for some some changes. So we wish the President's administration all the best. What I like to do is focus a little bit today is on Long Island's fair share. You know, we've talked about this, and unfortunately we do a good job. I say Long, Long Island, and in New York in particular, does great job on talking. Actually, we may not be as good in and many of you may have seen yesterday, Mark herbs had a an op ed in Newsday responding to a prior Op Ed from the executive director of the of Nim tech, you Know, New York Metropolitan Planning Organization and council and Mark and actually mark Rory an op ed and led it to the editor, and I and a number of other people also did for local papers about attempting to establish a Long Island metropolitan planning organization. For those of you that don't know Long Island typically based on lane miles, and this is on infrastructure and roadway improvements, bridge improvements, transportation improvements, Long Island, typically, in the past, had received about 23% of federal funds that came into the state, that number is down to around 7% 7% that's sort of reflective of what we came up with. If you recall a little over a year ago when we did our tax and balance study done by PFM, where they looked at our tax imbalance with the federal government and state government. To just recall the numbers the federal government, we had a tax imbalance about $27 billion on the state level, it's like $15 billion so you look and say, you know, that's every year. That's not just a one shot, that's every year. So that's, you know, the imbalance and the Nim tick, which is really it's, if you look at it, there's members. They're both county executives, a member of members of the board of Nim tick, but they get it's, it's a unanimous vote. And so we need, we need to do something here for Long Island, because we're losing out big time. Michelle Solage, who's also written some opinion pieces, is attempting to carry the water in the legislature for Long Island, establishing its own planning organization. We haven't had any success yet, but we're attempting to move it forward. But if, if we don't get that, this imbalance on infrastructure, transportation funding will continue. This is not something that just occurred overnight. You know, I'll go back to if you look at our share, our fake quote, unquote, fair share on Long Island. Here, about 10 years ago, we all recall under Governor Cuomo with the Buffalo Billion, they wanted to try and do something. He wanted to do something, I think, to try and possibly mollify, you know, Long Island's concerns. So we got appropriated $150 million 150 compared to 10 billion. Okay? Of that 150 Okay, most of that money has not even been spent. Okay. Now you look and say, Okay, so now we had, then Governor hokel came out with what we seems to be, we seem to be a stepchild of Buffalo. I don't know what that is, but where the the state government and local governments were going to fund a new stadium for the Buffalo Bills. Okay? So in order to, I think, attempt to again, quiet down some of the opposition here from our state legislators from Long Island here, Governor passed and enacted this, a three, $50 million Long Island Investment Fund, okay, that was in November of 22 right? That money still hasn't been expended on transformative projects, alright? So you look and say, Okay, what are we getting on that? Then you look at say again, in 22 is we all voted very strongly for the environmental Bond Act, a $4.2 billion environmental Bond Act. Okay, it's basically had two years of operations, 2324 moving to 25 of that $4.2 billion spent 700 million. Has been allocated, or earmarked, 700 million of that 700 million, Long Island's getting about less than 10% we're we have allocated now about $60 million of that 60,000,002 thirds of it is going to a state facility to SUNY Stony Brook for photovoltaics. So you look and say, okay, so other state facility, you're looking at what, $20 million out of a $4.2 billion environmental Bond Act. Okay, so again, where is, where is our share here of going back to that, you know, loyal Investment Fund, many of you may have read that one of the projects that this council designated as a project of regional significance, Midway crossing as has been terminated. And in full disclosure, and I

recused myself on the vote. We were the engineers on that project. But for seven years, that project was in the works, and the developer, JLL, had lined up major commitments for Life Sciences, and they had the financing for Life Sciences, and also there was a convention center hotel, and they had private financing for that. We had a STEM Center, all that. But the word that came back was that the developer heard, and we heard through different channels, that the state and its administration really wanted housing. Now, nobody's been a stronger proponent for housing along than this council back in 2010 and Michael White was our executive director. Then I was, I was the chair then too. But we did, and many people on this councils were on the council then. And you recall we did the LA 2035, and we identified the two major impediments to Long Island's future sustainability were a lack of diversity in housing, affordable housing, if you will, and also an unsustainable tax burden. Those challenges are still the same challenges 15 years later that we have we have today that we had back then. But we don't need just housing. We need housing. We need economic development. But the word that came back to us was, you know, you're not going to get infrastructure funding here on a public private partnership, even though maybe the private sides lined up their their funding, the governor and the and the administration wants housing, and say like this is a Ron conquer at the best transit serve development site in New York State. You're at, you're at the eastern terminus of electrification of the Long Island Railroad at the normal Northern, northern terminus of along with Martha airport, five minutes or three exits of the Li and across the street, across the tracks from 1500 units of a major residential development being tri tech. We are, we heard that unless you have housing in there. In fact, the state passed some some regulations. Is that for major, major funding, you had to have housing incorporating your project. Is that, like, not only you know, Lee said, we not only need the housing, we need the economic development. Without the economic development, it will continue to put the burden on the residential tax base, rather than growing the commercial tax base, aside from what a lot of us think, a lot of us think was moronic to think that you're going to be creating housing adjacent to runways at an airport, is that the frustration just continued to pervade. County executive romaine, I'm sure, was extremely frustrated, and maybe Edward directly passed back to him, because, you know, the all the drum beach were Alicia of housing in there, you're not going to get funded. So what happened after a year, I guess, of his op, his operation is the county executive six. Was under six years of Steve Alan, he terminated the development, developer, JLL, the agreement with the developer. Now what happens after that? A few weeks after that, the governor has a press conference announcing 100 $50 million in infrastructure funding for what no designated developer, no designated development plan. One $50 million for what, assuming you have an approvable plan. So what does that mean? And, you know, there's, there's no, there's no commitment here for funding to actually to come. So is this going to be another, you know, $70 million sitting for a garage, waiting at the Coliseum for something to get developed there, and the state, again, not funding anything here on Long Island. But again, we are sitting here going back, and these numbers keep getting worse. And out of Don Clavin off. Don't still on the line here. But no that tax imbalance, the $15 billion of state imbalance in 27 in federal that was, that was prior to the congestion pricing. Okay? Congestion pricing, which was good or what tax commuters, okay, after a while, you look and say this golden goose is getting cooked, is that we can't keep going on and say planning without money is an exercise in futility. And excuse my frustration, but it's been 17 years. Okay? And many of you on the council have been with me the whole time. Okay? We dedicate a lot of time here trying to, you know, we always talk about, and I always say this too, you know, it's a real honor here, trying to, you know, make long island the great place that it is for future generation, generation that's not happening. It's not going to continue to happen. It's not going to be here for our kids and our grandkids, unless we start addressing those two still, those two critical items, still the housing and we had a great presentation today. We know we need it here, but if we don't have the jobs and we don't do something with the tax base, this island has major challenges and major problems, so midway just happens to be the last one, unfortunately, that was probably the most transformative

project in my lifetime for Long Island, that it could be a major opportunity loss for Long Island, but we don't have other major opportunities here. You have different leaders here who are doing tremendous jobs in their own municipal area. Bob Kennedy here is one of the champions, one of the leaders here, and what he's done in the village of Freeport. Ed Wareheim, okay, Bob Doug, we have a number of great leaders here on the island, but we can continue to do this as as a major the major advocate for Long Island, the major planner for Long Island. If we're going to continue to get short shrift from the state and the federal government, it's not just the state. You look and say, okay, Nim tech, okay, we're trying to create our own Long Island planning organization here that that's controlling federal funds for roadway and transportation improvements. But who's gonna, who's gonna vote on whether we get our own Long Island planning organization? Okay, it's the state, the state legislature. We keep getting whacked around by the city, and you know, it's, it's great they can with we're the second largest economic development area, and we know this region in New York State, second to the city, but the city takes a lot more money from the federal government, a lot more from the state. Long Island's being played as a patsy, and I'm sorry for the frustration, guys, but can't keep going like this. You know, you know the old definition of insanity, but this is what it is we're doing this day in and day. Out trying to change things, but the frustration of us coming up with plans and never having the support on the state and federal government to make actually make it happen, I'm sorry, but we can't continue to do it like this. So I apologize for venting here. But you know, this is the starter, like I said, this has been going on for too long and again to think that we're going to be changing things on Long Island here without help from our state and federal partners, I think is really we're deluding ourselves. So rich that being said, I'll turn it back to you and thank you very much.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Guardino:

John, thank you. You're a passionate advocate for Long Island, and you know we appreciate you and all the time and effort you put in and your dedication to improving the island. So thank you. Yeah, my report is really just an update on some of the programs that the council has approved in the past, and I'll just take a couple more minutes of your time to go through them. We're very proud of what's going on with the Long Island water quality challenge. As you know, it promotes project based learning and science and technology, engineering, arts and mathematics and Long Island schools and help students in grades six through 12 develop a greater understanding of how their classroom curriculum can be applied to protecting Long Island's water resources. And we focus on nitrogen pollution. And this year, students were tasked with the challenge of creating green infrastructure and innovations aimed at mitigating nitrogen pollution on school grounds. We're delighted in that we have 14 final project proposals. The selection committee is meeting to determine the winning teams, and the winning teams actually have an option to receive a grant award of up to $2,500 to implement their proposals on nitrogen smart communities. You may recall, it's an initiative that encourages municipalities and Nassau and Suffolk counties to take effective actions to reduce, prevent, eliminate nitrogen pollution in Long Island's waters. Municipalities will work to identify the unique sources of nitrogen at the local level and implement community specific plans of action based on the priorities. We're very fortunate that we have two municipalities involved in the pilot program. That's the town of North Hempstead and the town of Smithtown. They've been working with our staff and our consultants, and already they've done some analysis and brought in Smithtown, the program to a bronze level certification, and soon North Hempstead will be there, and this is just the start, working with our consultants and working with some of the experts we have in the area, we're sure that we're going to enhance and bring those programs up to other levels of certification. And once we complete the pilot program, we're going to bring this municipality up to this pilot program to other municipalities on the island. And finally, let me just give you a quick update on quick drops. We passed a resolution. The Council passed a resolution authorizing

agreement with Save the sound to train Long Island water quality data generators on how to participate in a new data platform called Quick drops. Quick drops is the first database of its kind. Makes community science data collected throughout the region easily accessible to regulators, advocates, academics, government officials and agency experts, paving the way again for more regional science driven decision making. Community science groups will have a free, easy to use platform where they can upload the data they're collecting, including historical data information added to quick drops. Can also be uploaded to EPA, National Water Quality exchange database, researchers and educators will have access to visual to data visualization tools that will help them analyze and more effectively communicate their understanding of water quality conditions in the open sound its tributaries, the bays and the harbors, as well as the impacts of pollution and climate change On our region. Health departments and other water resource managers will be able to rely on more data to assist them in managing beaches and water resources, and more readily available data will empower our elected officials to shape environmental policy. So quick traps is going to be working with stakeholders to train them to use this database. We're really excited about it again. This is another regional, regional initiative that we're taking place on the part of the council, and we think that it's going to be very, very helpful in terms of the environment going forward. And John, that completes my report. Okay?

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

Motion to adjourn. So moved. All in favor.