

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



ROBERT J. GAFFNEY  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Theresa Elkowitz  
CHAIRPERSON

James Bagg  
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 2000

TIME: 9:40 a.m. - 11:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Voting Members - Theresa Elkowitz, Chairperson, Presiding; Tom Cramer,  
Legislator Vivian Fisher, Michael Kaufman, Nancy Manfredonia, Barbara Van  
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### Staff:

James Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst  
Gail Calfa and Penny Kohler, Secretaries

### Departmental Staff:

#### Suffolk County Executive's Office

Todd Johnson, County Executive Assistant  
George Proios, Chief Environmental Analyst

#### Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

Peter Scully, Commissioner  
Judy Gordon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Nick Gibbons, Environmental Analyst  
Richard Martin, Director, Historic Services

#### Suffolk County Department of Public Works

Daniel Pendzick, P.E., Director of Bridges & Waterways  
William J. Colavito, Associate Civil Engineer  
Ben Wright, Chief Engineer

Conservation Advisory Councils:

Steve Brown, Chairperson, Brookhaven CAC

Guests: Dr. Harris Fisher, Lockwood, Kessler & Bartlett, Inc.  
Mark Wagner, Camerson Engineering & Associates  
Patricia Riley, St. Anthony's Crew Club  
Richard Hanley, Town of Riverhead Planning Dept.  
Nanette J. Essel, Co-President, Yaphank Taxpayers & Civic Assoc.

The CEQ meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elkowitz at 9:40 a.m. In attendance were 5 voting members and the Chairperson of the Brookhaven Conservation Board.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Cramer, seconded by Mr. Manfredonia, the minutes of the October 18, 2000, minutes were unanimously approved as read.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Elkowitz gave an overview of a letter from John Turner of The Nature Conservancy regarding their proposal to implement a project to eliminate Phragmites using pesticides at Long Pond in Southampton. Ms. Elkowitz stated that CEQ would wait for an opinion from the County Attorney's office, prior to rendering a decision regarding the use of certain pesticides and their impacts.

Ms. Elkowitz also read two letters pertaining to the proposed construction of a sound barrier on the Peconic River Bridge. One from Mr. Bartha, Commissioner of DPW stating their intent to progress with said barrier and the steps they have taken to do so, and one from Mr. Pendzick, Director of Bridges, Structures and Waterways of DPW, stating that the plans for the barrier have been revised. Mr. Hanley, Director of Planning for the Town of Riverhead said that the Town has received a number of calls on the noise coming from the bridge since it has been repaved.

PROJECT REVIEW:

1. Recommended Type II Actions
  - a. Ratification of Staff Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table: NONE – no Legislative meetings scheduled.

b. Proposed Suffolk County Water Authority Exploratory Test Wells @ Various County Parklands.

A presentation was made by Mr. Gibbons, Environmental Analyst from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. The project involves the proposed installation of exploratory test wells at 1) Froehlich/Wicks Farm in Huntington; 2) Coram Airfield and 3) Gerard Road (Southaven West) in Brookhaven; 4) Sabin Property, 5) Dwarf Pine Plains and 6) United Artists in Southampton.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion that the project is a Type II action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer and passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Scavenger Waste Facilities @ Existing Yaphank Sewage Treatment Plant Site (Proposed SD #24), Town of Brookhaven.

Mr. Wright, Chief Engineer, Division of Sanitation of the Department of Public Works, gave a brief overview of the proposal and then introduced Mr. Wagner, a consultant with Cameron Engineering & Associates, Inc. and Dr. Fisher, a consultant with Lockwood, Kessler & Bartlett, Inc., who gave a presentation and answered questions on the proposed project. This project had been previously reviewed by the Council on December 9, 1998, and was tabled. DPW was required to prepare an in-depth Part 3 of the EAF to address the impacts on groundwater, odor control, traffic, the Carmans River, and nearby residences.

Mr. Wagner of Cameron Engineering reviewed a study initiated by DPW regarding the Bergen Point plant closings and back-ups due to over capacity. This accrued upward of a 100 times a year. The scavenger waste trucks had no where to go and had to come back to the plant at another time. Several sites were considered for additional storage and treatment. The county wants to establish a facility to the east. DEC prefers a groundwater discharge over surface water discharge. Yaphank therefore, appears to be the most viable since it is an upland area, near the center of scavenger waste generation. The points Mr. Wagner covered were: 1) Types of waste composition: residential, screened commercial, industrial and mixed sludges; 2) Traffic; 3) Odors: Bergen Point has been plagued with odors over the years, but there are no known odor problems at Yaphank. In the new facility, all channels for handling will be done indoors with a wet scrubber; and 4) Buffers: A wooded buffer of approximately 2 ½ to 3 acres will be provided to screen the facility.

Ms. Essel of the Yaphank Taxpayers and Civic Association, stated that the association feels this is a deep recharge area and that a DEIS is necessary. She also wanted to know what the cumulative traffic impacts would be with all the various trucks that would be involved, in addition to normal traffic and school buses.

There were several issues that the council felt should be more adequately addressed. Mr. Cramer thought DPW could start by revising the Part 3 to include a traffic study - the Traffic Division of DPW should comment on ramp loads off the LIE. Also, the groundwater section should be expanded to include more specific data and possible impacts on downflow to nearby residences and the Carmans River. Acquiring additional space for buffers should be looked into. DPW should also meet with the Yaphank Civic Association before coming back to the council.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to Table the project, pending the revision and review of the EAF and backup material, which should answer all the concerns raised. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fisher and passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Improvements to Police Radio Coverage in Huntington Village, Town of Huntington.

A presentation was made by Mr. Stile, Director of Police Radio Communications in the Suffolk County Police Department. The project involves the permanent installation of a remotely operated radio transmitter/receiver (Tx/Rx) at Huntington Town Hall with an antenna mounted on the roof extending approximately twenty (20) ft. above the rooftop, in order to improve emergency communications in this heavily populated area.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that this is an Unlisted action and that a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously.

4. Proposed Construction of a Boat House in Timber Point County Park, Town of Islip.

A presentation was given by Ms. Riley, of the St. Anthony's Crew Club. The project involves the construction of a 7,500 sq. ft. boathouse in the northeastern corner of Timber Point County Park, to be used by the St. Anthony's High School Rowing Club for boat storage. Other local programs are also planning on using the facility. The site is currently used as a picnic and golf course maintenance area. There will be some minor clearing, but no major trees will be removed. The building will be hidden by trees and not visible from the water. However, it will affect the view from the Horan House which is in the Historic Trust, so it was suggested that the new building be painted a medium bronze color and plantings placed around it so that the "view shed" will be minimal. This project may also require a Wild and Scenic Recreational Rivers permit from NYS DEC.

Mr. Cramer made a motion that this be classified an Unlisted action and a Negative Declaration be issued. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fisher and passed unanimously.

5. Proposed Construction of Sound Barrier on Peconic River Bridge,

A presentation was given by Mr. Pendzick, Director of Bridges and Waterways of the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project involves a *temporary* sound barrier on the north side of the bridge to alleviate the noise problem that arose after the bridge had been resurfaced with grooves. The original project called for a *permanent* sound barrier.

The Council asked that DPW revise the EAF and put in a Part 3, which covers sound levels, aesthetics and view sheds, as well as resurfacing alternatives that might solve the noise problem. They should also explain the equipment and wind screen in this section. Riverhead will submit official comments.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to *table*, seconded by Mr. Kaufman and passed unanimously.

HISTORIC SERVICES - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, addressed the Council and updated the status of the County's historic properties as follows:

a. Blydenburgh County Park - Walter Hollien, Architect and Mill Wright, has been hired to do an inventory on the mill works for the New Mill, for future installation. Trish Foley has done restoration work at the Millers House in preparation for a photo shoot and story, which will appear in Country Home Magazine, perhaps in the Spring of 2001. The Greenbelt Trail and Civic Association will be involved, if this comes to pass.

b. Coindre Hall – A bid is going out for a proposed Historic Landscape Study for the full 33 acres at the site. A formal study to reflect the “estate” era, the boys school era and the time under County ownership. We will probably restore to the “Estate” era, and a specific year from that era will be chosen.

c. Deepwells – The opening party was a huge success. Employee’s night will be held on Thursday, December 7.

c. Big Duck – The Annual Big Duck Lighting will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

CAC CONCERNS - There were no CAC concerns

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Fisher had some concerns about the Restoration of the Wetlands that we covered at last month's meeting. She wanted to know if this was an overall program. She was informed that at this point it is a pilot program. An overall program will be submitted to CEQ by Parks when the time comes. She also wondered if Vector Control had "blanket permits" for their spraying programs. Mr. Cramer said that at the beginning of each year, they apply for "various" permits.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Cramer. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.