

In the Matter Of:
GROUNDWATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

LONG ISLAND COMMISSION

November 30, 2017

Volume 1



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SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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LONG ISLAND COMMISSION AQUIFER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF:

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

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735 Veterans Memorial Highway

Smithtown, New York 11787

November 30, 2017

Time noted: 3:00 p.m.

Reported by:

GinaMarie DeMarco

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2

3 STAN CAREY, Chair

4 Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association

5

6 FRANK KOCH

7 Suffolk County Water Authority

8 JEFFREY W. SZABO

9 Suffolk County Water Authority

10

11 BRIAN SCHNEIDER

12 Nassau County Commissioner of Public Works

13 WALTER DAWYDIAK

14 Suffolk County Department of Health

15

16 MICHAEL WHITE

17 Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer

18 SARAH MEYLAND

19 Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader

20

21 JOHN MILAZZO

22 Counsel for Suffolk County Water Authority

23

24

25

1 (Time noted: 3:00 p.m.)

2 MR. CAREY: Let's start with the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 (Whereupon, Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)

6 MR. CAREY: Thank you for attending
7 today's public hearing hosted by the Long Island
8 Commission for Aquifer Protection for LICAP. My
9 name is Stan Carey and I am the Chairman of LICAP.

10 I am joined today by Jeffrey Szabo from
11 the Suffolk County Water Authority; as well as
12 Walter Dawydiak, Suffolk County Health; Frank Koch,
13 Long Island Water Conference; Brian Schneider,
14 Nassau County; Don Irwin, Nassau County; Sarah
15 Meylend; and also our attorney John Milazzo is on
16 the end.

17 The purpose of these hearings is to elicit
18 public comment on LICAP's draft water Groundwater
19 Resource Management Plan. The draft is available
20 online at LIAquiferCommission.com. And in just a
21 minute I will introduce Steve Colabufo, who will
22 give a brief presentation on what the Groundwater
23 Resources Management Plan consists of as well as an
24 outline of some of its key recommendations. A list
25 of the plan's top 15 recommendations is available

1 outside if you haven't picked one up already.

2 Before we begin, I would just like to
3 remind everybody that today's proceedings are
4 designed to form a forum on today's comment on the
5 plan. And that is not a question-and-answer
6 session. Any questions you may have can be
7 submitted electronically by e-mailing to
8 LICAP@SCWA.com or by mail, PO Box 38, care of
9 Suffolk County Water Authority, Oakdale, New York
10 11769. Either I or one of the other LICAP members
11 will get back to you with an answer as soon as
12 possible.

13 All comments made today will be brought
14 before the LICAP voting board for consideration
15 during our upcoming general meeting on
16 December 13th. And the final report we expect to be
17 published before the end of the year.

18 As an organization, our mission is to make
19 sure our sole source of drinking water here on Long
20 Island is protected for future generations, and we
21 so love to see Long Island residents such as
22 yourself engaged in these discussions and seeking to
23 become more educated about the issues that impact
24 our groundwater.

25 So thank you once again for attending

1 today's public hearing and with that said I'll turn
2 it over to Steve Colabufo.

3 MR. COLABUFO: Thank you, Stan.

4 As Stan mentioned, my name is Steve
5 Colabufo, I'm the Water Resources Manager, Suffolk
6 County Water Authority. And we're here tonight to
7 talk about the whole new LICAP Groundwater Resources
8 Management Plan. This is the second major
9 deliverable from LICAP since it's inception a few
10 years ago. Last year we did a similar set of
11 hearings for the State of Aquifer Report. The
12 Groundwater Resource Management Plan is a lot more
13 comprehensive and more forward thinking as opposed
14 to more of a summary of existing of status quo with
15 the State of the Aquifer Report was.

16 So tonight we discuss how the plan was
17 formulated -- context and what the plan actually
18 contains.

19 For those who may not know, LICAP is Long
20 Island Commission for Aquifer Protection. And it's
21 basically a partnership for water resource
22 professionals from all over Nassau and Suffolk
23 County. And it includes water suppliers,
24 regulators, government officials, academics and
25 citizens and activist groups. It was formed to

1 address the quality and quantity issues facing on
2 Long Island Aquifers on an island-wide basis, rather
3 than focusing on a minute, smaller area. It's
4 really an overall island-wide partnership for water
5 resource professionals.

6 It was created back in 2013 through
7 legislatures passed by both the county legislators.
8 As you see on the bottom of the slide, the website
9 for LICAP is there, LIAquiferCommission.com.

10 LICAP members include all water suppliers.
11 We together serve about 3 million people on Long
12 Island, representatives of the Nassau and Suffolk
13 County executive offices, representatives of the
14 Nassau and Suffolk County legislatures, employees of
15 the Nassau and Suffolk County health department, as
16 well as the DEC. There's a very broad tent of
17 groundwater resource professionals in Nassau in
18 Suffolk.

19 This is kind of a collage of the logos of
20 various participants. There's actually a lot more
21 than that. This is all that can fit on one page.
22 Again, very broad based group of groundwater
23 resource professionals.

24 We have nine voting members. Many of them
25 are up on the dais behind me. We also have numerous

1 nonvoting members representatives in various other
2 units of the county government, as well as some
3 other entities that are involved in the groundwater
4 studies, groundwater in some fashion on Long Island.

5 One of the more signification internal
6 structures of the LICAP is the formation of the
7 LICAP subcommittees. We formed two subcommittees
8 based on the initial legislation that enabled LICAP.
9 One was the water resources and infrastructure
10 subcommittee. That was chaired by myself. And the
11 charge of that committee was the plan to assess or
12 identify long-term risks to the water supply
13 industry. The other subcommittee is water resources
14 opportunity. Subcommittee chaired by Bill Merklin,
15 of the D&B Engineers. And it was looking at
16 potential short-term risks facing water suppliers
17 involving the treatment, distribution of the potable
18 water on Long Island.

19 So the subcommittees began meeting on
20 2014. And the initial meetings were attended by a
21 very wide cross section of Long Island groundwater
22 community, suppliers, environmental regulators, et
23 cetera. And at those initial meetings following the
24 adopted law for LICAP the attendees at those
25 meetings determined the subject matter that was

1 going to be included in the management plan. So
2 then once those subjects and topics were decided on
3 the subcommittee chairs, then divided into two main
4 groups based on the mission on each subcommittee
5 WRIS focused more on long-term resource oriented
6 topics. WROS focused on the more short-term
7 facilities oriented topics. So those subcommittee
8 chairs writing teams organized and over a couple
9 year period oversaw report -- to write and edit the
10 reports for inclusion and plan.

11 When we were done, we ended up with 15
12 individual reports created over about a three-year
13 span. And those reports are kind of a raw material
14 that comprises of the Groundwater Resources
15 Management Plan.

16 The plan, like I said, is a combination of
17 about a three-year effort. Again, LICAP was created
18 in 2013. And the main difference between this
19 Groundwater Resources Management Plan and the other
20 groundwater plans that have come before it, that
21 this plan was produced as a result of the
22 cooperative efforts of existing practitioners within
23 all aspects of the groundwater industry on Long
24 Island. Rather than giving to a consultant to do on
25 his own, this was truly a cooperative and volunteer

1 effort among the existing working professionals
2 within the groundwater industry all over Long
3 Island. So really kind of stuck out as a very
4 unique effort.

5 So the management plan, the goal of it is
6 to provide a clear picture of the specific threats
7 to the aquifer system, discuss the adequacies of
8 existing management programs and regulations, create
9 an action plan for long-term sustainability, and
10 even more importantly an implementation program and
11 prioritization schedule for various recommendations
12 going forward. And recommended regulatory
13 amendments of legislation actions as well.

14 So mentioned earlier, the plan could not
15 have been possible without the incredible effort of
16 all the people who authored and edited the reports.
17 I don't expect anybody to commit these next two
18 slides to their photographic memory, but certainly
19 all the people who contributed to the plan, who
20 authored reports, deserve a shout-out and kudos.
21 There's one page of authors and there's another.
22 And again, I would like to extend my own personal
23 thanks to all those who helped and assisted with
24 this report and plan. There's no way it could have
25 been done without their efforts.

1 So we ended up with 15 individual reports.
2 We decided to organize them according to a couple of
3 categories. The starting point was the report done
4 by Paul Pouturo on regulatory framework for Long
5 Island Groundwater Resources actually where we are
6 in terms of regulations affecting or regarding the
7 use and the management of Long Island's groundwater.

8 Then we, sort of, divided it up into other
9 natural versus cultural issues affecting Long
10 Island's groundwater. We have a report on climate
11 change impact and the report on the Pine Barrens and
12 other land preservation efforts on Long Island which
13 is designed to, sort of, preserve the quality and
14 quantity of Long Island's groundwater. And then
15 cultural issues of man-made type things that effect
16 the quality and quantity of Long Island's
17 groundwater. Waste water management being a very
18 important part. Sewers -- how things are handled in
19 Nassau versus Suffolk. And that's kind of an up and
20 coming technology. Utilizing groundwater to heat
21 and cool homes, very energy efficient, very "green,"
22 but certainly not without certain issues that have
23 to be discussed and made aware of. So the report
24 was done PW Grosser on that.

25 And water supply alternatives, these were

1 sort of glanced at at previous reports. So we made
2 sure we had a report on technology such as
3 desalination, active storage and recovery and
4 potable water reuse.

5 And certainly water quality and water
6 quantity issues have their share of page space on
7 the report. Regional groundwater contamination
8 events, the Bethpage Grumman and other plumes, are
9 affecting mostly Nassau, but some Suffolk County
10 groundwater. And then chloride contamination for
11 with saltwater intrusion, road salting, and a few
12 other things. So chloride contamination report goes
13 over that.

14 And then other water quality issues
15 emerging and a few other things as reported by the
16 Suffolk County Department Health Services.

17 And then, certainly, water quantity -- the
18 other competing users. Water suppliers aren't the
19 only people using groundwater on Long Island;
20 agriculture, golf courses, industry. All of whom
21 use their fair share of groundwater. So having an
22 idea of the quantity used by the other users besides
23 public suppliers is certainly a worthwhile effort
24 and was a subject in both of those reports.

25 And similarly the Lloyd Aquifer is used

1 pretty extensively in Nassau and very minimally in
2 Suffolk as a water supply unit. So its use,
3 regulation, and future use was discussed in one of
4 the reports.

5 Efficiency and conservation, again,
6 certainly going forward that will become more and
7 more of an issue more so than it has been in the
8 past. So there's a report on that. In addition,
9 part of that report centers on the reuse of treated
10 sewage out in Riverhead to use on Indian Island Golf
11 Course.

12 And then cross-county transmission,
13 usually to supply Nassau from Suffolk County or from
14 the City, there's a report on that. There's
15 certainly an option that was discussed briefly in
16 the past, but we have a report on that.

17 And then probably one of the hottest
18 topics of any, the reactivation of the public supply
19 well system, formally the Jamaica Water Supply
20 Company located in Queens, New York. Brian
21 Schneider -- behind me -- did a great report on
22 that.

23 So we have the full spectrum of water
24 quantity and quality issues covered within the
25 Groundwater Resources Management Plan. These

1 reports kind of serves as the raw material from
2 which the plan was formulated on.

3 In addition to these reports. We also
4 wanted to highlight a couple of issues that were
5 underway that have been either completed or at least
6 started since the LICAP was formed. One of the more
7 significant was WaterTraq, a user friendly water
8 quality mapping and database that was started and is
9 up and running within a fairly short timeframe since
10 LICAP was started. And the address is here of the
11 WaterTraq -- that we're showing here on slide.

12 And also, the U.S. Geological Survey, a
13 Long Island sustainability study, is basically a
14 reworking or re-examination, again, of the Long
15 Island hydrogeologic framework. So that would be
16 pretty interesting. We did start it -- it was
17 started, shortly after LICAP began.

18 So the plan is organized into 10 specific
19 sections. The first section being the executive
20 summary introduction. We made sure to include the
21 major recommendation in that first section so you
22 don't have to read the entire report and dig through
23 the 230 pages to find out what the major
24 recommendations are. They're available out in the
25 lobby. People may have them already. The executive

1 summary introduction is available with the
2 recommendation there already.

3 Then the next four sections discuss
4 existing conditions with natural groundwater
5 conditions, regulatory, management status-quo, as
6 well as existing threats and existing programs that
7 deal with those threats.

8 Next couple of sections discuss in the
9 future, going forward: Management implementation
10 opportunities, and probably most importantly the
11 recommendations and implementation schedule for
12 them.

13 And then finally we acknowledge the report
14 authors and provide their references so that if
15 somebody is interested in a specific subject
16 addressed by the plan, you could go on and look in
17 further detail. You have all of the full reports
18 available in the Appendix. So again, if somebody is
19 interested in some of the topics discussed in the
20 plan they can read the actual report of one of those
21 15 reports I talked about earlier and get more
22 information on that.

23 So one of the most important sections
24 are -- the recommendation section. You got the 15
25 reports used with a total of 143 recommendations.

1 Many of those are specific, very specific to one of
2 the reports. So all the recommendations were
3 summarized and provided to the LICAP voting board
4 for the board members for them to rank. They were
5 ranked in this A, B, C fashion as you see here.
6 There was also another category for "E" for
7 elimination. We decided the recommendations to be
8 eliminated from consideration because they're not
9 significant to the overall groundwater picture on
10 Long Island.

11 And similar recommendations that may have
12 popped up in different reports were combined within
13 the recommendation section. But the main thrust is
14 the 15 A-list recommendations which you have in
15 front of you and is shown here as well. They're in
16 no particular order. That's important to realize.
17 It's not like the number one recommendation is the
18 highest priority, number two is second. They're
19 listed in no particular order. These are the top 15
20 recommendations as recommended by the plan, as
21 formulated by the plan.

22 So again, here we are public comment. As
23 said before, the full reports -- all 15 of those
24 reports, are available in the Appendix and as
25 well -- all of this is available at the LICAP

1 website.

2 This final draft would be available for
3 public comment until next Friday. And the plan is
4 to be scheduled to be adopted at the full LICAP
5 meeting on December 13th. You can submit comments
6 on the web, via e-mail or telephone or written
7 correspondence, the old fashioned way to the address
8 you see here.

9 And concluding thoughts -- well, going
10 forward one of the things left to do is publish the
11 update for the State of the Aquifer Report. That
12 will probably be done in two to three months, I
13 guess. And we will continue to budget based on
14 funding potentially received from New York State.
15 Such funding will be used to expand on WaterTraq and
16 also assist the USGS Sustainability Study expanding
17 on the data available.

18 So with that I will conclude. You can
19 open up the public comment.

20 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Steve.

21 I also want to give Steve a special
22 thanks. He put a lot of hard work into this
23 Groundwater Management Plan. He pretty much led the
24 charge and coordinated all of the reports and spent
25 a lot of time. So thank you for your hard work.

1 MR. COLABUFO: You're welcome.

2 MR. CAREY: Before we get to the speakers,
3 I would just like to recognize Michael White from
4 Suffolk County. He just joined us right as we
5 began.

6 For the speakers, I'll call them as I
7 received the cards. When you come up, if you could
8 just please state your last name for the record so
9 our stenographer could have it accurately in the
10 transcript.

11 Out first speaker today is Peter Scully
12 from Suffolk County.

13 MR. SCULLY: Thank you. My name is Peter
14 Scully, I'm Deputy County Executive for
15 Administrations in the office of County Executive
16 Steve Bellone.

17 I wanted to take a moment to thank
18 everybody involved in the LICAP process so far.
19 Especially Jeff Szabo and Stan Carey for the
20 extraordinary job they've done in creating what I
21 see as an inclusive and transparent process.

22 The County board detail technical comment
23 will be provided by the Department of Health
24 Services. I'm here to provide more broader comments
25 about the overall LICAP process and the need to make

1 sure that it fulfills its objectives.

2 Having attendance of a LICAP and
3 working -- for meeting and knowing first-hand how
4 difficult it could be to manage a process that
5 involves so many different prospective and divergent
6 views, this has been a tremendous effort involving a
7 lot of hard work by many people, many of whom were
8 recognized by Steve during his presentation. And
9 for precisely that reason, that the County feels
10 that LICAP should take whatever steps are necessary
11 to ensure that the process achieves its full
12 potential, for that reason we respectively urge
13 LICAP to consider requesting a 12 month extension
14 for the final plan preparation to enable completion
15 of the most useful plan possible.

16 This is not a criticism. We have been
17 knowledgeable that the statutable time period was
18 insufficient to complete the herculean task you have
19 undertaken.

20 The draft plan consists of a combination
21 of a series of chapters developed by various
22 committees. Couple of them -- executive summary
23 which present 15 priority recommendations in a
24 generic fashion.

25 In our view LICAP needs to take additional

1 time to take the next step and develop a more
2 meaningful strategy which better captures priorities
3 for each county as well as the region as a whole.
4 It shouldn't -- their possible costs, benefits
5 responsible entities, timeframes, and next steps,
6 critical pathways.

7 The role of LICAP should be considered and
8 articulated whether LICAP would be a primary entity
9 for development of programs for policy
10 recommendations, simply provided tools or oversight
11 for tracking progress.

12 In addition, integration of the LICAP
13 process with other initiatives such as the Long
14 Island Nitrogen Plan should be emphasized.

15 With respect to Suffolk County, many of
16 our key objects are included in the wastewater
17 chapter or are incorporated in the description of
18 Suffolk County's Comprehensive Water Resources
19 Management Plan.

20 The County will be happy to work with the
21 commission to better integrate these into a strategy
22 and an executive summary which time, unfortunately,
23 did not permit during the compressed statutory plan
24 preparation period.

25 I hope that these comments are helpful and

1 I'll be pleased to have you be rest assured that the
2 County will continue to offer its unqualified
3 support for LICAP's efforts.

4 Thanks very much.

5 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Peter.

6 Next speaker is Supervisor Ed Romaine from
7 the Town of Brookhaven.

8 MR. ROMAINE: Romaine. First of all, I
9 want to thank you for inviting me. I want to thank
10 the commission for their work. This is an extremely
11 important work. I just came down personally to
12 thank you, make a few comments.

13 The Town will be submitting its
14 official comment in writing, but I wanted to make
15 some personal comments.

16 Obviously the significance of groundwater
17 that connect our counties, Nassau and Suffolk -- I
18 didn't mention the City, by the way, I know they're
19 looking to tap into tap our water, but I'm not
20 looking to do that, and it's importance to our
21 bodies of water body, our streams, our lakes, our
22 rivers, harbors, all effect our aquifer. It's
23 imperative that we get this groundwater plan right.
24 And yes, Peter mentioned a lot of diversity in
25 opinion regarding this from counties with different

1 perspectives. But this is a plan we all have to get
2 behind and support.

3 I know that this plan -- I read it very
4 briefly, and it appears to be dominated by concerns
5 by drinking water companies. And I didn't know
6 whether this was a drinking water protection plan or
7 an aquifer protection plan because they involve
8 different things. And I am concerned about that. I
9 prefer it to be an aquifer protection program. As
10 opposed to dealing with suppliers, and I understand
11 water is a commodity, and it's sold, and it's a form
12 of a utility. But I am more interested in the
13 generic protection of the aquifer.

14 You talked about geothermal. We have a
15 code that protects the aquifer regarding
16 contaminants from geothermal. And I was amazed of
17 the amount of time and energy spent on that in this
18 program because I don't know how widespread
19 geothermal is. I know, for example, I used to
20 represent Shelter Island. It's bad in Shelter
21 Island because we have a very shallow aquifer there
22 and therefore geothermal is not permitted there. It
23 is permitted in my town. And it is controlled. And
24 I'll talk about that, and my town will talk about
25 that, when they submit its plan.

1 The link between clean water and natural
2 areas cannot be empathized. The best way I have
3 found over a long career to protect groundwater is
4 to limit development. Because development -- I
5 think there was a comic strip in the '70s, a pogo,
6 and he says, "We've met the enemy and it's us." And
7 someday he was right. Because development does pose
8 a challenge to groundwater. And I am concerned
9 about that.

10 And I'm just looking at my notes because I
11 wanted to make some points. The plan states the
12 designation of our aquifer is the sole source
13 aquifer results in a high level of protection. No,
14 it doesn't.

15 The aquifer is protected by State and
16 local action. And every time the State and
17 localities act to strengthen those regulations, we
18 benefit. Every time they don't enforce those
19 regulations or look at those regulations, or look at
20 other legislative remedies that can come out down
21 the pipe, we suffer.

22 The designation of sole source aquifer
23 alone does not protect the aquifer. Laws from
24 towns, villages, counties, and the State of New York
25 and of course, the Federal Government, God willing,

1 doesn't get twitted out of existence. The aquifer
2 is dependent on the state of local controls.

3 I notice that the plan also talks about
4 sewers. And I guess that's kind of a divide between
5 Nassau and Suffolk because Nassau is sewerred and
6 about 70 percent, if not more of Suffolk, isn't
7 sewerred. And I have concerns about sewers. We have
8 sewers. We started to think in terms of how we
9 could protect and deal with liquid waste. In the
10 '70s we started the Southwest Sewer District. And
11 it was a plan for a large regional sewer district.
12 And had it been successful, we probably would have
13 had regional sewer districts through Suffolk. But
14 it was my understanding -- and it became a dirt
15 word. And I became an elected official in '85. It
16 was still taboo in terms of sewers.

17 So instead, the building regional -- every
18 little project that needed some type of permission
19 from the Health Department to build, wound up
20 building the small inefficient sometimes,
21 ineffective sometimes, costly for a small project
22 sewage treatment plant.

23 How many sewer treatment plant do you
24 think we have in Suffolk County? There are over a
25 190 sewage treatment plants because every small

1 little project has one. I happened to be going up
2 112 today, and that project has a sewage treatment
3 plant. That project has a sewage treatment plant.
4 No regionalization.

5 So you know the sad thing about it? The
6 sad thing -- Walter can tell you. At any given time
7 20 percent of those sewage plans failed to meet
8 standards. And probably continued to fail to meet
9 standards because some of them can't even afford to
10 upgrade. Like the one at Calverton Hills, which was
11 built about 35, 36 -- much more. 1973. A lot of
12 years ago. And it has failed to meet -- it's in the
13 middle of the Pine Barrens. And the county can't
14 get it to meet standards because they don't have the
15 money. It's a low to moderate income condo
16 community. And you think about that.

17 And as I said before, a Supervisor of
18 Brookhaven, I represented Shelter Island, Southold,
19 Riverhead and Eastern Brookhaven in the legislature.
20 They're not convinced about sewers because they
21 acquit -- they believe that sewers lead to
22 development. And if you notice there's a huge
23 difference between Eastern Suffolk and Western
24 Suffolk and they want to keep it that way. That's
25 where our farms are. That's where our open space

1 is. They don't want to see it developed. They
2 don't want sewers. They don't believe that's a
3 solution. And I'll tell you definitely what isn't a
4 solution, many of those sewage treatment plants
5 empty into the sound like Port Jeff and Stony Brook,
6 or the bay like, Patchogue, or the ocean like the
7 Southwest Sewer District.

8 That sucking sounds you hear is a dump
9 treating effluent out to bodies of water is our
10 aquifer being drained.

11 The county executive and I had a different
12 point of view about a big project in my town called
13 Ronkonkoma Harbor. I had hoped -- and when I sat
14 over there, I voted for a sewage treatment plant on
15 that site. That tertiary was a plan. It would
16 recharge. He believed it was better from a sewer
17 point of view and I'm sure you can argue both cases
18 to hook the southwest sewer. That's millions of
19 gallons a day, 1,450 apartments. Thousands. Tens
20 of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of square foot
21 of retail commercial space and office space that
22 will all be shifted. I used to joke, you flush the
23 toilet in Ronkonkoma Harbor, probably three days
24 later you wind up at Birken Point. It all gets put
25 out to the ocean. How is that helping our aquifer?

1 That's something we should think about in
2 a day of climate change when we have rising sea
3 levels and we have saltwater intrusions. The more
4 we pump from our aquifer out to the ocean, to the
5 bay or to the sound, the more we harm our aquifers.
6 The more we question our water supply.

7 So I would ask the commission to take a
8 look at that. And again, I'm speaking off the top
9 of my head. But my town will probably step in and
10 the environmental guys will write something very
11 nice and submit.

12 But at the end of the day, I don't believe
13 that sewers are the answer. Particularly for
14 Eastern Suffolk County. I don't believe that
15 development is the answer because there is a fear
16 with sewers come development. If you're in
17 Southold, as our Water Authority Executive Director
18 can tell you, they have the water map over there.
19 They even fear water mains breaking additional
20 development. That's how concerned they are, let
21 alone sewers.

22 So yes, there is a place for sewerage,
23 but I would hope our sewers would be tertiary. And
24 I would hope we would take a look at our existing
25 sewers and try to convert them to tertiary so we can

1 get a higher level of treatment and we can replenish
2 our aquifers. It is critical to the future of water
3 supply on this island.

4 I want to thank you for all your work, I
5 know you put lots of hours into this. I know
6 there's a lot of concerns. And I'm just one more
7 guy making a lot of noise. But you guys have worked
8 very hard. I particularly want to thank Sarah
9 because she's mentioned. I'll thank John Turner,
10 because he's not, and I'll thank Poly Weigand, who
11 was with the -- now she's with some other, Pine
12 Barrens for their work also, as well as all the
13 gentlemen up here and the people that were
14 mentioned. Thank you so much. Appreciate it. And
15 my town will submit more formal comments. I'm kind
16 of the rough edge of those comments. Have a great
17 day.

18 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Supervisor Romaine.

19 Next speaker is Steve Jones from the
20 Peconic Land Trust.

21 MR. JONES: Hi, good afternoon. Steve
22 Jones, Chairman of Peconic Land Trust.

23 I'm sure many of you remember a report
24 many, many, many years ago by Robert Abers
25 [phonetic] called Toxic Fairways and it was a golf

1 course report. It was about all the problems with
2 golf courses with pesticides and fertilizers.

3 Suffolk County parks came out really good
4 on that report. But the irony wasn't because they
5 were virtuous or doing the right thing, it was
6 because they couldn't afford the fertilizers and the
7 pesticides at the time.

8 Interestingly enough if you come to the
9 present day now, I would say the farming community
10 in general can't really afford a lot fertilizers and
11 pesticides. It's a low margin business. They have
12 to be very careful as to what they're applying and
13 how much they're applying simply from an economic
14 standpoint let along anything else.

15 So the people -- I think that we need to
16 be concerned about the people that can now afford
17 the pesticides and herbicides, which is the
18 homeowner. Like, somebody like me. Although I
19 don't do this, but people go to the garden center on
20 a Saturday morning and they get their little jug of
21 Roundup with their sprayer attachment. And they're
22 now an unlicensed, unregulated, pesticide
23 applicator.

24 I think that to some extent the
25 regulations that we have now on pesticides and

1 herbicides really are for big volume users. But I
2 think that the homeowner is getting off the -- is
3 just off the radar. And I think when you stand
4 there at the Home Depot and you watch this stuff
5 flying off the shelves on a Saturday morning, it
6 just -- it's very upsetting to see how much this
7 stuff -- and I think it goes for fertilizer as well.
8 A homeowner who doesn't understand really figures
9 "Hey, if I take a little shot to kill this weed,
10 I'll give it two shots, then I'll be sure to kill
11 it."

12 So I think there's a tremendous amount of
13 overuse going on on some of these compounds that are
14 easy to get. They're cheap. And you could go back
15 week upon week upon week for the whole summer and
16 keep getting this stuff and keep using it.

17 The homeowners also, I think we need to
18 look at them with respect to green lawns. They're
19 wanting to -- if it says on the bag I should "X"
20 amount, I'll X plus Y, because it will make my lawn
21 even greener than my neighbor's and I'll be better
22 off than they are.

23 So I remember when I was at the water
24 authority there was a well field in East Northport
25 where the water authority would pump water out of

1 the ground and treat it for nitrate removal. It
2 would cost about \$3 per 1,000 gallon, let's say, to
3 treat it. And then they would sell it to people on
4 the area for a buck fifty. Which was -- even from a
5 business model standpoint, was not very sustainable.

6 And I think that probably still goes on,
7 that you have circumstances where you're selling
8 water to people. They're putting down huge amounts
9 of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers. They're
10 washing all the stuff. They're buying the water.
11 Washing all the stuff in the ground and then it
12 has -- you have to spend a lot of money to take it
13 out again.

14 So it's -- there are a number of ironies
15 out there that I hope you continue to look at. From
16 the Peconic Land Trust standpoint we're trying as
17 best as we can to promote responsible lawn care.
18 Any Tuesday during the summer you can go to Ridge
19 Gardens and you can learn all about one-on-one with
20 a consultant from Perfect Earth project. We have a
21 partnership with them. You can learn about how to
22 responsibly maintain a lawn and not be using a lot
23 of nasty chemicals on your lawn.

24 We also have an incubator project that's
25 been going on for a couple of years called "Farms

1 for the Future." We have a facility on the North
2 Fork and a facility on the South Fork where young
3 people who want to get into farming can come. They
4 can rent one acre, two acres, something like that.
5 They can learn about farming. We provide the
6 technical help for them, as well as some of our
7 other partners. So we're trying to promote and do
8 the right thing through education.

9 And I hope that part of your ongoing
10 efforts will involve a lot more education,
11 especially for those homeowners out there.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Steve.

14 Next speaker is Robert Bender, from R B
15 Bender Group.

16 MR. BENDER: Thank you gentleman and lady,
17 for giving me a few minutes to speak here.

18 Basically, I want to bring to your
19 attention to technology, Bio Organic Technology,
20 that can solve a lot of the problems that face our
21 water supply today.

22 One is we could move for nitrogen using
23 existing infrastructure. In other words, we can use
24 the existing ring that's already in the homeowner's
25 property. It reduces technology and reduces

1 nitrogen leeching into the aquifer. And we could do
2 it for a lot less than \$17,000. In fact, my
3 estimate is probably around \$3,500. And most of
4 that would be for electrical hookups.

5 Another thing we can do is -- with this
6 technology is that it has agriculture ramifications.
7 In parts of the world, Saudi Arabia, Israel, United
8 Arab Immigrants have reduced the amount of water on
9 the crops by 30 percent and we could increase the
10 crop yield by 40 percent.

11 Another added bonus is that the technology
12 strips the oil in certain insects and less
13 pesticides are required.

14 Another advantage to this technology,
15 hydrocarbon contamination. The amount of times
16 hydrocarbons runs into our water supply after a
17 heavy rain storm -- with this technology we can take
18 the hydrocarbons and reduce their constituent
19 components to carbon dioxide and water. Over here
20 we have water and carbon dioxide.

21 So I just wanted to bring this to your
22 attention. I've offered the County a free pilot,
23 that means no cost to the County, to, you know,
24 substantiate these statements that I'm making here.
25 We can take -- we can use your lab. We can use an

1 independent lab. But we can reduce the nitrates
2 leeching into the aquifer. And we can reduce the
3 amount of the sewage treatment. We can make a
4 sewage treatment plant 30 to 40 percent more
5 efficient without any capital expenditure.

6 That's all I need to say.

7 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Mr. Bender.

8 Next speaker is Kevin Hymms from the
9 Ronkonkoma Chamber of Commerce.

10 MR. HYMS: Good afternoon. I would like
11 to thank LICAP for all the hard work and studies you
12 have been doing. My name is Kevin Hymms and I'm the
13 Secretary of the Ronkonkoma of Chamber of Commerce
14 and I'm also on the Suffolk County Legislator's Lake
15 Ronkonkoma Advisory Board.

16 So I do have a few comments. And I
17 believe as part of this study, which we should have
18 more time to implement the results of it because
19 there are so many issues at stake here. But what we
20 must do is balance land development with land
21 preservation to preserve the preservation of the
22 environment and the aquifer system for our future
23 generations.

24 I'm also in favor of some downtown
25 revitalization incentives such as the Ronkonkoma

1 project. And as Supervisor Romaine had suggested we
2 should have constructed a tertiary treatment plant
3 which would reserve the groundwater and reinject it
4 into the aquifer system instead of discharging it
5 into the ocean.

6 I'm very concerned about the levels, over
7 time, decreasing from our water table and aquifers.
8 For instances, if you look at Lake Ronkonkoma, it's
9 among the lowest levels it's been in many years.
10 And once all this pumping at the Ronkonkoma hub,
11 that could be millions of gallons a day that do not
12 get treated, reinjected into the groundwater, but
13 instead end up into the ocean. I'm concerned about
14 decreasing levels in our aquifer systems as well as
15 our lakes and other bodies of water.

16 I'm also very concerned about the
17 chemicals and products such as the opioids and
18 pharmaceuticals. They've identified over 100
19 man-made chemicals and products in the water quality
20 of Lake Ronkonkoma. And I'm sure throughout the
21 County and Long Island's lakes, rivers, streams,
22 harbors, et cetera.

23 You must -- to minimize these contaminants
24 from entering the groundwater, as they have an
25 effect upon people. Look at our schools, we have to

1 do more to test the water for lead. There are some
2 old school buildings that contain lead in their
3 piping. Lead is a big concern as well as all of the
4 other chemicals.

5 And we must explore other treatment
6 options that are low in cost such as Mr. Bender's
7 bioremediation. We need to treat the water more to
8 lessen the contaminants that enter the system by
9 flushing them all into the ocean. That is not a
10 sustainable long-term solution.

11 So thank you very much for your time. Oh,
12 I also hope that local communities such as the
13 Chambers of Commerce and the civic organizations can
14 be involved in this process.

15 So again, thank you very much for your
16 time and I hope to see some very positive results of
17 the outcome. Thank you.

18 MR. CAREY: Thank you, Mr. Hymms.

19 I do not have any additional cards. If
20 there's anyone who did not fill out a card that
21 wishes to speak, please come up to the podium.

22 Anyone else want to address the
23 commission?

24 [No response.]

25 MR. CAREY: The second part of the hearing

1 will begin tonight at 6:00. And again, you could
2 also submit comments to our website or to Suffolk
3 County Water Authority, PO Box 38, Oakdale, New York
4 11769.

5 So if there aren't any other speakers, I
6 just want to thank everyone for coming. And the
7 next hearing will start at 6:00.

8 MR. MILAZZO: We noticed this hearing from
9 3:00 to 5:00 so we'll be here. If we have to open
10 it up again, we can. We'll just take a recess.

11 MR. CAREY: So we'll be at recess.

12 Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, a recess was taken at
14 this time.)

15 MR. SZABO: Can I have everyone's
16 attention for a minute? It's 4:12, we're going to
17 come out of recess and go back into session and
18 allow for public comment.

19 I would like to recognize Legislator
20 William Spencer who would like to read us his
21 comments. Thank you.

22 MR. SPENCER: Good evening and thank you
23 for this opportunity. My name is Dr. William
24 Spencer. I'm Suffolk County Legislator representing
25 18th District, which is Huntington. I was proud to

1 have Suffolk County bring the LICAP idea and allow
2 me to participate and be the lead sponsor. And I'm
3 proud today to express my support of the Groundwater
4 Resources Management Plan.

5 I commend you on working together. I
6 commend you on having something that's a tangible
7 document that really lays the groundwork for us
8 planning for the future.

9 Some of my remarks I will put on the
10 record. Although I think that you're well aware of
11 these things, but I think it's important to get
12 these comments out there.

13 So I believe that water is something that
14 can easily be taken for granted because it just
15 seems like it's everywhere and easily accessible.
16 But it's so critical to our lives and critical to
17 our way of living. And a lot of times we're not
18 aware of them until that precious resource is no
19 longer available or is contaminated. It's critical
20 to our public health, our economy, our recreation,
21 and our overall wellbeing. We all play a role and
22 together we are proactively working on a process to
23 address water quality and the issues of our aquifer.

24 It is through the collaboration that you
25 all have made tremendous strides and we can see that

1 in the work that LICAP has done thus far in your
2 state of the aquifer report and the historic GIS
3 base water quality mapping and database WaterTraQ.

4 The State of the Aquifer Report WaterTraQ
5 technology not only allows for our multiple water
6 experts to tackle issues with the team approach, but
7 it also makes the quality of our water supply, which
8 knows no municipal or political lines, transparent
9 and open to the watchful eye of the public. And
10 this is extremely important.

11 Over the past four years LICAP has stayed
12 at the very center of water quality discussion on
13 Long Island, and the facilitator of that dialogue
14 among multiple levels of government and regulatory
15 agencies. This collaboration is making an impact
16 Island-wide, but also state and regionally, and is
17 helping to connect various styles of work and
18 knowledge all acting simultaneously to address our
19 water quality issues.

20 The Groundwater Resources Management Plan
21 takes it further serving as a roadmap moving us
22 forward. The plan provides a comprehensive and
23 in-depth look at the many varying issues impacting
24 the aquifer and the current structures in place.

25 But most importantly it offers specific

1 actionable steps and measures to guide us in
2 government as we collaborate regionally to protect
3 our drinking water and move vital policies forward.

4 So I want to thank the members of the
5 commission for your dedication, for your
6 preservation throughout this process. Each of you
7 brings unique expertise and perspective to the
8 issues. While there are undoubtedly times of
9 disagreement, you work through it and you get the
10 job done for our water quality for all the people.

11 You have my full support and I look
12 forward to continuing to advance our shared
13 admission. Please let me know how I can assist you
14 in the future. And thank you for giving me this
15 opportunity to address the commission. Thank you.

16 MR. SZABO: Thank you, Legislator Spencer.
17 Much appreciated.

18 Is there anyone else here who wishes to
19 address the commission?

20 [No response.]

21 MR. SZABO: I see no hands. At 4:18 we
22 will, once again, recess until 6:00.

23 Thank you.

24 (Time noted: 4:20 p.m.)
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, GINAMARIE DeMARCO, a shorthand reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony is herein before set forth was duly sworn by me, and the forgoing transcript is true and accurate record of the testimony given by such witness.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



GINAMARIE DeMARCO



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