

RESOLUTION NO. 989 -2013, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWNS OF BROOKHAVEN, ISLIP AND SMITHTOWN, ESTABLISHING THE LAKE RONKONKOMA WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, Lake Ronkonkoma is Suffolk County's largest lake, with its two miles of shoreline located in the Towns of Brookhaven, Islip, and Smithtown; and

WHEREAS, Lake Ronkonkoma is surrounded by a large watershed area which ultimately contributes to the volume of the lake itself, as well as the environment to the north of the lake, known as Lily Pond Preserve; and

WHEREAS, numerous local stakeholders have advocated for a coordinated approach to the preservation, protection, and enhanced use of the Lake, its shoreline, and the surrounding marshes, wetlands, and forested uplands, and

WHEREAS, the County, and the Towns of Brookhaven, Islip, and Smithtown (collectively, the "Partners") wish to promote health, economic development, recreational use, preservation of natural habitats, cultural resources, quality of life, sense of place, and water quality by working collaboratively and proactively to address issues affecting Lake Ronkonkoma; and

WHEREAS, the Partners recognize that the protection of water quality conditions in Lake Ronkonkoma is best achieved through a coordination of efforts between the Partners to create and administer a watershed management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Partners wish to enter into a non-regulatory, voluntary, cooperative working agreement that will protect water quality conditions in the Lake Ronkonkoma watershed and coordinate recreational and economic development in the area; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his or her designee, be and hereby is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Towns of Brookhaven, Islip, and Smithtown, substantially in the form of the attached Exhibit "A", establishing the Lake Ronkonkoma Watershed Intermunicipal Organization ("LRWIO"); and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and Planning, or his/her designee, shall assist the LRWIO in discharging the functions under the Memorandum of Understanding when requested to do so by the LRWIO; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.59(c)(20) and (27) of Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-109 of

the New York Environmental Conservation Law as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. Furthermore, in accordance with Section 1-4(A)(1)(d) of the Suffolk County Charter and Section 279-5(C)(4) of the Suffolk County Code, the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality is directed to prepare and circulate all appropriate notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: November 19, 2013

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: November 27, 2013