

ORIGINAL

Suffolk County Department of Planning
Council on Environmental Quality

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SEQRA Public Scoping Hearing
Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study
July 26, 2011

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One Independence Hill
Farmingville, New York
July 26, 2011
6:30 p.m.

2011 AUG 12 PM 12:31

Suffolk County DEPT. OF PLANNING

B E F O R E:

- LAWRENCE SWANSON, Chairman, Suffolk County CEQ
- MICHAEL KAUFMAN, Suffolk County CEQ
- RICHARD MACHTAY, Suffolk County CEQ
- MICHAEL MULE, Suffolk County DEP
- DANIEL PICHNEY, Suffolk County CEQ
- GLORIA RUSSO, Suffolk County CEQ

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2 MR. SWANSON: Before we start, I'd like to
3 make a public welcome service announcement. On
4 August 8th, Sound Vision, which is working on Long
5 Island Sound as the name implies, will be holding
6 a program, a press conference at 3:00 p.m. in Port
7 Jefferson and they will also be sponsoring a free
8 evening of sailing on Long Island Sound in Port
9 Jefferson Harbor. The press conference is at 3:00
10 and the sail takes place from 5:00 to 7:00.

11 My name is Larry Swanson. I'm with the
12 Suffolk County CEQ.

13 MR. KAUFMAN: Hi. My name is Michael
14 Kaufamn. I'm also with the Suffolk County CEQ.

15 MR. MULE: I'm Michael Mule with the Suffolk
16 County Department of Planning.

17 MR. SWANSON: Good evening. We are here
18 tonight to hear your comments on the draft scope
19 for the draft EIS environmental impact statement,
20 the Suffolk County Sewer District capacity study
21 for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle
22 Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank,
23 Southampton, all in Suffolk County.

24 Boris Rukovets from the Department of Public
25 Works, Suffolk County is going to introduce the

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2 topics this evening even with a short
3 presentation. Boris.

4 MR. RUKOVETS: My name is Boris Rukovets.
5 I'm the project manager for the project that we
6 are here to discuss. I'm with Suffolk County
7 Public Works and I want to say a few words about
8 this project, and then I'm going to turn it over
9 to Mary Anne Taylor, who is here in the audience.
10 She is a consultant with CDM, the consulting firm,
11 who is working on this project.

12 Basically this project is evaluating the
13 feasibility of sewer of seven areas that will be
14 determined, that were selected by the waste water,
15 Suffolk County waste water treatment best course
16 in areas that have most potential for social,
17 economic and quality improvement as a result of
18 the sewerage. The study design of sewers, this is
19 really the first step pre-feasibility, that we
20 feel is feasible or not.

21 The next steps would be, obviously, to look
22 based on the results of the study, if the
23 community wants to proceed on that. And we're
24 going to be meeting with the communities and
25 today's meeting as part of our public outreach

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2 deals specifically with environmental aspects.
3 We're trying to get input on the scoping on
4 specific issues that should be part of the
5 environmental issues that will be presented with
6 the environmental impact statement.

7 I'm going to turn it over to Mary Anne who is
8 going to talk specifically more about the areas
9 that are included the scope.

10 MS. TAYLOR: I'm Mary Anne Taylor. I'm with
11 CDM. I'm one of the member firms working with
12 Suffolk County on the feasibility study. And I
13 was asked to give you guys a project background
14 before we are served with comments.

15 So I'm going to spend a couple of minutes on
16 the project objectives and I want to introduce the
17 project scope. I want to highlight a couple of
18 changes to the study areas of boundaries that you
19 have in the handouts that were based on input from
20 some of the stakeholders. I just want to bring to
21 your attention to the project resource to keep in
22 touch with the project as you move forward.

23 In terms of project objectives, I wanted to
24 distinguish a little bit between the sewer
25 objectives and the objectives of the study. We've

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1 met, as Boris said, with the stakeholders of each
2 of the different communities and they all have
3 different objectives for sewerage. Some, it's to
4 facilitate economic development, economic
5 revitalization, workforce housing. Some, it's
6 environmental improvement. Some, it's as simple
7 as being able to add additional seats to
8 restaurants and serving on shiny silverware
9 instead of paper plates and plastic forks.
10

11 So that the objectives of the communities are
12 study areas-specific. The objective of the study,
13 however, is really to gather up information and
14 provide the information to the County and to the
15 communities so that they can make and form
16 decisions as moving forward. So we'll be looking
17 at feasibility in providing sewerage
18 infrastructure, collection systems and treatment
19 plants, and the costs and the environmental
20 economics benefits from each. So it's a study and
21 that's the objective of the study.

22 This study-- the County is doing a lot of the
23 sewerage studies right now. This study is focused
24 on seven areas of critical needs that were
25 designated by the Municipal Treatment Task Force.

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2 The Task Force held hearings throughout the county
3 and different communities came to the task force
4 to identify their needs. They identify the seven
5 areas, Bellport and North Bellport, Ronkonkoma
6 Hub, Mastic/Shirley, Middle Island/Route 25
7 Corridor, Sayville, Southampton Village and
8 Yaphank.

9 Our scope consists of six different tasks.
10 The first task is a public education and that has
11 two parts. The first part is stakeholder
12 meetings. We've been meeting with the different
13 communities to get their input. It's as much as
14 educating the project team as it is anybody else
15 because this is where we're listening to what each
16 community's objective is for sewerage or not.
17 What are they looking to accomplish so that the
18 feasibility studies are as useful to the
19 communities moving forward as possible.

20 The second aspect of this is the website, and
21 I'll introduce you to that in a few minutes. The
22 heart of the projects are the feasibility
23 studies. We'll be preparing seven different
24 feasibility studies and they'll be specific to
25 each of the study areas and they'll focus on the

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2 collection systems and the treatment requirements,
3 the solution of plant sites, the treatment levels
4 that are required to help that community to meet
5 its needs.

6 The third task is the environmental task.
7 Although the study didn't require a preparation of
8 an ENS, the County decided to move forward at this
9 time in developing a comparative environmental
10 impact statement to kind of start compiling
11 together all the information required to move
12 forward as well as templates that will build on
13 the GIS for draft and filing of GIS's of any areas
14 that decide to move forward with the sewerage
15 project.

16 The forth task is development of geographic
17 information system database identifying all the
18 existing infrastructure, collection systems and
19 treatment plants because it will be a lot more
20 efficient if we can build on existing systems
21 rather than sites, constructing and upgrading a
22 new facility.

23 The last two tasks are providing
24 administration as well as printing and
25 deliverables. The schedule is basically an

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2 18-month schedule. We're just finishing up our
3 fourth month. We're pretty much on track for most
4 of the tasks. We're actually ahead on the GIS
5 task. That is almost done. That's our scope.

6 What I'd like to do now is everybody with the
7 EAF and with the draft scoping document, there are
8 preliminary identification of boundaries. These
9 Bellport boundaries are slightly different from
10 those that were initially identified by the
11 County. We met with the Town of Brookhaven and
12 they asked us to include a few additional parcels
13 in North Bellport where they hadn't received or
14 believe they were going to receive some
15 applications. So this is the handout that should
16 have come with your EAF and there is a draft
17 scoping document. Since that time, we've met with
18 the Village of Bellport and they clarified for us
19 that they really had no plans to sewer -- the only
20 thing they were really concerned with is the
21 facility at the north end of the golf course. So
22 that really reduces the size of the Bellport
23 Village study area. So that's one difference.

24 The Middle Island Corridor boundaries, again,
25 after meeting with the Town of Brookhaven Planning

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2 Department, they identified some additional
3 parcels they wanted to add. Subsequent to that,
4 last month we met with Councilperson Connie Kepert
5 (phonetic) and she identified the UA theatre
6 parcel in Coram as a particular. So that's an
7 addition since the maps that you have received.

8 The original Southampton boundaries that were
9 in the package look something like that. After
10 meeting with the Village and with the mayor and a
11 couple of the trustees and the planning
12 commissioner and the engineer, they focused us a
13 little bit on just the commercial area downtown.
14 So this would be the Southampton study boundary.

15 The Yaphank boundary I think is still in
16 flux. This was an interim version that we have
17 been working with. And the version that we're
18 working with now right still may need to be
19 tweaked a little, I'm not sure, based on the
20 Suffolk County Planning Department. So those are
21 some changes.

22 MR. KAUFMAN: On the Yaphank map that you
23 were showing, is that Parcels A, B, C and D of the
24 of the Legacy Village Project?

25 MS. TAYLOR: I don't think so. I think

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2 they've changed a little.

3 MR. MULE: I think it's mostly B, C and D.
4 It looks like B, C and D and also some of the
5 other county property on the west side of Yaphank
6 Avenue in that Parcel A.

7 MS. TAYLOR: I just wanted to mention a
8 resource that you can use to keep in touch with
9 the project. This is a way for us to share
10 information with the public. Everybody will have
11 access to the same information that everybody will
12 be providing to us and keep up-to-date with these
13 as they become available. That's the website
14 address. I checked on it before I left and it's
15 still inactive. This is the home page. You'll
16 see that it has the introduction to the project,
17 kind of a project overview, up along the top and
18 there is a number of tabs, a tab identifying
19 upcoming meetings. You can access the long form
20 EAF, the draft scoping document in that page,
21 project contacts will be contacts through the
22 project manager, Boris Rukkovets.

23 Skip over to the study areas for a minute.
24 The reference of this page will give you all the
25 project documents that are being prepared as well

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2 as links to other cooperators and the frequently
3 asked questions. You can ask the question and the
4 results will be posted there. If you wanted to
5 look up a specific study area, you can either
6 click on the name on the dropdown menu on the
7 study areas or click on the label for the study
8 area you are interested in and you will come up
9 with the study area specific page that will
10 identify the information that we were provided
11 from the Task Force moving forward. You can click
12 on that map and it will come up as a PDF and you
13 can zoom in on more detail if you'd like. We have
14 information that tells you how the study area is
15 evolving so everybody can keep track of decisions
16 that are being made.

17 We'll be meeting with Southampton Village
18 next week. After that meeting, in a week or two,
19 you'll be able click on the meeting minutes and
20 see what transpired. That's the tool that you can
21 use to keep track as it moves forward.

22 MR. SWANSON: Several other members seemed to
23 have arrived. Start with my right, introduce
24 yourselves.

25 MR. PICHNEY: Dan Pichney.

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2 MS. RUSSO: Gloria Russo.

3 MR. MACHTAY: Rich Machtay.

4 MR. SWANSON: We have one person so far that
5 would like to speak. That's Kathy Eiseman.

6 Kathy, ordinarily I would sit here with my
7 watch and tell you that you have three minutes.
8 How much time would you like?

9 MS. EISEMAN: I only need a couple of
10 minutes. I'm here as a planning consultant to the
11 Village of Southampton. There was just a few
12 things that I noticed in the scoping document and
13 more of a question actually, because when I think
14 of a draft in our environmental impact statement,
15 I think of build out. How many units could
16 possibly be generated by an area once sewerage is
17 built? I don't know if that's something that
18 going to be included in the generic environmental
19 impact statement or something that would be done
20 once they do the project specific DEIS's. That's
21 a question.

22 But as far as some of the scoping items, just
23 specifically on the list of resources that will be
24 examined on page 3, it doesn't specifically say
25 village comprehensive plans. It should say

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2 village as well, as in the Southampton Village is
3 looking at some zone changes in their village
4 center. I have brought along a draft, which is
5 rather lengthy, prepared by Ehrenkrantz Eckstut
6 Architects. I can give you a copy of this. It
7 has some zoning and architectural design
8 governance, but at the end of it has some proposed
9 changes in the designing code including the
10 addition of apartments in the downtown, which is
11 not presently permitted. I will leave that with
12 you. The Village is very committed to this effort
13 and they have all the stakeholders on board now
14 and they're looking to go forward with that.

15 The other thing is, the Village has a
16 comprehensive board sharing water management plan
17 and I think that should be included in the list as
18 something.

19 As far as the national environment, streams
20 are specifically listed, but ponds are not and
21 lakes. In the Village of Southampton, there are
22 at least two lakes or ponds, Old Town Pond and
23 Lake Agawam, that would be impacted by the
24 sewerage plant.

25 Other than the question about whether growth

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2 inducing aspects will be identified in the GIA's,
3 I think I'm done.

4 MR. PICHNEY: I think, Kathy, in the scope it
5 talks about the effects of condensity.

6 MR. KAUFMAN: Specifically on page 6,
7 well-induced aspects, goes down to say "The
8 potential for both will be addressed in the
9 speeches in a general manner. A project specific
10 to EIS will address this primary in greater
11 details."

12 MS. EISEMAN: Thank you very much. That will
13 be it.

14 MR. KAUFMAN: That's for the water plant?

15 MS. EISEMAN: And also surface water.

16 MR. SWANSON: Is there anybody else in the
17 audience that would like to speak?

18 MR. KAUFMAN: This is really a comment. This
19 will be for Mary Anne. One or two comments that
20 were made earlier have got me to thinking, but
21 there are pine barrens credits out there, there
22 are workforce housing credits available. There
23 are number of other density increased credits and
24 credit systems out there. And if we're going to
25 be have sewerage, there is an implication that

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2 higher density is possible. In that kind of a
3 situation, developers generally will try and look
4 for bonuses or bonus points, however you want to
5 look at it, and that might be something to look at
6 in the scope in a little bit of detail. In other
7 words, if there's an SEP that goes in in the
8 Middle Island Corridor, there's going to be growth
9 inducement occurring, work probably, the
10 commercial buildings, things like that. There
11 will be credits available, one way or the other.
12 There may be apartments over there, commercial
13 structure, that can increase density. In the
14 section on page 6, which I was just eluding to,
15 where you have the project specific EIS is
16 something to keep in mind that there is a
17 potential for these credits to be used. I know
18 the County does have a large pine barren. I know
19 there are 200-something pine barrens out there
20 right now. That is something to remember.

21 MR. MACHTAY: Are you saying credits would
22 apply on top of the sewerage system?

23 MR. KAUFMAN: Anything is possible. I don't
24 know how this will work out. It's just something
25 to look into.

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2 MR. SWANSON: Any other comments? Last
3 chance for the audience. If not, I declare this
4 hearing over. I want to thank you all for taking
5 the time to come.

6

7 (Whereupon, at 6:55 p.m., the above matter
8 concluded.)

9

10 I, SUZANNE CATALANO, a Notary Public for and
11 within the State of New York, do hereby certify
12 that the above is a correct transcription of my
13 stenographic notes.

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SUZANNE CATALANO

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