

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING and AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on November 14, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair (not present)
Leg. Thomas Muratore
Leg. Edward P. Romaine
Leg. Sarah Anker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Eric A. Kopp, County Executive's Office
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Department of Planning
Pamela Greene, Director/Real Property Acquisition & Management
Michael Mule, Department of Planning
Lauretta Fischer, Principal Environmental Analyst/Department of Planning
John H. Corral, Planning Department
Katie Magee, Planning Department
Janet Longo, Real Property Acquisition & Management
Frank P. Castelli, Environmental Projects Coordinator/DEE
DeWitt Davies, Chief Environmental Analyst/Planning Department
Tom Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Marge Acevedo, Aide to Presiding Officer
Jennifer Mesiano, Southampton Village/Mesiano Consulting
Rich Meyer, AME
Clayton Pruch
Elizabeth L. Baldwin
Jeremy Samuelson
Mary Jo Molloy
Bob DiBenedetto
Cindy Samuels
David Weinstein
And all other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:01 PM

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I will call all members of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee, please come to the horseshoe. We can say the Pledge for now.

SALUTATION

Good afternoon everybody. Good afternoon everybody and welcome to today's meeting. Tom will be distributing agendas to anybody who doesn't have one. I think Tom is going to be -- he has them. He'll bring them around.

We have two cards, or three cards. Our first is Clayton -- is it (sounds like) Pruch? Is it (sounds like) c-h or (sounds like) c-h?

MR. PRUCH:

You don't pronounce the c-h. Should I sit here?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Wherever you like. You may sit down there. And just make sure you depress the button at the base of the microphone so we can hear you.

MR. PRUCH:

Can you hear me?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. PRUCH:

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and council members. My name is Clayton Pruch. I am the President of the Cold Spring Harbor Area Civic Association. I am also a member of the Board of the Whaling Museum, and former officer. I'm a former board member of the Friends of the Bay. I represent a number of other not-for-profits in the area.

The Civic Association represents residents of Cold Spring Harbor, Lloyd Harbor, Lloyd Neck and also across the Bay, Laurel Hollow. I'm also authorized to speak today on behalf of the Main Street Association, the merchants, the business improvement district. We're all overwhelmingly in support of the resolution to preserve the Williams property put forth by council member Cooper. The -- in my approximate ten years as head of the Civic Association, I have never seen -- it's the final item on the introduced resolutions.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

1908 for Committee members.

MR. PRUCH:

I have never seen any item galvanize more community support than this one. In addition to being the prominent visual item as one sees, as one comes into Cold Spring Harbor, which would be dramatically affected by development, the water in our areas is something that people take extremely seriously, and this would have, we think, a serious impact on it. We've retained a series of experts. And the water is so well known in the area that there are three places along Shore Road where people will come and literally stand in line and bring their own containers to take home the water. And so we're very concerned about it being affected by these -- a dozen new houses and taking down many of the trees and will also have a greater impact on the steep slopes leading right down into the fresh water pond and then draining into the harbor as well.

What is proposed, we're very excited, it's a solution that would be a public and private partnership with the North Shore Land Alliance. And I understand representatives are here today from the North Shore Land Alliance as well as the Town of Huntington and the County of Suffolk. We're confident that we can come up with a proposal that will be acceptable to the executors of the estate of the owner. And it's really the last large open space in our community. I know there is perhaps more further east, but in our area it's getting so developed that this is really sort of a last chance. And it will preserve both the character of the community, the water, help the environment. And this is a pristine space that goes back to, you know, the Native American era some of these. Our experts who we hired, the naturalists, the water people are just really amazed at this land when they get a chance to walk it.

So we're very hopeful that the Committee will report favorably on this and that the Legislature will act favorably as well.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. Are there any questions for Mr. Pruch? Thank you.

MR. PRUCH:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Elizabeth Baldwin. Have a seat. There you go.

MS. BALDWIN:

Thank you. Good afternoon, members of the Committee. My name is Beth Baldwin. I'm Associate Director and counsel for the North Shore Land Alliance. I am also joined today by Lisa {Ott}. Did she come in yet? She should be here in a second. The North Shore Land Alliance is a non-for-profit land trust. Our mission is to preserve and protect the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater and open spaces of Long Island's north shore.

I am here this afternoon regarding the Deforest Williams property as Cold Spring Harbor lies within our service area. As one of the last remaining large tract parcels in western Suffolk, the preservation of the Deforest Williams property is of utmost importance to the sustainability of this environmentally and historically rich area of Long Island.

Acquisition of this property is well supported by not only the community, but also by federal, state, county and town environmental conservation plans. This property is recommended for preservation by the federally designated Long Island Sound Study and is listed for acquisition on the 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan, the County's Master List of environmentally, sensitive open space recommendations and the Town of Huntington's open space index. Located entirely within the watershed of Cold Spring Harbor, development of this property would have detrimental effects to water quality of the Harbor. Moreover, the property has extensive steep slopes and natural vegetation that provide important run-off and flooding control to the harbor.

We are excited for this proposed public/private partnership between the County, the Town and the North Shore Land Alliance. In acquiring this property, the Town of Huntington would pay 25%, the Land Alliance is prepared to pay 25% and the County would pay 50% of the final acquisition costs. We've already received approval for a bridge loan to use towards this acquisition and launched a capital campaign on September 26th, 2011. The capital campaign allows the community to show their support for this acquisition by signing the petition and donating money. To date we have almost 1400 supporters for this acquisition.

The Land Alliance would like to recognize and thank Legislator Cooper for continuing to support this

acquisition and permanently protecting this endangered natural resource. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much.

MS. BALDWIN:

I do have a couple of handouts I wanted to give.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, Tom, want to help her with that, please?

MS. BALDWIN:

I just wanted to submit for the record.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MS. BALDWIN:

We are also applying for a grant. I just wanted to let you know that we are applying for a grant to use towards acquisition of this property. The grant was submitted on October 31st.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sounds like you have a robust campaign underway.

MS. BALDWIN:

We do.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Good for you.

MS. BALDWIN:

Great support from the community for this acquisition.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That's great. That's great to see.

Our next speaker is Jeremy Samuelson from the other side of the County.

MR. SAMUELSON:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Go ahead, Mr. Samuelson.

MR. SAMUELSON:

Thank you. A pleasure to see you again. Are you able to hear me?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Absolutely.

MR. SAMUELSON:

Okay, thank you. My name is Jeremy Samuelson. I'm an environmental advocate with Group for the East End. Our work focuses primarily on the north fork and the south fork; however, we have a regional approach to try to address environmental issues head on. We have a forty year history of

working at particularly the County and the local level.

I'm here today in support of resolution IR 1890. It essentially is a program that attempts to mirror in the eastern part of the County, an existing program that's in place through the Suffolk County Police Department in the western portion the County. One of the greatest threats to groundwater at this point is the stuff that we flush down our drains. And one of the most significant elements of that contaminated groundwater intrusion or rather contaminants entering our groundwater is pharmaceutical waste. And in the west of the County, as I indicated, for the last couple of years now the Police Department has had an anonymous drop box program where members of the community can come in and, as I said, in an anonymous way deposit items that would be inappropriate for disposal in any other fashion except incineration.

So throughout the western portion of the County, as soon as this program was initiated, as soon as the word got out, thousands of pounds of this stuff was diverted from our -- basically waste treatment system and put into the incineration track. And what we were able to do is in the most cost effective manner possible, ensure that we were taking the greatest steps possible to ensure that none of this was going to show up in our drinking water or, as expressed, through groundwater into our surface waters.

To be sure the effects of not engaging in some type of program like this throughout the full County are -- I don't want to be hyperbolic, but I think it is fair to say dire. We are already seeing that at significant rates throughout the county, the EPA has -- or rather, excuse me, across the country, the EPA has acknowledged that over 500 tests that were taken throughout the country, only one in upper Alaska failed to show some level of pharmaceutical waste that was in drinking water. This is not as expressed in groundwater tests. This was in drinking water. We're talking about antibiotics, we're talking about drugs like Lipitor, we're talking about things like Prozac, we're talking about hormone disruptors, things like birth control.

There are basically two solutions here. One is that people stop taking these medications. The other one is that we find a way to divert these medications before they enter our groundwater. What we have done is attempted in this application maximize the partnership opportunities between existing programs and municipalities out east that don't benefit from those same programs, meaning the coverage by the County Police Department out east; but then also bring in as a significant partner here private enterprise and not-for-profit organizations that can deliver significant bang for the buck in terms of trying to keep this a low dollar project that covers five East End towns.

So we have what we hope will be perceived as a fairly modest request from the overall numbers that are associated with the Drinking Water Protection Program. It's for \$45,000. And that gets this program launched and initiated and established in place across five East End towns. So, you know, the math is pretty simple. It's less than \$10,000 a town. It's proposed as a three-year project. And it is fully anticipated that the hard cost, the challenges of this on the front end, meaning paying for the boxes, developing the outreach materials, are paid for and then essentially absorbed as a match by the local police departments who have agreed to pay for the transportation costs here.

This is not a legacy cost. This a startup cost. And it is intended to essentially mirror on the East End something that taxpayers throughout the County are already paying for in the western portion of the County. And I don't want to sort of drive that wedge. I just want to simply say that with some help getting this start up cost out of the way here, the East End towns have agreed to step up and fund this fully once we get over this initial \$45,000 hurdle. They're going to match that on a 50% basis to try to make sure that this thing gets out of the gate the right way. And from there we should be up and running. This is not a program where you will see us back in here in two years or three years saying "thank you for the help getting this ball rolling. We now need money to keep it rolling." That isn't what this is. This is a way we can cover five East End towns for what I would suggest is a relatively modest sum.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Samuelson. I have a question, though, and I'm going to ask Frank Castelli to join you at the table just for a minute to help refresh my memory about the Water Quality Review Committee when we spoke about this. We had a lot on our agenda that day, Frank, if you recall. And when this particular item came up, I thought I remember initiating a discussion regarding the work that Cornell is doing with stormwater protection. And I asked if some of the outreach work that {Malcolm Bowman} and his team have done, is also being done on the East End. Was it with this project? Was there another East End project that was similar?

MR. CASTELLI:

Well, there was another project that was proposed that had to do with educational outreach for stormwater.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. CASTELLI:

And that was a different project.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I just wanted to make -- to clarify that in my head because I saw that one of the Resolves talked about outreach. And I know that we do have a Stormwater Outreach Program. But this is critically important.

MR. CASTELLI:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We know that the issue with the hormone disruptors and other issues with medications going into our stream is very, very important to be careful what is introduced into our water system. So, thank you, Frank. That was my question.

MR. CASTELLI:

In fact we decided --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I wanted to make sure we weren't duplicating our efforts.

MR. CASTELLI:

Right, we're not going forward with that other proposal.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Well, I remember voting against that. So that's why I was a little confused here. Thank you, Frank. Thank you, Mr. Samuelson. Unless there's a question from any other members, thank you very much for coming forward.

MR. SAMUELSON:

Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Mary Jo Molly. Hi. Press the button at the base of the mike, and hold it.

MS. MOLLOY:

I got to hold it. All right. Thank you. Members of the Environmental, Planning and Agriculture Committee, I'm here in support of the introductory resolution number 1908 authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of the land under Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program for the Williams property in Cold Spring Harbor. Please, preserve the Williams property on Shore Road in Cold Spring Harbor. This will keep the land available as a water filtration system. It is so important to protect our waters and our waterfront. We are counting on you to preserve this important land. Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for taking the time to come down.

MS. MOLLOY:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Bob DiBenedetto.

MS. MOLLOY:

Am I allowed to give you a sheet?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sure. Thank you very much.

MS. MOLLOY:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Hi, Bob, good to see you.

MR. DIBENEDETTO:

Hi, nice to see you, too.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes, right at the base, and you have to keep your finger on it.

MR. DIBENEDETTO:

Okay. All right. My name is Bob DiBenedetto. I am with Healthy Planet. I'm the Director of the Healthy School Lunch Program and also the co-chair of the Prevention and Education Committee of the Cancer Awareness Task Force.

As you know, cancer is a critical issue in terms of both economic and human costs. It's the second leading cause of death in the United States and the cause of deaths of 35,000 residents of New York State and 2800 residents of Suffolk County each and every year. The medical cost of just one month of treatment of just one case of cancer can cost more than \$43,000 easily. Keep that number in mind.

Last week the Suffolk County Legislature approved spending cuts that resulted in a loss of 88 jobs. While governments across the globe are being forced to reduce spending to make ends meet, it has to be recognized that some cuts will actually cost money. They will actually end up not saving us money, but costing us more money. And this is certainly in the case with the loss of the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessments and the Cancer Awareness Task Force that I'm a part of due to the merging of the Department of Energy and Environment and the Department of Planning.

The Cancer Awareness Task Force is an initiative of the Office of Cancer Awareness. And over 35 community groups are involved in this effort, each putting their time and valuable effort into the County for free. So they are unpaid consultants that have been doing this for year after year after year. And with support of the Office of Cancer Assessments, and Environment -- Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessments, the ideas of the Cancer Awareness Task Force come to fruition with education to the public.

Now I mentioned the loss of 88 jobs. I'm here just to talk about one, and that is a job within the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessments. The cost savings from losing the staffing is on the surface 43,000 and it seems like a lot of money but -- until you look at the accomplishments and the resources that are leveraged by this Department. The medical costs that I mentioned and the loss of life, 2800 people in Suffolk County each and every year, would be something sad. It's even more sad when you consider that according to the National Cancer Institute 75 percent of cancer cases and deaths are preventable each and every year; 75 percent. And how is that? Through diet and lifestyle modification. Simple, things we know. But it only works if this information is available to the public. And it's not available to the public from Suffolk County governments in any kind of coordinated way except via the Cancer Awareness Task Force and the Office of Cancer Awareness.

You add to that equation the fact that this loss will lose all of these free employees, as I mentioned, and you see that the cost of this \$43,000 is really minimal, not to mention that part of this cost, if this job was moved to a different department could be covered by the New York State Department of Health. But that's another issue altogether to consider.

You'll be hearing from more members of the Cancer Awareness Task Force. I'm here to open the door on this conversation and to let you know that taking a step to reduce education on cancer and the preventability of cancer is a large step backwards especially for Suffolk County. We need to do whatever we can to increase the education despite the fact that I totally understand that we need to cut spending in a measurable way. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for being here. Any questions? Legislator Anker has a question for you, Bob.

LEG. ANKER:

Hi, Bob. Again, I was a member of the Cancer Awareness Task Force and I know when I was on it, we were so productive and with all the programs both countywide and also reaching out to constituents. And, again, we'll discuss more. But if there's anything more that I can do to prevent any type of cuts in that area, like you said, you know, the future issue, you know, that's why we plan, that's why we do what we need to make sure the future is addressed. I think it's going to be an issue if we stop advocating for cancer awareness. It's going to be more of an issue. So I would like to work with you and just try to figure out if there's more we can do on both the financial end, but also if we can continue to do the community awareness, which I think is so important. But thank you for being here and speaking.

MR. DIBENEDETTO:

It's my pleasure. Thank you. And I'll be in touch. I also want to submit a few pieces of paper on this.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Tom, please.

MR. DIBENEDETTO:

Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you. And thank you for your work. Thank you for your work, Bob.

MR. DIBENEDETTO:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

One more speaker, Cindy Samuels.

MS. SAMUELS:

Good afternoon. My name is Cindy Samuels. And my husband and I, my four children have been residents of Cold Spring Harbor for the last 18 years. During that time we have had the opportunity and the pleasure of boating in Cold Spring Harbor and enjoying the natural beauty of this area.

As one drives from Nassau County into Suffolk County on 25A, you're presented with the historic Town of Cold Spring Harbor framed by the hill in which the Williams Estate resides. I am here talking, of course, about the introductory resolution 1908 in order to preserve the Williams property.

I'm a member of a number of community organizations including Cold Spring Harbor Civic Association, the Eagle Dock Beach Association and the Three Harbors Garden Club, which is a garden club of America Garden Club. During the past few months we have been meeting regarding the preservation of the Williams property and we have seen incredible community support to preserve this property. I respectfully request that Suffolk County support the preservation of the Williams property by moving this process along. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much for coming down. Any questions from any of the members? Okay. There was a request -- I'm sorry?

MS. MOLLOY:

One further speaker.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Is there a speaker? Thank you. Come on down.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

I didn't fill out a yellow card.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Go ahead; take your time. If you could just please say your name for the record.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Good afternoon. My name is David Weinstein. I am the Chairman of the Cold Spring Harbor Area Civic Association, the Chairman for the Deforest Wawapek Williams Preserve. The exact name I'm not sure of. But I am here to request that you think very positively about the opportunity to preserve a watershed area that has been monitored for the past ten years by the Friends of the Bay and is an area that has not been touched literally since the Indians sold the property in the 1600's. This is land where the only building that's gone onto it has been roads for carriages and is literally pristine.

The concern we have is we start cutting the trees down, and these are trees that have not seen the water that you would typically see coming from a developed area, those trees come down, the next

ones come down, and it's a steep slope area. And it's an area where one thing leads to the other. And we've lost 30 odd acres of -- (bell went off)

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Is that for me?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

That was from the last speaker. So sorry.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

And one thing leads to the other. We've lost 30 odd acres of wildlife habitat. And the septic load that would come from this type of development going into the pond at the bottom just before the Bay and septic loads that would go into the Bay and the -- just the change in the water quality and the quality of life in the area has led us to meet with the family, meet with the estate. And they're on board with the program to preserve it. They've always wanted to do that. And the Town is on board and hopefully the County could be on board. And we can preserve something that we just won't have another opportunity.

And we have not done this type of preservation on the West End of Suffolk County. It's an area that we just can't afford to see any more septic overloading, anymore development overloading, and the water systems can't handle it. So we just wanted to encourage you to think positively about that and let you know that we've been working hand in hand with the estate for quite some time to make that happen.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Can you just repeat the middle name of it? I think you're the first one who has called it by three names. Did you say Wawapek?

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Wawapek is the name of the estate which is the manor house, which is a historic home. It's a preserved historic home where Tiffany had done the decorating and so forth. That's the area called Wawapek. It is part of the old Mulberry Farm, which was a much larger area. And today it is the Wawapek and the surrounding property. The Deforest Williams comes in in the family names that are put together. And whether it would be called the Deforest Preserve or the Williams Preserve or the Deforest Williams, we're leaving that up to the estate and the family to decide.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And it's officially considered a manor house? Did you say there was a manor house there?

MR. WEINSTEIN:

It's a historic home on the -- it's a recognized historic home. If you look up Wawapek on the internet, you'll find it is one of the homes of distinction both architecturally for who owned it, what went on there. I regret I don't off the top of my head remember the history of it, but it was built turn of the century. It was built in the Adirondack style and making it a very unique property for the Island.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm just curious because there have been some studies on the manors of Suffolk County. For example, the Sylvester Manor is one that goes back to -- on Shelter Island, Legislator Romaine's district, I recently visited that. And that goes back to the 1600's. And I was just curious because I didn't remember this one being in a film that I saw about the manor houses. So you're not sure if

it's an official designation as a manor house or --

MR. WEINSTEIN:

I wouldn't use the word manor house if that's a designation.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

This was done in the Adirondack style. It's a late 1800's home. The estate itself went through many iterations starting with a home built in 1790. There was actually on this -- on the larger property where the pond is a part of, this was the second paper mill in the country. It was a powder factory. It was a dairy farm. And as the family grew --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So that water has been exposed to a lot of stuff over the centuries.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Um, yeah, I guess so, yes. And then all that stopped around 1890. And there hasn't been residents -- the area that we're talking about has not been touched. We're talking about -- because the estate area was 600 odd acres originally. So the area that we're talking about here is an area that has never been developed. The only roads that have gone through was a carriage road and it's always been pristine, and that's what makes it so unique. Where everything else around it got developed, Spring Street, there's homes that are on those areas now, the Titus, various Titus homes up Shore Road, the whole area behind the estate was developed with residences. And this is the last of what was this huge estate.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. Are there any other questions? Thank you for coming down.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Is there anyone else -- thank you. Is there anyone else in the auditorium who would like to address the Committee? There being none, we will go to our CEQ resolutions. Oh, I'm sorry, Michael, because there is someone who is here from Southampton and she asked if we could take the issue that she's concerned about out of order. So I'll just do that one resolution before we got to you.

Please go to the -- let me see if can remember who she was now -- I'm trying to remember which item. 1889?

LEG. ROMAINE:

1887.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Okay. I'm making a motion to take **IR 1887, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with stormwater abatement within the Village of Southampton (CP 8240). (Co. Exec.)** Okay. Seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1887 is before us. And thank you for that help, Legislator Romaine. Is there a motion?

LEG. ROMAINE:
Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:
Motion to approve by Legislator Romaine, seconded by Legislator Muratore. And this did go through the Water Quality Review Committee and was approved. Frank, is that correct?

MR. CASTELLI:
Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:
Okay. So we have that on the record. And all those in favor? Opposed? **IR 1887 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)** You can start your long drive home to Southampton. Is it Southampton? Yep. To Southampton.

CEQ RESOLUTIONS

Now, Mr. Mule, our CEQ resolutions. And, Mr. Mule, can you please inform the Committee as to why 1869 and 1870 have -- 1871 have been withdrawn. Okay, if you look at your agendas, Mr. Mule is explaining why 1869 and 1871 have been withdrawn.

MR. MULE:
The SEQRA language for those two actions were included in the authorizing resolutions so these would be redundant and not needed.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:
Thank you. So we'll start strike those from our agenda. Thank you Mr. Mule, go ahead.

MR. MULE:
You're welcome. CEQ resolution number **55-2011, Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 11, 2011.** CEQ recommendations should be in the left-hand margin. Mostly Type II Actions.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:
Okay. Motion to approve, second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? **CEQ resolution 55 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

MR. MULE:
CEQ resolution number 56-2011, Proposed 2012 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work. The Council reviewed the document and feels that it will be carried out in compliance with the Generic Environmental Statement and Statement of Findings. So no further SEQRA compliance is required and they recommend approval.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:
Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

MR. MULE:
CEQ resolution number 57-2011, Proposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Noyack County Greenbelt Addition Stebbins and Throgs Neck Trading Group, Ltd. Property, Town of Southampton (Unlisted Action/Negative Declaration) CEQ recommends classification as an unlisted action with issuance of a negative declaration.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

MR. MULE:

And finally CEQ resolution number 58-2011, Proposed LIRR Ronkonkoma Station Parking Lot Expansion, Town of Islip (Unlisted Action/Negative Declaration) CEQ recommends classification as an unlisted action with issuance of a negative declaration.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**
Thank you, Mike.

MR. MULE:

Thank you.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, if our planners can come forward, please. Miss Lansdale, Commissioner, because we have so many people here to speak who have spoken about resolution 1908, and it's the very last resolution, can we please treat that first so that we can resolve that while -- and not keep folks here all afternoon?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I will make a motion to take 1908 out of order, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? 1908 is before us. **(Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 (Williams Property, Cold Spring Harbor) Town of Huntington (SCTM No. 0400-016.00-02.00-013.004). (Cooper)** And we won't entertain a motion until after we've seen the presentation.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Would you like me to start?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes, please. Great.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So this property is located on the northwest corner of Cold Spring Harbor on the northwest side of Shore Road and on the north side of Main Street in Cold Spring Harbor in the Town of Huntington. The property is on Master List One and was previously approved for acquisition by resolution number 621-2004 for planning steps. 27 -- approximately 27 acres of the 38 acres --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry, Sarah, but before you begin the description, can we go back to what you just said?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

It had been -- it already went through the planning process in 2006. Or planning steps rather. And what happened? Why are we seeing it again?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So it went through in -- it's on Master List One in 2004. And Laretta has some of the background.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MS. FISCHER:

Yes, it was approved for planning steps in 2004. We understand that the Town had originally -- was going to do a 70/30 match. At the time when we did the appraisals in '05, they were not able to come up with the funding. At this point now they have partnered with the North Shore Alliance -- Land Alliance 25% and 25% giving them 50% acquisition cost towards the acquisition; the other 50% being the County. So that -- regardless of how it actually would be cut up, we'd be able to move forward with the planning steps approved for Master List One, so.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. At this point the appraisals are six-years-old and so we would have to do new appraisals?

MS. FISCHER:

Yeah

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We can't just adjust for time?

MS. FISCHER:

That we can request Pam Greene to answer that for you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. She's on her way up. I'm just thinking in terms of having to go through the expense of appraisals on this property all over again.

DIRECTOR GREENE:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And while that certainly would be a fine goal, it's my understanding that the configuration before you that's now presented is different than what was previously appraised so it would most likely be in the County's best interest to obtain a current appraisal for the current configuration.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

So that the areas that we see that are -- the cutout areas, have they been part of the original piece and are now cut out? Is that the difference?

MS. FISCHER:

They're proposed to be cut out. There was a preliminary subdivision that was before the Town. And the three lots outlined in the dashed white line is the three parcels that would be cut out of the acquisition at this point. All three of those lots have homes and structures on them. So we in working with the Town of Huntington identified those three lots as out parcels that would not be acquired as part of this acquisition. That would reduce the acreage from 38 acres to 27.41 acres plus or minus at this point.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Laretta, the white line on the western side there, there's a zig zag and then there's a white line

connecting -- is that the end of the part that we're -- the parcel that we're considering? I'm talking about there's a red and white --

MS. FISCHER:

Yeah. The red and white and the white, depending on, it would include both, all of that would be the one -- the lot that would be omitted.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm just trying to find the actual perimeter of the piece that we're looking to acquire.

MS. FISCHER:

You would take the white dotted line and the red solid line, and that ultimately would be your acquisition area.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

The white dotted line is part of the actual perimeter there?

MS. FISCHER:

Correct.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And then on the west, where's the perimeter? Along the water where it's red and white?

MS. FISCHER:

The red and white, those two lots would be omitted and then the property boundary would be the white dashed line.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. It's just that it doesn't connect to the red line so maybe it's just how it came.

MS. FISCHER:

The white dash line --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I see.

MS. FISCHER:

-- would be cutouts. The solid -- the red line is the original property that was identified in Master List One.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah.

MS. FISCHER:

And then there are three lots cut out with the dashed white line. And the dashed white line can be over the red or interior to the property.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I got it. Thank you.

MS. FISCHER:

Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sorry for the digression, Commissioner. I just wanted to understand why it had been before this Legislature and had been approved. And, Laretta, did you -- or did Pam just say, it does have a subdivision approval?

MS. FISCHER:

No, it's a preliminary subdivision that was presented to the Town at this point.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So it doesn't have any approvals yet?

MS. FISCHER:

No.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, good. Sorry. Continue. Sorry.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

I do want to add that the County Executive is supportive of this acquisition and has sent a letter dated today to the Division of Real Property requesting an appraisal.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right. So, you can go ahead with the presentation.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So because this is on the Master List, there is no rating associated with this. And, again, the Town of Huntington and the North Shore Land Alliance have indicated a willingness to contribute 50% of the cost for the proposed acquisition.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Where are the access points?

MS. FISCHER:

There are two access points at this point. There's one along Shore Road along the southern portion of the property near those wetlands. And then there's another access point up on the northern portion of the property off of Mulberry Lane north.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And is there access for water use from the property?

MS. FISCHER:

What kind of water use?

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Like a launch or anything like that?

MS. FISCHER:

Not I'm aware of.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Is there beach or -- I don't know -- is there --

MS. FISCHER:

There's a shore road that would -- that bisects the property between it and Cold Spring Harbor, so.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Any other questions from the Committee? Legislator Romaine and then Legislator Anker.

LEG. ROMAINE:

The question is not specific to the property. It's specific to the Master List. This is from which Master List? Because there were a number that were circulated.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Master List One.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So this is from the first Master List. Why, if this was on the first Master list, was this not moved on 'til now?

MS. FISCHER:

It was moved on in '05; however, the town wasn't able to -- because of the cost of the property, we had requested that the Town be a partner with us, and at the time they didn't have sufficient funds to be able to.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Now, we haven't done -- we haven't determined the cost of the property; is that correct?

MS. FISCHER:

Not recently, no.

LEG. ROMAINE:

What was the cost in 2005? Approximately, you know, ballpark?

MS. FISCHER:

I'm not sure if we can discuss that.

LEG. ROMAINE:

All right. All right. That's okay, I don't want to pursue that but thank you, Pam, for coming up. Thank you very much. All right. So it wasn't pursued. Now the Town is prepared to match this. And what is the Town's share of the match?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

The Town Board passed a resolution on October 11th of this year. And in their resolution it says that they are willing to contribute up to 25% of the costs.

LEG. ROMAINE:

All right.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Of acquisition.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So the Town is willing to put forward money along with the County for acquisition. And I assume at some point when there's an authorizing resolution to acquire, they'll be some agreement in terms of who will do maintenance or who will exercise stewardship or whatever else over the property; is that correct?

MS. FISCHER:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Now, because it was on the Master List, it did not have to be rated?

MS. FISCHER:

Correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:

How did you get on a Master List if not through a rating system?

MS. FISCHER:

We looked at the criteria originally placed on the -- in the Old Drinking Water -- the New Drinking Water Protection Program. And there were five categories that were listed. They had to meet at least one of those categories.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So it didn't have to be rated because it met one of those characteristics?

MS. FISCHER:

Yes, at the time --

LEG. ROMAINE:

And those characteristics were spelled out in the legislation authorizing?

MS. FISCHER:

Correct. And it pre-dated our rating system as we know it.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, Legislator Romaine, you're underscoring something that I think is very impressive in the presentations that we just heard from the public, that the public stepped up, the community stepped up and is matching that 25%. So it's terrific to -- well, I just want to --

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'm supporting it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- you know, underscore the kudos to the community for stepping up and putting their money where their mouth is. So it's terrific to see that. Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

I also agree that a public/private partnership is really where we should be going with a lot of these projects. I'm just looking at the illustration. What is the dark circle with the white -- is that a monument?

MS. FISCHER:

That actually is a formal garden area on a separate lot. That is not included in the acquisition. So that's a separate lot that exists. And what is on it, as I understand, is a formal garden.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, so that's just an ornamental structure of some type?

MS. FISCHER:

I believe so.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I will make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1908 stands approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

And now we can go back in the chronological order. **IR 1481, Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Lang Property - Town of Shelter Island (SCTM No. 0700-018.00-03.00-004.000). (Romaine)**

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to table.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to table by the sponsor Legislator Romaine, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1481 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1540, Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of development rights under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Szuster Farm Property - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM Nos. 0200-500.00-01.00-001.003 p/o). (Browning) I understand that the Legislator has requested that that be tabled. So I will make that motion, seconded by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1540 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1541, Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of development rights under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Longmeadow Farm Property - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No. 0200-974.20-02.00-021.100). (Browning) I'll make the same motion, same second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? **1541 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1716, Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to reduce the use of disposable bags by retail stores. (Viloria-Fisher) I will make a motion to table. It's still in public hearing. Seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1716 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1729, Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Charter Law to amend the Drinking Water Protection Program to fund remediation of contaminated commercial sites. (Cilmi). This has to be tabled for public hearing. I will make that motion, seconded by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1729 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1748, Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of Development Rights under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Marion Carll Farm Property - Town Of Huntington (SCTM No.

0400-251.00-04.00-005.000). (Kennedy) I just received word that Legislator Kennedy would like that tabled. So I'll make that motion, seconded by Legislator Romaine. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1748 stands tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1841, Authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 - Boyle Road property - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No. 0200-392.00-04.00-016.000). (Muratore) And we will hear the presentation before entertaining any motions.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Thank you. This property is located on the northwest corner of Hawkins Road and Boyle Road in the hamlet of Selden in the Town of Brookhaven. It's part of the school facility property, 15.82 acres of a 21.3 acre site. This property was previously proposed for planning steps as IR 1140 of 2011, and was vetoed by the County Executive and a veto override was not adopted on September 15th.

The portion of the property that is being considered for acquisition is mostly wooded and is located on the north and west sides of the property. It surrounds the school buildings located on the southeast corner of the property. It's adjacent to a proposed County acquisition on the west side of the property known as Grace Presbyterian Church. The County's in the process of acquiring part of the church property that consists of ballfields.

Town of Brookhaven has agreed by approved town resolution to develop and maintain these ballfields. The Town of Brookhaven owns an active recreational site to the north of the property, and this property is being considered for active recreational uses. The Town of Brookhaven has adopted -- approved a resolution stating that they're interested in partnering with County to acquire the property and the Town would develop and maintain the property for active use for ballfields as well. So the County would acquire the property and the Town would develop and maintain the property just to clarify that.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Commissioner. Is there a motion?

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to approve by Legislator Muratore, seconded by Legislator Romaine. All in favor? Opposed? Okay, motion carries. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1868, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed rehabilitation of CR 35, Mill Dam Road Bulkhead and Shoreline Improvements, CP 5375, Town of Huntington. (Pres. Off.) I'll make a motion to to approve and place on the consent calendar. Is there a second? Legislator Muratore seconds that motion. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1868 stands approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1870, Making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed Suffolk County Eelgrass Restoration Initiative. (Pres. Off.) I will make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1870 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1872, Making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed final scoping document for the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma

Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton (CP 8189). (Pres. Off.) I have a question for you or Mr. Mule. We approved this in CEQ, and I thought it was part of the resolution, no? It didn't have this language in the original resolution? Michael, I'm sorry, you have to come on the record when you're answering that. He's only going to be here for a minute; short answer.

MR. MULE:

For the --

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

1872, this is the Suffolk County Sewer Capacity Study. I remember we talked about this at CEQ.

MR. MULE:

Yep.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And I thought that it had -- we had also had that language on the original resolution. Not the CEQ resolution, the original --

MR. MULE:

There needs to be -- the Legislature does need to adopt the final scoping document.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. MULE:

Whether it's through this resolution or some other resolution.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. MULE:

But this would cover it.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Because it's a scoping document.

MR. MULE:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I get it. Okay, thank you, Michael. So, same motion, same second. Same vote. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

That was 1872, yes. Because 1869 and 1871 had been withdrawn, Barbara. Did I say 1869 and 1871. I want to make sure I said that correctly. Okay.

IR 1883, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of equipment for Hexavalent Chromium Testing (CP 8710.513). (Co. Exec.) Frank, do you want to come up and explain that? Because I remember that it was an interesting presentation at the water Quality Review Committee, but I wouldn't be -- really ready to start explaining it.

MR. CASTELLI:

Okay. This is a proposal for \$50,000 for equipment. This is from the Public Environmental Health Lab, one of the Health Services Department. This equipment is necessary to test drinking water supplies for chromium six, which is an isotope of chromium and it's known to be cariogenic. And the EPA has recommended that public water systems be tested for this. So this \$50,000 that was approved by the Water Quality Review Committee back in June would be to -- just for the equipment necessary for the Health Department to do this testing.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Any questions from the Committee? Okay. Thank you, Frank. You may as well stay there. I think we have a couple of other 477's.

MR. CASTELLI:

Yeah, there's a few.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Muratore All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

1884, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with Suffolk County's Vector Control Pesticide Management Committee's Review of Emerging Literature. (CP 8710.132). (Co. Exec.) And actually CEQ just passed the resolution regarding the Vector Control Program. And this is all really important, an important piece of the Vector Control Program, which is looking at the literature reviews and understanding the latest information regarding the adulticides and larvicides that we're using. And that's part of what was required by our long-term plan.

MR. CASTELLI:

Yes. And this funding would be to provide -- to provide money for additional support in this review of Emerging Literature for Vector Control pesticides.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, in order for them to comply with what we've asked them to do --

MR. CASTELLI:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

-- they have to have this.

MR. CASTELLI:

Yes, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

1885, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Monitoring Program in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay (CP 7180.114). (Co. Exec.) Are you coming up to talk about this or did you want to or --

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, okay, but I don't think that Legislator -- I'll second that motion, but I did want to have Mr. Davies speak a little bit about this because Legislators Muratore and Anker were not here when we spent a lot of time talking about our Aquaculture Lease Program, so if you can just tell us a little bit about it, okay?

MR. DAVIES:

Sure, thank you very much for the opportunity to address the Legislature and this Committee here today. The Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic and Gardiner's Bay was adopted by the County in August of 2009 in response to an offer under state law by the State of New York to cede 110,000 acres of underwater land in this water body to the County giving the County the opportunity to prepare and implement this program.

After adoption of the program in 2009, the Department of Planning, which was assigned the responsibility to implement this program, has held three lease application cycles. A total of 66 lease applications were received by the Department. And to date, if all of the lands that have been approved by the County are leased, we will have a total of 43 leases executed involving a total of 735 acres of underwater land.

We have executed 13 leases to date and the remaining 30 leases are either pending execution or are in the early stages of progress. We are starting the fourth cycle for 2012 for leasing with an information meeting that we'll be conducting this Thursday evening for perspective lease applicants. We do have a cap on the limit of acres that can be leased. And that is 60 acres per year for new leases. And that was established in order to have a controlled predictable rate of growth in this particular activity.

The resolution that you have before you, 1885, deals with the requirement that is in the County code with respect to implementing a Aquaculture Lease Monitoring Program, which will enable us to describe the positive, negative or benign effects of shellfish aquaculture on the Peconic Estuary.

It is our belief that this particular activity is beneficial to the estuary and the industry has supported this particular resolution and it will enable us to point out what this particular activity does in terms of the positive benefits on water quality, nutrient cycling, prevention of alga blooms, the addition of additional spawning capacity in the Bay, etcetera. And it will help us, in essence, prepare in the future and look at locations that perhaps will be most suited for this aquaculture activity, which primarily focuses on the cage culture of oysters and off bottom situations.

We have experienced and taken advantage of the experience, I should say, of the New York Seed Grant Institute, which has offered to conduct a seminar, that will enable us to design this program with input from outside experts. And we use that experience to design and conduct the program. We also have a significant interest on behalf of the Peconic Estuary Program and the Department of Health Services, which has offered both time and things of that nature to help us with the monitoring effort.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

And, DeWitt, you've always had experts and people who are professionals, people who work in the industry as part of the principal informants to the program, the people who are giving us information who are experts and not just a politicians sitting around a table. But I want to ask you, you mention that the monitoring is going to look at the effects on the animal habitat and the estuaries and the health of the water. What about economic impact? Can you just speak a little bit to that because we're in a rough economy right now and this is a good success to have 43 leases to have been

executed. Can you just say what kind of an impact that has economically, if any?

MR. DAVIES:

Yes. As I mentioned before, there's a lot of interest been expressed in this program. The Planning Department a few months ago prepared an estimate as to what the impact would be of 25 leases. And the numbers indicated that about \$2.3 million would be added to the overall economy and about 50 jobs would be created. So we can scale that up in terms of the numbers here with respect to right now if all 43 leases are executed, I think we can see an additional increment of benefit to the region from the point of view of more jobs; and also, I don't want to understate the value of shellfish to the Peconic estuary per se, significant filtering capacity of these organisms. Shellfish aquaculture is generally viewed as a sustainable form of aquaculture that imparts positive benefits to the environment.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much for being here.

MR. DAVIES:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Sure, Legislator Anker has a question for you.

LEG. ANKER:

Again, you know, my first thought of, I guess, the clams and the different type of marine life there, is the quality of the water. How do you monitor the water to ensure the quality of the water is, you know, in good shape to be able to produce these, you know, the shellfish?

MR. DAVIES:

This project is designed to take advantage of the existing ongoing activity that the Peconic Estuary conducts. The Health Department has a series of water quality monitoring stations that they frequent. We will design the program such that we can take maximum advantage of the existing information that has been collected by Department of Health Services over the last 30 years as well as into the future. Hopefully we're able to site our observations to take advantage of their ongoing activity; however, we are looking at the specific impacts of a specific type of marine activity. This is shellfish farming, whereas the design of the Health Department Monitoring Program is based to determine the characteristics of the water quality in the entire Peconic Estuary.

To the extent that we have to look at biologicals, for example, invertebrates in the sediment near the oyster farms themselves, that's one additional type of component that the Health Department does not conduct. That's why we feel that is necessary to go and do this additional type of activity which will help us answer the pressing questions that people think about and have raised. So there are different types of things that we have to go into here specific to oyster culture, specific to the locations where that activity may be located and then relate it to the region. And that's how we plan on doing that.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Thanks again. There is a motion by Legislator Romaine to approve, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1888, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477

Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with stormwater abatement within the Village of Southampton (CP 8240). (Co. Exec.) Motion by Legislator Muratore, seconded by myself. Frank, did you want to say something about that?

MR. CASTELLI:

No.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

We're good to go. We all know what this is. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

IR 1889, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with USGS Monitoring of Waterways for Mosquito Control Products (CP 8240). (Co. Exec.) And, again, very important for our Vector Control. I'll make a motion, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **1889 carries. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

1890, Amending the Adopted 2011 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection the Pharmaceutical Disposal and Aquifer Protection Initiative (CP 8710). (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1890 stands approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. D'AMARO NOT PRESENT)**

Are there any other questions or statements?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRWOMAN VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to adjourn. I'll second that. All in favor? We're adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 3:09 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**