

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Environment, Planning & 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 September 25, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Kara Hahn - Chairperson
Legislator Al Krupski - Vice Chair
Legislator Sarah S. Anker
Legislator Thomas F. Barraga

NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Thomas Muratore - Excused Absence

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator Robert Calarco - Seventh Legislative District
George M. Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office
Sarah Lansdale - Director/Department of Planning
Lauretta Fischer - Department of Planning
Frank P. Castelli - Economic Development & Planning
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer
Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn
Catherine Stark - Aide to Legislator Krupski
Amy Ellis - Aide to Legislator Anker
Brendan Chamberlain - Aide to Legislator Muratore
John L. Turner - Town of Brookhaven
Eric Alexander - Regional Planning Alliance
Linda Henninger - Kings Park Civic Association
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.*)*

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Welcome, everyone, to the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee. If we could all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Anker.

Salutation

We did have correspondence from the Suffolk County Water Authority, which I did pass around to each member via e-mail, so you should have that correspondence in the e-mail. Public Portion. Oh, yes, excuse me. Legislator Muratore has an excused absence today.

PUBLIC PORTION

Public Portion. We have two cards. We do not have a timer. The first card -- we have three minutes, anyone who wishes to speak has three minutes. People who would like to speak and have not, can fill out a yellow card. The first speaker is John Turner, followed by Eric Alexander. Mr. Turner, you will have three minutes.

MR. TURNER:

Great.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Which will start as soon as George -- go ahead.

MR. TURNER:

Good morning, Chairman Hahn, and members of the committee. My name is John Turner and I serve as a Conservation Policy Advocate for the Seatuck Environmental Association, as well as Co-Chairman of the Long Island Botanical Society's Conservation Committee. Thirdly, I'm wearing a third hat, and that's about another resolution, on behalf of the Town of Brookhaven on a separate resolution I wanted to share our perspective on.

There's actually two resolutions I want to very briefly talk about, Introductory Resolution 1716 and 1738, perhaps dealing with 1738 first. It's a small property that the County is proposing to acquire that's on the west side of the Forge River embedded within an old file subdivision. The County's been making a great effort over the past couple of decades to try to consolidate ownership in that portion of the Forge. The town has spent considerable money in trying to advance, you know, watershed studies and plans for the Forge. We've also partnered with the County on a number of key acquisitions that have helped protect the water quality and the habitats within the Forge River. So I just wanted to express the town's support for advancing Resolution 1738 relating to that acquisition of that small property, again, on the west side of the Forge River.

The material that I've handed out to you relate to Resolution 1716, and that is a particularly exciting property. That is a 35 acre piece. I've handed information to you that gives you a little bit of a narrative about what the property looks like. I want to compliment Legislator Al Krupski for introducing the resolution to advance the process with regard to potential acquisition of the property.

The reason why I'm here on behalf of both Seatuck and the Botanical Society is that our determination that this property from an ecological, and specifically botanical perspective, is one of the richest properties that really remain in Suffolk County. It's one of very few sites that still has existing populations of Pitcher Plants, which I've just submitted a photo there with some of the other wild flowers that you can see. I only know of four populations of that species left on Long Island,

and remarkably this property has one of them. It also has two very abundant populations of increasingly rare orchids, White-fringed Orchids and the Northern Club-spur Orchid, as well as another rare plant, the Cross-leaf Milkwort that's on the property.

It consists of uplands and wetland areas. There's a wetland, a Red Maple Black Tupelo swamp in the northeastern corner of the 35 acre site, and then there's a stream, which I don't know the name of the stream if it has a name, but that runs kind of northwest to the southeast, bisecting the property, flowing it back a few properties further south before emptying into the Peconic River. And so, again, it's a combination or a mix of wetland and upland habitats.

The last thing I'll say is that there is, from an historical perspective there appears to be the remains of an historic cranberry bog, again, which is something that's pretty rare. I only know about half a dozen sites where there's, you know, cranberry bogs left. But one time, 150 years ago, it was one of the most important industries on Long Island employing hundreds, if not thousands, of people. You have two of the best examples in the Suffolk County Park System at Cranberry Bog County Nature Preserve, as well as the Robert Cushman Murphy County Park, the Davis Bog, in Manorville. If this was to be acquired you'd have another third wonderful example of, again, a remnant of an industry that was once so vital to the economy of the County.

So that's really it. I just wanted to, again, express those two organization's strong support for Introductory Resolution 1716 and the Town of Brookhaven's strong support for Resolution 1738. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Mr. Turner, we do have some questions.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

What is this? Which one is this?

MR. TURNER:

That's Pitcher Plant. There are three carnivorous plant groups that are found on Long Island. What I mean by carnivorous is plants that actually eat animals, remarkably so. Pitcher Plants, Bladderworts and Sundus, those three groups. And Pitcher Plant is increasingly, become increasingly rare because of wetland filling, wetland despoliation. It really needs highly acidic soil. We've been learning a lot about nitrogen and impacts on, you know, both in the, you know, the coastal water quality and freshwater water quality. It changes the chemistry; those plants disappear. And so it's exciting, I was there, to find the population of Pitcher Plants that still exist at that site.

And what the insects do, if you look carefully at that photo you'll see those flying downward pointed hairs that surround the lip. An insect will work its way down and try to get some nectar that's right along the lip of the plant. They think it's going to get this sweet little treat and then it tumbles into the Pitcher. It cannot get out. It drowns and then gets dissolved by the plant. And so the plant utilizes the nutrients and the minerals in the insect. So watch your fingers and toes when you're hiking in the Pine Barrens in that property.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

How large is that?

MR. TURNER:

It can be anywhere from two inches, that small, to about six inches is the maximum height. Then the flower stalk, which I didn't show you, but that can be about a foot and a half high. I would be delighted in the blooming season next June if you want to go out and see any of these species, either there or some other site. The carnivorous plants are really fascinating.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

I would love to see that.

MR. TURNER:

I would be happy to show you them.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

It's beautiful, too.

MR. TURNER:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

It's a real -- we do have such a variety.

MR. TURNER:

You do. The Suffolk County Park System is extraordinary in terms of the biodiversity you have. It is one of the best county park systems in the United States from that perspective.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

First, I've got a question about the parcel in the Forge River.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Is that adjacent to any other preserved land?

MR. TURNER:

Yes. In fact, it's surrounded, I believe, by already existing County preserved land. And the town has been -- the County has led the effort kind of and acquired most of the pieces. You can see, I think you have a photograph here of the parcel that's subject of this resolution is outlined in red. Further down you see a lot of parcels that are in yellow, and those are the ones the town has acquired. So we have been kind of working, again, like we do in so many places in the Town of Brookhaven, in partnership with the County to try to acquire key landscapes. It's embedded in the nature -- in the County owned preserve.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. That really makes it a lot more valuable, too.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Isolated parcel.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

And then the other one on Pulaski Street.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

That one, that does have the connectivity with the Peconic River. Is there -- and it would be a great addition to our inventory of high quality swampland for sure.

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Is there a way of approaching the owners of the other parcels to make sure that --

MR. TURNER:

There is indeed a way. I'd be happy to do that.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

That would be really important, because you can see that, and that is a great location there.

MR. TURNER:

Yes, we'd be happy to do that. You're absolutely right. You can see there's another I guess two or three properties that are in between --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

To the south of that, yes.

MR. TURNER:

-- the subject property and the river that really should be brought into the public domain as well to protect that watershed more adequately.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Great. Thank you.

MR. TURNER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Excellent. Thank you, Mr. Turner.

MR. TURNER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

I'm sorry. Legislator Anker also would like to ask a question.

LEG. ANKER:

I just also want to thank John Turner for his advocacy with just the environment in general. I mean, I know you go way back, and we worked together at the Town of Brookhaven. I'm just curious. What is the building next to the property to the east. There's a large building.

MR. TURNER:

That's the Riverhead Building Supply building.

LEG. ANKER:

Again, you can see such a drastic difference between what has been developed and what has been left to preserve --

MR. TURNER:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

-- and I think this is a very valuable piece. Thank you.

MR. TURNER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Okay. Eric Alexander, followed by Linda Henninger.

MR. ALEXANDER:

Thanks, Legislator Hahn. Eric Alexander, Director of Vision Long Island. We received a number of calls in the last few weeks from civics and we got some feedback from local municipalities about the Suffolk Regional Planning Alliance, number 1659. So we had some concerns and questions that we wanted to raise at this early stage. You know, just in our journey as an organization, we've been out to about 2,000 -- presented in 2,000 meetings in 75 communities over 18 years, and we've listened to the communities in over 10,000 meetings in our journey. And what are we hearing? And just to even think about what we're hearing in recent times from local communities is a few things.

There's a lack of trust of big things. You know, top down government planning isn't working right now, you know, on a whole slew of issues. But people do want to revitalize their downtown business districts. Of roughly 50 that we've looked at in Suffolk County, 26 of them have revitalization plans, 15 of them in Suffolk are actively approving transit orientated development projects. So there's local leadership in place in the decision makers, the chambers, the civics and the local either village mayors or town supervisors and council people are in place to make planning decisions and have many master plans underway. This speaks to the support of local control versus larger government control.

Local municipalities have needs. There's a two percent cap, which is really hurting the capital budgets and investments and infrastructure. There's unfunded mandates, and then there's enormous amounts of planning that they have to be involved in right now as we speak. And then, again, the distrust in the public, things like the bus rapid transit with the toxic dumping associated, or in Huntington Station the Avalon Bay project. Great project. The process to approve it was so brutal that it divided the local community and they still have to heal. And even the Ronkonkoma Hub that has tremendous local support, there is a specter of eminent domain, which is kind of tainting what is otherwise a fantastic project and deserves support up and down the line.

So with that, there's a bill that's in place to, and again, we had a robust conversation with Legislator

Lindsay, and I agree with some of his goals as far as coordinating the County and the town to bring more resources and come to conclusions, but I -- it's in our opinion that elected officials are best to make these decisions, the Legislators themselves and the municipalities officials themselves and not staff. And the County, you know, Supervisor Bellone at the time and then now County Executive Bellone said it best. He said the County is in no place to make -- better place to make planning decisions than local municipalities. In fact, local municipalities do go through SEQRA processes, master plans, comp plans, on a regular basis. And so it really speaks to the public trust. Elected officials are elected for a reason. So we hope -- and we want to build consensus on these projects, and sometimes if there's not consensus on a project there's probably a reason for that. And, you know, the idea is not ready yet to advance. So, you know, as far as looking at the Alliance and looking at the legislation, the prioritization of infrastructure based on this Alliance was a big red flag.

I'll end with this point. You put together a Capital Budget that we came before here and said this is fantastic. There's so many elements of that capital project budget that had community improvements, implementation of downtowns, infrastructure and that was all determined without another planning Alliance. It was determined by you guys coordinating with local municipalities and making decisions and leveraging resources on the State and Federal level to get our fair share from other levels of government. So to create another layer, not sure if that goes over well. And, again, they'll be a lot of questions and a lot of chaos, and I don't know whether you need to go through all that to get to the same result, you know.

So that's just our early comments. Obviously we're going to know more as the bill gets interpreted by different folks and other people weigh in, and I certainly want to hear more from you guys, and we just got started talking about it, Legislator Hahn, so I know, you know, we're just getting going.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. Anyone have any questions for Mr. Alexander? Thank you very much. Linda Henninger.

MS. HENNINGER:

Thank you very much for letting me speak. My name is Linda Henninger, and I'm Vice President of the Kings Park Civic Association. I'm here in opposition to Resolution No. 1659, establishing the Suffolk County Regional Planning Alliance Program. This resolution is an unwarranted intrusion into the zoning powers of our towns. In reality, this resolution, if adopted, would be nothing more than the County getting into the zoning game. That's how we view it. We believe it's a power grab.

By naming and creating priority areas, money that may be earmarked for towns will be diverted to these specific so-called priority areas. It will be more difficult for towns to get County funds for projects that each town believes are important. And I'm referring to 1001-10. Moreover, the resolution contains a catchall phrase, basically allowing the RPA to decide what is important and what isn't. I'm referring to 100-8. It should also be noted that we're concerned with the committee makeup. It is determined on an ad hoc basis, again, detrimental to our town. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you very much. Any questions? Okay. So we do not have any other cards. Is there anyone else in the audience who would like to speak? Seeing none, we will close the Public Portion. We do not have any presentations today, so we will move on to Tabled Resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolution 1403 - Authorizing the acquisition of land under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (effective December 1, 2007) - open space component - for the Tuccio property - Peconic River Greenbelt addition - Town of

Riverhead - (SCTM No. 0600-128.00-03.00-049.000)(Co. Exec.). How are you, Laretta? Good morning, Director Lansdale. Thank you for switching -- willingness to switch the meeting time and be here today.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So we request that this be tabled to allow for -- currently this site is undergoing a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment. We checked with Real Estate yesterday, and it will require additional time to complete the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

You know, I'd like to just ask for your continued support of this project. This is potentially important passive waterfront access to the Peconic River for all the residents of the County. This is a parcel that Riverhead is committed to maintaining if the County purchases it, and we want to make sure that -- I mean, waterfront access is critically important. What happened across the river we don't, in Flanders, we don't want to see that happen again. It's been a struggle there to get the public to the water there, and we want to make sure this is done properly. And after the environmental review we hope that you would commit to continued support for acquisition of this parcel.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Absolutely. We will do everything we can to support and advance this initiative.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Is there a motion?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Motion to table.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

There was a motion by Legislator Barraga, seconded by Legislator Krupski, to table. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed? Abstentions? 1403 is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1510 - Amending the Adopted 2015 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2015 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with the Village of Babylon Street Sweeping Program (CP 8710.516)(McCaffrey). I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. Anyone have any -- all those in favor of tabling? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

1510 is tabled. **(VOTE: 3-1-0-1. Opposed - Legislator Barraga/Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1642 - Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to amend County regulation of nonnative invasive plant species(Hahn). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Seconded by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'd like to thank Legislator Hahn for her leadership here. This is important to Suffolk County's, some of their agricultural producers. Suffolk County Law and the New York State Law have to be either the same or else Suffolk County Law could be actually eliminated, because the New York State Law provides for enforcement when it comes to the sale and commercial production of invasives, whereas the County does not do any enforcement at all when it comes to that. So this puts -- the way the law is now it puts some of the growers at a disadvantage regionally, and this would certainly help to make the growers in Suffolk County more competitive, so I really appreciate this.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

This has to do with cultivars and the sterility of the cultivars. Okay. Legislator Anker. I'm sorry, did you have a question?

LEG. ANKER:

Can you give examples of those plants that we're going to --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I don't have the list with me. I know we were in a number of meetings with the --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

With the Invasive Species Task Force and the specialists from Cornell and a number of other organizations that have determined that these cultivars are sterile and cannot reproduce the way the invasive parent or whatever.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

They'll have great ornamental value because of either, you know, drought resistance, they're native, or other qualities that makes them useful horticulturally.

LEG. ANKER:

Because I know there was an issue with what's called Purple Loosestrife. Huge issue Upstate, and it was considered okay for Long Island so long as it was sterile, but what they were finding was that

even plants that are sterile can actually reproduce. So it's a little tricky, you know, when we allow some of the plants to, you know, continue to populate Long Island. But do you have that concern?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No, plants that are sterile can't reproduce, and this committee really is -- it's a serious committee that really, you know, made up of scientists that vet all the possibilities here of invasive plants. I think Kara and I were not only convinced, we were impressed by how comprehensive they were in their work.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Absolutely. Life finds a way.

LEG. ANKER:

Sorry?

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Life finds a way in some cases. I'm sure there are other examples of that.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay. Again, I just wanted to vet my concerns, only because, you know, working with native plants for the past 20 years, you know, I pulled it out of my yard 20 years ago when the landscapers had put it in, this Purple Loosestrife. And I was Upstate and I noticed, *Oh, isn't it absolutely beautiful, these ponds have this beautiful purple flower.* Well, come to find out it's like phragmite. It's just incredibly invasive. But I was told by the landscaper *Oh no, this is good. Even though you're by Mt. Sinai Harbor it will not contaminate* and, you know, I had heard differently. So, again, I will, you know, I do appreciate your research into this and I will accept the value of the researchers and the scientists.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Yes, there was rigorous investigation and scientific study of the cultivars, you know, before the group determined their sterility.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

And I think if you have any questions, certainly, you know, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension and get, you know, get the answers, because they could explain it to you much better than I could.

LEG. ANKER:

And just to, again, reiterate the fact that how important our native species are. John Turner, you know, we saw the pictures of these natives species that are going to be extinct if we don't provide the habitat for them. So, again, I thank you for all your work that you've been working towards this. And I will say that after experiencing a very invasive plant called Kudzu, it's very similar to Mile-a-Minute Weed, which was only thought to be in the south, it took about -- it's taken three years for the DEC to exterminate it, but once that stuff gets going, the entire harbor could be taken over very easily. So I appreciate working with it.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

We have spent hundred of thousands, if not more, dollars fighting invasive species, so certainly the County has an interest in, you know, making sure that we're not causing problems, but there was rigorous scientific study of these cultivars.

LEG. ANKER:

Very good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1642 is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1659 - Establishing the Suffolk County Regional Planning Alliance Program(Lindsay).

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Motion to table.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

We have a motion to table and a second. On the motion. George, would you mind explaining to the committee what this bill does, proposes to do?

MR. NOLAN:

I think what it's trying to do is just create a framework on big projects, what's called in the resolution projects of regional significance, planning alliances between the County and the various municipalities. These agreements would be on a project by project basis, totally voluntary. You know, if a town wanted to enter into an alliance with the County they could do so; they don't have to. And if they go into the Alliance with the County on these projects, there would be perhaps, maybe, County resources made available in terms of the planning of the project. But any such funding would have to be approved by other resolutions of the County.

So this is really a framework. It's probably something that the County can do with towns under existing State Law where we enter into intermunicipal agreements with municipalities. So that's basically what this law does.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

The concern here is, and not that I'm against looking into this. The concern I have is that this should be, and I meet on a regular basis with the East End mayors and supervisors, and they should be, the towns and villages and their planners, should all be brought to the table here to talk about the impacts of this. And I think one of the concerns, of course, is the towns already have Planning staff and Planning Boards, and they deal with land use and zoning. And it's fine for people in the County to want to take a regional approach, there's nothing wrong with that, however, I think maybe the way it's written, saying that if you're not part of the Alliance then you're kind of excluded from -- almost like you're excluded from other things, money and possibly other resources from the County. So I think this needs to be vetted a little more thoroughly and, you know, the individual towns and villages need to be brought into the original discussion on how the framework would be set up and not just say let's set the framework up and then call them in. I think they need to be called in from the beginning, because land use and zoning, it is a local matter and it should remain so, because it's the local elected officials who appoint people to Planning Boards and appoint people to the ZB. They're the ones who make the decisions on zone changes and they're the ones who make these, you know, major land use decisions also. So I think you have to start from the ground up here.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yeah, I would agree with Mr. Krupski. In reviewing the bill, you know, it seems to me that there are plenty of different entities already in place to coordinate regional projects or projects in general. You have the Long Island Regional Planning Council, the Suffolk County Planning Commission, the municipal Planning Departments themselves, the County Department of Public Works, the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development. I mean, these are groups already in place to coordinate the projects. This seems to be just another layer of bureaucratic red tape.

When you take a look at the bill I am very concerned about the fact that unless a municipality actually joins this Alliance, they will not receive and will not be eligible for receipt of County resources. And so, you know, this Alliance takes on a degree of importance which could well impede these projects in giving them that power. It seems to me that most municipalities would not want to go down this road at all. I'm not even sure this bill, frankly, is even needed. I don't think it's needed at all. Just another layer. We already have enough in place to take care of these projects. I don't recall a great deal of people complaining about these regional projects or any projects, that we don't have enough committees and commissions and departments already in place to take care of them. I just don't think this bill is very necessary at all.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. George, based on what you read, it doesn't sound like the comments of my colleagues are following what you said. Does it -- does the bill actually say that you cannot get County money if you're not part of the Alliance?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Before George answers. You know, I could be wrong.

(Legislator Calarco entered the meeting)

LEG. BARRAGA:

Municipalities engaging in the planning and implementation of projects of regional significance must be a member of the Alliance in order to be eligible for designated County resources available through or administered by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning or the Department of Public Works. So if you're not a member of the Alliance, this is very clear that you're not going to get -- you're not eligible to get the County resources.

MR. NOLAN:

I think the one thing I would say is that the --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

The word designated there.

MR. NOLAN:

Maybe that's, you know, something of a problem because it says if you're in the Alliance then you're eligible for designated County resources, but the resolution doesn't state what those resources are. But I don't read it to mean you cannot get County resources unless you are in an Alliance. I don't read it that way, but perhaps defining what resources we're talking about might not be a bad thing.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

I will agree with that. Okay. We did have a request by the sponsor for a discharge without recommendation. Is there any interest in the committee in that discharge? Okay. We have a motion to table and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolution 1694 - Authorizing certain technical corrections to Adopted Resolution 522-2015(Co. Exec.). George.

MR. NOLAN:

This resolution doesn't belong in this committee, so I would ask the committee pass over it and we will reassign it to the right committee.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

We don't move to pass, we just pass over.

Introductory Resolution 1695 - Authorizing an appraisal for the purchase of Development Rights of Farmland under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, Tilden Farm property - Town of Huntington (SCTM Nos. 0400-107.00-03.00-006.001, 0400-107.00-03.00-006.010 and 0400-107.00-04.00-002.000) (Spencer).

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Hello.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Hello.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

I would request that this resolution be tabled. It was before the Suffolk County Farmland Committee on September 15. We had to cancel that committee for lack of a quorum. We were one voting person short to make that quorum. We're scheduling -- we've scheduled the subsequent, the follow-up meeting for the Farmland Committee on October 1st, so we ask for a table.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Motion to table. Seconded by Legislator Barraga.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I was at that meeting where there was no quorum, and I did ask for the applicant to make their presentation anyway for those of us who might not be able to make the rescheduled meeting. And I'm not familiar with the area, so that's why I was, you know, was curious what the, you know, what the value is here. I have to say, they made a very good presentation remnant of what was important agricultural industry in the Town of Huntington and, you know, I think it's important to keep those parcels in place if they can stay in agricultural production. It's certainly part of our heritage. It's, you know, it's part of the County, and if they want to keep it as an active operation, you know, I would definitely support that. I have no problem tabling it because we have to --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Right, we have to.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

-- but I would support this.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Okay. Thank you. We have a motion to table and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1695 is tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1708 - Amending the Adopted 2015 Operating Budget to transfer funds from Fund 477 Water Quality Protection, amending the 2015 Capital Budget and Program, and appropriating funds in connection with elimination of the EPCAL Point Source Discharge to the Peconic Estuary within the Town of Riverhead (CP 8710.150). (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion. Seconded by Legislator Krupski. On the motion, Frank. Hello. Thank you for being here.

MR. CASTELLI:

Hi. Frank Castelli, Economic Development and Planning. This is \$125,000 in water quality quarter-percent funding that was recommended by the March 13, 2015 meeting of the Water Quality Review Committee. The funding will go to the Town of Riverhead for planning on the redirection or the transfer of the current Calverton Sewage Treatment Plant discharge, which currently discharges to the headwaters of the Peconic River. It's -- the plan is to remove that discharge and have it redirected to a groundwater discharge that's not within the Peconic Estuary. Pursuant to the TMDL, totally maximum daily load, for nitrogen for the Peconic Estuary, it was recommended to remove point sources of nitrogens, such as this sewage treatment plant discharge.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

So this would be some type of leaching field?

MR. CASTELLI:

Yeah. The --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Where, to the west?

MR. CASTELLI:

Well, the plan is the delineation in the groundwater flow actually runs between -- the Peconic Estuary and Long Island Sound runs through the EPCAL property in Riverhead, and they determine where that delineation is, and the plan is to direct the outflow from the sewage treatment plant to a ground -- to a recharge basin. It's not -- it won't directly be discharged. The surface waters will be discharged to a recharge basin, will ultimately be seeping down into the groundwater. Hopefully, you know, the outfall, the effluent itself is well treated, and that combined with the natural attenuation of nitrogen by the substrate before it gets to the groundwater would serve to, you know --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Sure.

MR. CASTELLI:

-- even less. So this was -- the committee thought that this was a worthwhile plan. The Town of Riverhead is going to fully match this. In fact, the town already has I think 6.34 million for this project. It's estimated that the project will cost approximately 12 million and this \$125,000 in quarter-percent funding is just to help with the planning stages.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Who did -- has the study been complete, the scientific study. Was it the Department of Health that mapped out, you know, how the water flows, what the types of soils are, making sure that who is responsible -- or is that what this is going to pay for, is exactly where to put it to insure that it doesn't wind up where we're trying to keep it from.

MR. CASTELLI:

Yeah. The Town of Riverhead was responsible for doing -- for the preliminary analysis as to where the delineation now between the watersheds is located.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

But did our Department of Health and our experts analyze the water flow?

MR. CASTELLI:

I'm not sure, I can't answer that for sure, but I know that they in all likelihood must have used the Comprehensive Water Resources Plan, the County plan that was just released, to help in the delineation of the watershed, so all that information is there.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. I could add to that. Because of the historic use of the site by the Navy over the years, there's an RAB, a Restoration Advisory Board, that's been very active for almost two decades. And so this area of groundwater flow there has been studied enough to the point where they do know where the divide is, where it flows to the south into the river, where flows to the north into the Sound. So this -- that science is, I think, pretty well been determined. It's a matter of now developing a plan for the sewage treatment plant there, I think in light of the future plans to develop the remainder of the site that can be developed, so this is going to all tie in to the future development of EPCAL.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. Do we?

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes, we do.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Yes. Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1716 - Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, UW AM Metro, Inc. Property Town of Riverhead (SCTM No. 0600-125.00-02.00-001.000) (Krupski).

Motion by Legislator Krupski. Seconded by Legislator Anker. On the motion. We have Laretta Fischer distributing the rating sheets with a total score -- it looks like of 75.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

And on the screen in front of us, and also was e-mailed to you, were the maps from Laretta, so we do have a map of this property that we are about to be discussing. But if Laretta and/or Director

Lansdale, if you could go through the rating and explain to us how this rates at 75, that's wonderful. Thank you.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Happy to do so. I'll have Laretta go through the rating sheet. It is -- it did score, as you indicated, 75 points. It's 35 acres in size and it is within the Hamlet of Riverhead, Town of Riverhead, near the Peconic River. Laretta?

MS. FISCHER:

This property was actually listed on our Master List and as well as other nearby properties to the south that connect to the river itself. So we've been trying actually to acquire this. We made an offer in 2010, but it was rejected. There is a new owner so we're hoping that this may move forward and in a positive direction.

The rating was for the Peconic River Greenbelt Assemblage, so it took in a number of properties along this corridor, as well as this property. It received points -- 12 points for freshwater wetlands, wet soils. It's with -- portions of this assemblage are in the core, not this particular piece, but there are nearby properties within the core as part of this assemblage. We did give it points for natural heritage program elements as well as threatened and endangered species. We also gave it points for habitat diversity, location adjacent to water body or near water bodies, geological land forms within the size of -- the assemblage is greater than 25 acres and, again, adjacent to other County parkland, and within the Peconic Estuary Program, the Wild Scenic and Recreational Rivers Corridor, within a designated greenbelt, major road corridor and waterfront.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

And we had a speaker speak about this earlier, Mr. Turner. Any questions? Legislator Krupski, did you have a --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I would just like to repeat what I said earlier. This is really high quality wetlands and it's large enough to be ecologically significant, which makes it kind of unusual. A lot of times the preserved parcels that just don't -- aren't large enough to maintain and support different habitat, so this one is large enough. So I would encourage everyone to support it.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

I could also imagine, I mean, all the work that we're doing on the Peconic Estuary and this, you know, being so important to that. It would be absolutely horrendous to lose it to development. Okay. We have a motion and a second, correct?

MR. RICHBERG:

We do.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1717 - Making a SEORA determination in connection with the proposed Improvements To Suffolk County Sewer District No. 1 Port Jefferson (CP 8169), Town of Brookhaven, Village of Port Jefferson(Pres. Off.). I'll make a motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Seconded by Legislator Barraga. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved.
(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)

Introductory Resolution 1735 - Amending Resolution No. 1088-2014 to include the Suffolk County in-kind services match funds for the Tidal Wetland Restoration Project at Indian Island County Park (Co. Exec.).

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Motion by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

To approve.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

To approve. Seconded by Legislator Anker. On the motion, we have Frank Castelli again. Thank you.

MR. CASTELLI:

Hi. This resolution is to amend the previously adopted 1088-2014. That resolution accepted and appropriated the \$788,000 DEC grant and also the \$300,000 in Suffolk County quarter-percent funding for this project. The -- that resolution did not address the fact that Suffolk County is also committing to 141,933 equivalent in in-kind services. So the County Attorney's Office determined that prior to us signing -- we've been in the process of executing the contract with the New York State DEC for the \$788,000, and the County Attorney's Office wanted the original funding appropriating resolution to be amended to cite the fact that there is also in-kind services being provided. That's merely what this is for.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

That's a really specific number for in-kind services.

MR. CASTELLI:

It was calculated based upon estimated number of hours of County staff that would be necessary to complete this project.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. I think that's important that we note that in-kind contribution by our County workers as part of this project. And so we have a motion and a second. We had a question by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

There has been a lot of discussion about this project because of the condition of the spoils and that they couldn't be disposed of locally or even regionally. The suggestion that I made to Parks was that they should be left on-site since they are already on-site and continue with whatever restoration could be done with the remaining parcel. Is there -- can you give me any update on the project at all?

MR. CASTELLI:

I really don't have any information on the -- well, I know that there's been no determination as to where the dredge material will be placed, that we haven't gotten that far yet. Right now we're

trying to get the contract executed with the DEC and then we're going to --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Has there been any discussion about a different project leaving the spoils on-site and making the project smaller, but at least doing the project.

MR. CASTELLI:

Right. There has been some informal discussion, but right now nothing's been formally decided. The project has already been reduced, and the amount of material that has to be taken off the site is drastically less than what was originally considered. But we really have not finalized the -- once we get the contract with the State, we're going to be able to retain a consultant to do some of the planning work, including obtaining the permits. Right now there hasn't been any determination made.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Okay. If you could keep me involved in that.

MR. CASTELLI:

Definitely.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

And luckily we're not in Connecticut, otherwise they'd propose just dumping the spoil in Long Island Sound.

MR. CASTELLI:

And, in fact, we plan on -- the people involved with this project do plan on meeting within the next month or so to, you know, to get things going.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

So we upped our local match. Any chance of getting the State to up their contribution?

MR. CASTELLI:

I don't know. It doesn't hurt to ask.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Yeah.

MR. CASTELLI:

Well, in fact, along those lines, the State, New York State DEC does have some additional funding, approximately 53,000 that the DEC is interested in contributing towards this project. That's one of the reasons that we're going to meet with not only the County people, but some of the New York State people in the next month or so, so that it looks like there is some additional funding.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Excellent. Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1735 is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

Introductory Resolution 1738 - Authorizing acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Open Space Preservation Program for the Beta Property Forge River Watershed - Town of Brookhaven (SCTM No. 0200-750.00-06.00-015.000). (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. Ms. Laretta Fischer is passing out the rating sheets. It looks like the total score here is 52 points.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Yes, it's 52 points for the Forge River --

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Once again we have the map up on the screen for those of you at home.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

It's 52 points for the Forge River assemblage area. It received points for its proximity to a major river corridor, its location within a major swale area and being adjacent to other County parkland. It's 0.14 acres in size on the west side of the Forge River.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Excellent. The Forge River area has been -- the County has been working diligently through Laretta's efforts and other's efforts to, you know, complete these assemblages, so these are important acquisition pieces around this troubled area here. I see we have a question -- I do have one question, actually for the Clerk before I forget. Is there any way to get these maps when Laretta sends them over, have them uploaded so that folks who are at home can click through the PowerPoint maps and follow us?

MR. RICHBERG:

You would like them uploaded to the website?

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Yes. I mean, not now, but in the future for our committee meeting. She sends them over the morning of the committee and I don't know how long it would take us to get them uploaded, but I think that would be useful for folks from listening at offices and at home.

MR. RICHBERG:

I can talk to my team in the back and see how we can post that with IT.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you.

MR. RICHBERG:

Figure out if we can get a shortcut.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. Sorry. I didn't want to forget to ask you about that. Okay. Was it Legislator Krupski who had a question?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. Just a clarification on the area, and I am certainly supporting the acquisition, and I'm struggling with the map. Suffolk -- what are the different lines mean? I'm trying to figure out the ownership, the current ownership.

MS. FISCHER:

The current ownership surrounding this parcel is the County, Suffolk County in green. I know that you can't see that. The dotted pink line is Master List properties that we're still pursuing. The hatched area is the flood zones, and the blue line is the freshwater wetland. The dotted white and blue is a 100 foot buffer area of the freshwater wetlands.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Okay. Who owns the area from the dotted blue line to the west?

MS. FISCHER:

There's ownership both in the County as well as the town.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Is that the property line, the dotted blue line?

MS. FISCHER:

No, that's a buffer area of the wetland, 100 foot buffer area of -- from the wetland boundary.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Where's the property line here?

MS. FISCHER:

The property line is in green and dotted pink or red and dotted pink, sorry. Sorry. I'll come over and show you.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Who owns like the paper roads in between all the individual lots?

MS. FISCHER:

The paper roads are not -- they're not owned by anyone. They're dedicated town paper roads at this point. Once we obtain ownership on both sides of the paper road, we can request that the property be -- the road be, what do they call it, abandoned and we can take ownership of both sides of the road. So that's our ultimate goal is to, in these old file map areas, is to obtain ownership on both sides of these paper roads so that we can abandon.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

Thank you. Did you mention price on this? I can't remember. Nine thousand. Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. Not Present - Legislator Muratore)**

With that, we have no further business before the committee, so we are adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting concluded at 11:33 a.m.*)