

ORIGINAL

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LAKE RONKONKOMA

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ADVISORY TASK FORCE

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William Rogers Legislative Building
Rose Caracappa Auditorium

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725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, New York

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7

April 14, 2010
6:30 p.m.

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20 REPORTED BY:

21 THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

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P R E S E N T :

LEGISLATOR JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR TOM CILMI
10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR TOM MURATORE
4th Legislative District

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GINNY FIELDS

VERONICA KING, Town of Brookhaven

GREG DAWSON, Town of Islip

KEVIN J. MALLOY, Town Councilman
Town of Smithtown

KATHY ALBRECHT, the Office of
Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick

GEORGE SCHRAMM
Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization

DAWN HOPKINS
Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization

KEVIN KANOKOS,
Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Organization

ALI NAZIR, C.O.S. Legislative Office of
John M. Kennedy, Jr.

LESLIE KENNEDY, Legislative Aide to
John M. Kennedy, Jr.

CHART GUTHRIE, New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

ROB SCHURZ, the Office of
Senator Bryan X. Foley

JESSICA PROIOS, Chief Aide
Legislator Tom Muratore, 4th District

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2 G U E S T S:

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LORIAN PETERSON, Public Health Sanitarian
Department of Health Services
Office of Ecology
Bureau of Marine Resources

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2 (WHEREUPON, this proceeding
3 convened at 6:30 p.m. Off-the-record
4 discussions ensued, after which the
5 following transpired:)

6 (Time noted: 6:37 p.m.)

7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. We're
8 going to get started.

9 I will ask Assemblywoman Fields, if
10 you would, please, to lead us in our
11 pledge.

12 (Pledge of Allegiance)

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

14 Okay, folks, just a couple of
15 housekeeping items before we get off
16 to -- to start.

17 When we're sitting around the
18 horseshoe here, when folks are going to
19 speak, those of you who are not
20 legislators or haven't been up here, the
21 microphones actually are activated by
22 pressing a button down in the middle of
23 it. You'll see the green light go on.
24 That's important so that our court
25 reporter can hear. We do have a

2 recording going on as well.

3 And, let's go to the first order of
4 business. One of the things that we've
5 been very fortunate with this committee
6 in its current version, is that we do
7 have the support of minutes. Our court
8 reporter is actually going to make
9 both -- a set of minutes from the last
10 meeting available, as well as tonight's
11 proceedings available for us so that
12 we'll have them before our next meeting
13 so that we can review them.

14 I'll make a motion to adopt the
15 minutes and kind of move forward from
16 there.

17 Welcome to all those who are here
18 with us tonight for the first time. I
19 recognize both -- most of the faces.

20 Assemblywoman Fields, who is with
21 us, has been a integral part of the
22 Lake Ronkonkoma preservation and
23 enhancement efforts.

24 We spoke at great length last time,
25 Ginny, about the legislation that has

2 actually -- you sponsored that has put
3 the lake into the coastal zone
4 management program.

5 As a matter of fact, Dawn from
6 Lake Ronkonkoma Civic is going to speak
7 a little bit about the actual workings
8 of the costal zone plan.

9 We had hoped to have a
10 representative here with us tonight, but
11 I understand the governor has banned all
12 state agencies from doing any kind of
13 travel.

14 We do have DEC here with us tonight
15 to speak a little bit about the
16 fisheries aspect. But, fortunately,
17 they're right here in Suffolk with us,
18 so they're able to join us tonight.

19 And I guess, based on that, we do
20 have some audience members here tonight.
21 So -- I know we've tried to stress that
22 it's important to hear input from the
23 public as well, but as I said, in an
24 effort to try and be respectful of
25 everybody else's time constraints -- I'm

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2 told several of our panelists need to be
3 out by around 7:30.

4 If it's all right with everybody
5 else, I'm going to turn to Chart. And
6 you have another person with you, Chart?
7 I guess we've not had a chance to meet.

8 MR. GUTHRIE: Nope.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, okay. All
10 right.

11 So if you want to go ahead and kick
12 it off, Chart.

13 This is Chart Guthrie from New York
14 State Department of Environmental
15 Conservation. Chart is our Director of
16 Regional Fisheries, and has spoken at
17 length about the recreational aspects of
18 the lake.

19 And if you can give us a -- kind of
20 an update as to where we're at and the
21 state of the water body, I think we'd
22 all appreciate it.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. GUTHRIE: Okay. I'd be happy
25 to do that.

2 I sent Ali a report that we put
3 together in 2008, it covers our surveys
4 throughout -- up through 2007. And I
5 believe he made some copies. Also, it's
6 a PDF, so we can circulate it
7 electronically.

8 I'm just going to kind of hit the
9 highlights of that. This is a -- part
10 of a report that we send out to our
11 angler diary cooperators, the anglers
12 that keep fishing diaries for us, and
13 then we take the data that they provide
14 us and analyze it. This report also
15 includes some background information on
16 our stocking program, the walleye
17 stocking program, and our electrofishing
18 surveys of the lake up through 2007.

19 We have the lake right now on a
20 three-year survey cycle, and the last
21 time we surveyed was in 2007. So we are
22 scheduled to resurvey the lake this
23 spring and again in the fall -- will be
24 electrofishing, the first week in May,
25 and then doing some more survey work in

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2 the fall.

3 Lake Ronkonkoma has -- from
4 fisheries perspective, it's -- it's long
5 been known as -- as a good bass fishery,
6 although in more recent times, the --
7 the bass fishing has been off. Our
8 electrofishing catch rates are low.

9 The size distribution of the bass
10 has been good, but we haven't been
11 catching as many as we think we ought
12 to. We feel that there's probably two
13 reasons for that, one being the historic
14 overabundance of white perch.

15 In the 1990s, when we elecrofished,
16 we'd catch white perch electrofishing
17 in -- in thousands of fish per hour,
18 which is just phenomenal catch rates,
19 and they were all about this size
20 (indicating), three inches, four inches.
21 And the white perch, when you have that
22 many there, they compete with young
23 bass, they get a little bigger, they
24 prey on young bass. They also prey on
25 the zooplankton, which are part of the

2 food chain. Zooplankton eat the
3 phytoplankton, the floating algae in the
4 water. If the white perch eat up most
5 of the zooplankton, there's nothing to
6 check the floating algae, and you end up
7 with green -- a green lake and very
8 little light penetration, which means
9 the plant can't grow very well. And the
10 bass need good cover and shelter for
11 their young, and also to provide habitat
12 for their food supply.

13 So the -- the lack of vegetation is
14 another issue that's been a problem in
15 Lake Ronkonkoma, which is kind of the
16 opposite of what we've had in a number
17 of other lakes on Long Island.

18 But, anyway, one of the things that
19 we've done to try and bring the white
20 perch population into check is to begin
21 stocking walleye. We started in 1994
22 stocking walleye, and have been stocking
23 ever since, and we've developed a good
24 walleye population with a targeted
25 fishery for them. And in our 2007

2 electrofishing survey, we saw a lot
3 fewer white perch and much -- a much
4 better size distribution in the white
5 perch. We were catching white perch up
6 to about 12 inches, which is a good size
7 for a white perch.

8 So it looks like the walleye
9 stocking's doing what it's supposed to.

10 We haven't seen -- documented at
11 least noticeable improvements in water
12 clarity, but we're hoping that will
13 come.

14 And, like I said, the -- the --
15 even up through 2007, we were seeing a
16 good size distribution in the bass, but
17 still not a lot of bass, our catch rates
18 were low. And in 2007, late 2007, the
19 Long Island Bass Masters approached me
20 about the possibility of stocking bass
21 in Lake Ronkonkoma. And I indicated
22 that I wasn't opposed to that, and they
23 were interested in funding it. So they
24 coordinated that, and in 2008-2009, each
25 year, they stocked about 1,200 bass

2 about five inches. All of the bass that
3 they stocked were marked, and they will
4 be stocking about that many bass again
5 this year.

6 Because we're on a three-year cycle
7 for surveys, we haven't assessed that
8 yet. But that's one of the things we
9 want to look at when we go in in May,
10 is -- is see how many marked bass we
11 catch and determine what contribution to
12 the population this stocking is making
13 to see if we see an increase in our
14 catch rates of bass, but also to see if
15 the -- the bass stocking program is
16 really worthwhile. So I'll have more to
17 report on that after we've done our
18 survey work.

19 There's one other thing that I
20 should let you know about. This past
21 year, our water unit in central office
22 does vegetation surveys around the --
23 the state, and they were actually doing
24 it -- a survey for something else. They
25 were out on Lake Ronkonkoma -- they do a

2 number of different kinds of surveys of
3 surface waters. But they were out on
4 Lake Ronkonkoma for something else, and
5 they pulled up a weed and looked at it
6 and they said, Wow, this looks like
7 Hydrilla. And they sent it off and got
8 it documented and the -- in fact, we
9 have found Hydrilla in Lake Ronkonkoma.

10 If you're not aware, Hydrilla is
11 one of the big name bad actors in
12 invasive species. It's a major problem
13 in Maryland and Delaware and other areas
14 further south.

15 In 2008, we documented Hydrilla on
16 Long Island for the first time in
17 Lotus Lake and one of the Sans Souci
18 Lakes on the south shore. And then,
19 later in the year, we also documented it
20 in Blydenburgh Lake on either side of
21 Lake Ronkonkoma. And then in 2009,
22 it was -- it was documented in
23 Lake Ronkonkoma.

24 We did a survey in August and found
25 it to be fairly widespread in the lake,

2 but sparse everywhere. And we had a --
3 a discussion with the DEC's new office
4 of invasive species, and our water unit,
5 and several of the other folks from the
6 nature conservancy and other folks
7 involved with -- with controlling
8 invasive species, and decided that the
9 best course of action at this point was
10 to watch it and see what it does.

11 Lake Ronkonkoma, as I said before,
12 is -- is -- historically not been
13 friendly to aquatic plants. Part of
14 that is the fact that it fluctuates so
15 much in water level. Right now it's --
16 it's really, really high. Back in 2002,
17 it was close to 10 vertical feet lower
18 than it is now, and that's just through
19 natural groundwater fluctuations.

20 What happens is, if those
21 fluctuations happen over that kind of a
22 time span, eight, 10 years, you get
23 aquatic plants established, and then the
24 lake drops and leaves them high and dry.
25 And then they start getting established

2 again, and the lake goes back up and
3 shades them out. And so they never get
4 well established. And if Hydrilla were
5 to just be there but not be dense, it
6 would actually provide good fish
7 habitat. And we've done everything we
8 can to notify boaters on the lake that
9 they need to clean their boats, when
10 they come out of the lake, make sure
11 they're not bringing any vegetation with
12 them. We have an invasive species drop
13 box on the -- on our fishing access site
14 where you could clean off your boat,
15 take all the -- the weeds, drop them
16 into the box, and they'll dry out and
17 die.

18 So we're hoping that the -- the
19 lake won't be a source of Hydrilla to
20 transport to other locations. And we'll
21 continue with our efforts to educate
22 folks.

23 So that's most of what I have for
24 tonight. You know, feel free to read
25 through this report. If you've got

2 further questions after you've read it,
3 I'd be happy to address those at a later
4 date, or if you have any specific
5 questions. But I just wanted to kind of
6 give you a quick update of what we know
7 about the lake's fishery and -- and kind
8 of where we think it's going.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Chart, I want
10 to thank you as always. I mean, you
11 really are a welcomed knowledge for the
12 water body, and you bring a whole aspect
13 to it that I don't know that everybody
14 always appreciates.

15 I just have a couple of brief
16 questions, and then I'm going to turn it
17 over to the balance of the other folks
18 on the panel here.

19 The survey is going to be done.
20 Do you work over a particular time
21 period? You mentioned something in May.
22 Do you actually get out there and do you
23 interview fishermen or -- how do you --
24 how do you go about gathering that data?

25 MR. GUTHRIE: This is actually an

2 electrofishing survey.

3 We have a survey protocol for bass
4 waters where we take our electrofishing
5 boat. We do four runs with the
6 electricity on for 15 minutes, collect
7 everything we see, measure and weigh all
8 of that. And then we continue with runs
9 just collecting game fish until we've
10 totally lapped the shoreline. And that
11 gives us an index -- a good index of --
12 of what's there, the size distribution
13 of prey fish, and the status of the game
14 fish populations. That's our spring
15 protocol for bass.

16 We then have a fall protocol that's
17 similar for walleye. Plus, in the fall,
18 we set gill nets for the walleye.

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So we
20 get a pretty -- pretty comprehensive --

21 You know, one of the things that
22 comes to mind is, fishermen are a pretty
23 robust group and they -- they tend to
24 know where it is they like to go to in
25 order to fish. But we have a very

2 active tourism board. The Long Island
3 Visitors and Tourism Board, which,
4 actually, again, with the thanks of the
5 state legislature, now has some
6 additional revenues and the ability to
7 do what they call "microtargeting" as
8 far as promotional campaigns.

9 And I'm wondering if maybe we might
10 encourage Moe McGowan (phonetic) to have
11 some conversation with you about the
12 possibility of getting out there, you
13 know, for folks who might be looking for
14 good fishing experience. It's worth the
15 while to take the ride out to Suffolk
16 County now because they've got a
17 premiere body of water to fish bass out
18 of.

19 MR. GUTHRIE: Certainly.

20 We have dealt with the tourism
21 before -- tourism board before. We have
22 a brochure called "Fishing the
23 Freshwaters of Long Island and New York
24 City." It's 10 years old now, but for
25 the most part, it's -- it's still valid.

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2 It covers 50-some lakes and streams in
3 Nassau and Suffolk, plus another 15 or
4 20 in New York City, with information
5 about them, type of access, type of fish
6 you can fish for, special regulations on
7 them, and -- and things like that.

8 We've provided that brochure to the
9 tourism board in the past, and could
10 certainly do that sort of thing --

11 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: That's great.

12 MR. GUTHRIE: -- again.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'm going to
14 turn it over to Assemblywoman Fields in
15 a moment, but I just want to mention as
16 a follow-up, we're joined by Lorian
17 Peterson who's here from our health
18 department. We had mentioned at our
19 meeting last month that we were going to
20 try to pull in some other resource
21 agencies.

22 And, Lorian, I'm going to ask you
23 to hold for just a second so we can ask
24 Chart a few other questions.

25 But Lorian's going to be able to

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2 speak specifically to some of the issues
3 about water quality right now in -- in
4 the lake itself.

5 So let me turn it over to
6 Legislator Fields.

7 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Thank you,
8 John, but I would actually prefer to
9 hear from some of the others, because
10 this was an issue, and especially
11 related to the geese. And I'm sure
12 you're going to -- hopefully, you're
13 going to speak about that.

14 So I'd really rather hold off and
15 ask the questions after I hear some
16 more.

17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Sounds good.

18 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Thanks.

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. Great.

20 Lorian, maybe you can tell us a
21 little bit about where we're at with
22 that then.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

25 Well, my office wants me to express

2 to you that the Suffolk County Health
3 Department has no objection if
4 Brookhaven Beach wants to apply for a
5 permit to reopen, but only conditioned
6 on a wild foal control program. We
7 would like to know what you intend to do
8 about that, because, historically, the
9 data has revealed that -- you know, on
10 the Islip side, the number is -- when
11 they have a wild -- a water foal program
12 going on, the numbers are -- the
13 bacteria levels represent that the --
14 that they -- they respond to the less --
15 the less geese there.

16 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: And that kind
17 of reflects what we were able to find
18 out when we were out last week at your
19 offices out in Yaphank. That it seems
20 that the water quality is -- is very
21 related to the geese population. And
22 Islip, I guess, had been successful with
23 the program that they brought in with
24 the collies, I guess it was. Border
25 collies or some kind of herding dogs

2 that were out there.

3 MR. DAWSON: That's right.

4 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Is that
5 program still going on or --

6 MR. DAWSON: (Head gesture)

7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: It is.

8 MR. DAWSON: Yes, it is.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So we
10 can expect that -- Greg.

11 MR. DAWSON: Greg Dawson,
12 representative, Town of Islip.

13 And, yes, we do have the -- the
14 border collie. We use environmental
15 geese control. We primarily do it in
16 spring throughout the summer. We
17 discontinue it from September through
18 April.

19 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Can I ask
20 about that?

21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Sure.

22 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: For those of
23 you who know my history on geese, they
24 basically -- the excrement is about
25 seven pounds a day. And if you multiply

2 seven pounds per goose on Lake
3 Ronkonkoma, that's a lot.

4 I don't know how often border
5 collies are coming --

6 MR. DAWSON: Twice a day.

7 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: So it's been
8 my experience, and I think people will
9 back me up on this, the border collies
10 come, the geese fly away, cross the
11 other side, they wait a little while,
12 they come back, and then you don't come
13 back for several hours. So during that
14 time, the geese are back in the water
15 and they're doing their thing.

16 I think in -- in the Town of
17 Babylon, Belmont Lake State Park, didn't
18 DEI -- no, state parks did it, I think.
19 Where they actually gathered the geese
20 population to -- to think it down. And
21 I know you'll get the PETA people and
22 people who complain, Oh my God, we don't
23 want to kill these geese. But in
24 reality, the geese are killing the water
25 and killing a lot of things in the

2 water.

3 If we were able to -- to bring it
4 down and even use that -- the goose for
5 feeding the hungry or, you know, doing
6 whatever, I would love to see that --
7 that brought to Lake Ronkonkoma.

8 MR. DAWSON: Yeah. I -- we've had
9 some success in places like Byron Lake
10 with the -- with the environmental geese
11 control, and I think the --

12 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Can't hear
13 you.

14 MR. DAWSON: -- I think our attack
15 was to try to enter into a relationship
16 with the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk
17 County. And I think if all three
18 municipalities get together and do it
19 simultaneously, I think the geese might
20 actually leave the lake. But I know it
21 happened at Byron Lake.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: All right. I
23 know we do have our representative here
24 from Brookhaven Town, as well. I'd be
25 happy to reach out to the town

2 supervisor and get a copy of whatever
3 arrangement the town has with this
4 vendor. And then, maybe, we can
5 circulate that and get a look at what
6 the cost is and whether or not if we did
7 actually have those efforts around all
8 of the -- the whole lake contiguously,
9 if that would be enough to go ahead and
10 encourage the flock to kind of move on.

11 I know, you're right. There has
12 been some discussion we've had in the
13 past about looking to try to thin the
14 population out through euthanizing.
15 That's always something that, you know,
16 kind of polarizes the community, I
17 think. You get some people that, you
18 know, feel that it's a pragmatic way to
19 enhance and preserve the water body; you
20 get other people who feel that, you
21 know, it's just not a proven way to go.

22 Somewhat -- you know, deer herds or
23 anything else here on Long Island, we
24 lament the fact that we lose gardens and
25 this, that, and the other thing, but

2 when it actually gets down to it, a lot
3 of folks don't want to see that happen.

4 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: As the
5 former president of the Audubon Society,
6 you would think that I wouldn't be
7 speaking this way. However, the history
8 of the -- of the geese is that they used
9 to migrate up north. And because we've
10 given them such green, lush things to
11 eat, they stay here. So we wouldn't be
12 doing something, I think, that would be
13 wrong in trying to thin it out. And
14 I've -- I've been saying it probably for
15 10 years, so I'll just keep saying it.

16 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Lorian, one of
17 the things that we had questioned --
18 well, there were several things that we
19 had talked about at our last meeting.
20 And Martha was very helpful, Mack Waters
21 was there, and -- and a number of the
22 people from the department talked about
23 how the testing program had been
24 conducted perviously, what the results
25 were, the suspension of the bathing

2 permit for the Brookhaven side, and
3 where things are -- are -- might be able
4 to go in the future.

5 How frequently does the department
6 test now?

7 MS. PETERSON: Never less than
8 twice a week for a high risk beach if
9 you consider that a high risk. So
10 they're at a minimum of two times a
11 week, usually three times a week, and
12 especially after rain events.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

14 One of my colleagues, as a matter
15 of fact, Legislator Alden, I believe, a
16 couple of years ago, had actually
17 secured some additional funding to
18 increase the frequency of the testing.
19 When you test, if you find elevated
20 counts, that's it, then swimming is
21 suspended and it -- and it can't be
22 opened back up again until you're
23 actually returning to the -- to the
24 location; right?

25 MS. PETERSON: That's correct.

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So I
3 guess the purpose of that was then is,
4 if they did have a spike, get them in
5 there, you know, within the next day or
6 so to see if it was -- had gone down.

7 Is there a particular protocol that
8 you look at with the health department?

9 What if we had, you know, trained
10 volunteers who were willing to go ahead
11 and follow whatever your sani- -- I
12 guess it must be sanitarians that come?
13 You know, if we had people from within
14 the community, who actually were willing
15 to go ahead and follow a particular
16 protocol, gather a sample, get it over
17 to your labs, wherever it's tested --
18 would that be acceptable to the
19 department?

20 MS. PETERSON: Well, I'm sure that
21 has to be run past Mack Waters or Martin
22 Trent, but I would -- I would say
23 probably not. I mean, they would have
24 to be trained and we'd have to see how
25 they were being trained, and -- you

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2 know, it's just -- there's a lot that
3 goes into it.

4 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

5 No, I do know our sanitarians, you
6 know, have a -- a lot of background, a
7 lot of experience, and things like that.
8 But maybe that's something that, you
9 know, we could explore here on the
10 committee.

11 I've been hogging the mike here.
12 Let me -- let me turn it over to
13 someone --

14 MS. PETERSON: (Indicating)

15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, sure, yes.

16 MS. PETERSON: I'm sorry.

17 Martin really wanted me -- Martin
18 Trent really wanted me to express that
19 he really wants to cooperate. He would
20 like to -- to -- if this is what you
21 want to do, but he just really wanted
22 to -- to see what was going to happen
23 with the water foal. That's the -- the
24 main issue.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, again,

2 as I said, I think what I'll do is --
3 is, we'll contact Supervisor Nolan.
4 We'll get a copy of whatever the
5 contractual arrangement is with the
6 border collies now. They seem to have
7 been successful for Islip; no sense in
8 trying to reinvent the wheel. If it
9 fits within our budget parameters
10 between Brookhaven Town and the county,
11 over at the county location, maybe we
12 can all collaborate and, you know, get
13 them engaged around the whole lake.

14 (Discussion held off the record)

15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Tom, why don't
16 you -- do you have any questions?

17 LEGISLATOR CILMI: I have just a
18 question, I guess. Just a question for
19 you.

20 Does the health department have any
21 experience or suggestions in dealing
22 with the population of geese at this
23 lake?

24 MS. PETERSON: Well, that's beyond
25 my expertise. I would have to discuss

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2 that with Mack Waters or Martin Trent,
3 but I'm sure they have some suggestions.

4 LEGISLATOR CILMI: How about the
5 DEC?

6 MR. GUTHRIE: That's wildlife, I do
7 fish.

8 (Laughter)

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Smart man.

10 MR. GUTHRIE: I know our wildlife
11 unit would be happy to talk with you
12 about it. I think the -- from what I
13 know, the border collies is -- is a good
14 alternative. Although, it's generally
15 better on like ball fields and things
16 like that where they can cover the whole
17 area and there's no place that the geese
18 can get away with -- away from them.
19 And then, in the lake, the geese fly the
20 middle of the lake, the border collies
21 can't do anything.

22 The DEC is not necessarily opposed
23 to the idea of -- of a roundup and
24 euthanizing them. That requires a fish
25 and wildlife service -- U.S. Fish and

2 Wildlife Service permit, which, my
3 understanding, is not difficult to get;
4 and you kind of get that and a DEC
5 permit as well.

6 There's a number of other
7 techniques that have been used. Some
8 work better than others. You know, like
9 low fences along the edge of the water,
10 but that's not really what you want to
11 do at Lake Ronkonkoma.

12 But I could definitely refer you to
13 our wildlife unit, and they could
14 probably get you more information.

15 LEGISLATOR CILMI: And how about --
16 you may not have the expertise to answer
17 this either but I'll ask, maybe you or
18 somebody else here on the panel may.

19 Are there any plant species that
20 could be introduced to the lake that
21 might -- might not control the geese
22 population, per se, but may mitigate the
23 harmful effects of the goose waste?

24 MR. GUTHRIE: I've not known of any
25 that do that. What -- what often

2 happens in lakes is you get high
3 nutrient loads from -- from goose waste
4 and other sources, and the plants take
5 off, and then you have a -- a lake that
6 looks more like a salad and you can't
7 even row a boat through it. That's the
8 more common problem.

9 Here on Long Island, Suffolk
10 County's now doing the feasibility study
11 on how to control vegetation in Canaan
12 Lake and --

13 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Right.

14 MR. GUTHRIE: -- upper and lower
15 lake in Yaphank. Ronkonkoma is kind of
16 special in that it's got the opposite
17 problem, not enough vegetation. But I
18 don't know of any kind of vegetation you
19 could put in that would do anything to
20 control either the geese or their
21 effluent, so to speak.

22 LEGISLATOR CILMI: If the fish
23 population seems to be dealing with this
24 problem sufficiently, would the
25 introduction of additional swimming in

2 the lake negatively impact the fish
3 population; and therefore, you're kind
4 of solving one problem to create
5 another?

6 MR. GUTHRIE: The swimming's not
7 going to affect the fish. First of all,
8 swimming's pretty localized. It's
9 usually defined beaches, and there's
10 plenty of other habitat for the fish.
11 So I don't see that swimming's going to
12 have any effect on the fish.

13 Reducing the nutrient levels
14 through goose control and storm water
15 management and things like that, will
16 result in clearer water and better
17 habitat all around for the fish and --
18 and everything else. So --

19 I believe that the town and the
20 county have already addressed most of
21 the storm water input issues to the
22 lake, and so now the next issue -- major
23 nutrient issue to address is -- is the
24 goose population.

25 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Okay.

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. Thank
3 you.

4 How about Legislator Muratore?

5 Tom, do you have any questions?

6 LEGISLATOR MURATORE: My question
7 is, Islip seems to be doing their part
8 with controlling the geese; is Smithtown
9 and Brookhaven doing their part?

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, I think,
11 again, what we need to do is get a copy
12 of whatever that arrangement is, you
13 know, with the border collies; reach out
14 to Brookhaven.

15 As I said, Smithtown actually has a
16 small part. I'll have a conversation
17 with the supervisor.

18 I also know that we have a
19 fairly -- we must have at least 1,000,
20 1,500 linear feet of the County
21 Lake Ronkonkoma Park on the lake itself,
22 right over by Smithtown Boulevard. So
23 there may be something that we can bring
24 forward from the parks department.
25 We'll have to have a conversation with

2 John Pavacic and see if we can join,
3 because, again, it seems logically,
4 we'll just say, any spot that's not
5 having some goose control is going to
6 become a haven for, you know, where
7 they've been chased out. And so that
8 it's futile. It's a futile effort.

9 LEGISLATOR MURATORE: So then I
10 should be reaching out to the supervisor
11 in Brookhaven and seeing what program
12 they have, if any.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Probably, it
14 would be something that would be
15 prudent. Why don't I -- as I said,
16 we'll get in touch with Phil Nolan's
17 office tomorrow, if we can, and get a
18 copy.

19 MS. KING: (Indicating)

20 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, okay.

21 LEGISLATOR MURATORE: I think our
22 Brookhaven representative has some
23 answers maybe.

24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Sure.

25 MS. KING: I don't know so much

2 answers, but we have talked about the
3 issues currently within the Department
4 of Environment Protection, and we have
5 seen, pretty much in agreement with what
6 Ginny said, just moving the geese from
7 one side of the lake to the other, which
8 is not effective. Perhaps, maybe if we
9 did have a more collaborative effort
10 between all parties, maybe that might
11 have a greater impact. But we kind of
12 feel that we really need to look more at
13 a -- minimizing, reducing the
14 population, whatever means that might
15 be.

16 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Does anybody
17 ever like capture geese and relocate
18 them to another --

19 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: No.

20 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- location?

21 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: No.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: No, you don't
23 drive them --

24 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: No.

25 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- to the --

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2 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: No.

3 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- to the next
4 county?

5 LEGISLATOR MURATORE: No.

6 (Laughter)

7 LEGISLATOR MURATORE: John, they
8 can fly. They fly.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, you
10 know -- what can I tell you?

11 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: It just
12 brings the same problem to somebody
13 else.

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, all right.

15 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Unless you
16 really don't like them, then it would be
17 a good idea.

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, you
19 know.

20 MR. GUTHRIE: It's also against
21 state law.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: They do that
23 with bears and things. You know, why
24 don't --

25 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: No, now they

2 shoot them, and maybe that's another
3 alternative --

4 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: No.

5 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: -- that no
6 one has discussed. You could have a
7 goose hunt.

8 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I -- you know,
9 I don't know.

10 George, you want to weight in at
11 all? You got anything to add to this
12 or --

13 MR. SCHRAMM: Actually, I have a
14 question regarding the water testing.

15 My understanding is that the
16 bacteria that's being tested for varies
17 from year to year within the -- I guess
18 what the department feels is necessary.

19 Could you give us some idea exactly
20 what kind of bacteria is being tested
21 for, and what -- where that bacteria
22 could be coming from and the source --

23 MS. PETERSON: We test for
24 Enterococcus and E.^ coli, and with
25 some leading (inaudible) that typically

2 become warmblooded animals. And we take
3 100 milliliter samples to determine --
4 and depending -- I have the inferable
5 data here to show how many times the
6 beach has been over in count. And
7 comparably speaking, Islip that had a
8 controlled -- a water foal control
9 program, they're numbers became
10 acceptable.

11 But would you like some actual hard
12 data, or --

13 MR. SCHRAMM: No. I was just
14 wondering in general what -- what was
15 being tested for.

16 My understanding, also, is that we
17 really don't know what the source of
18 bacteria is unless it's DNA tested; is
19 that correct?

20 MS. PETERSON: If you DNA test it,
21 sure, it would be -- it would be more
22 specific. But if -- this is something
23 that's done all over the country, and it
24 is -- it's a fact that it does come from
25 warmblooded -- the intestines of

2 warmblooded animals. I don't think
3 that's -- you know, I think that's --

4 MR. SCHRAMM: So we're making an
5 assumption, though, that it -- it's
6 actually coming from the geese as
7 opposed to another source?

8 MS. PETERSON: Yes. From the water
9 foal in general; the geese, seagulls.

10 MR. SCHRAMM: Thank you.

11 MS. PETERSON: And, you know, also,
12 storm water runoff and -- and -- yeah,
13 storm water runoff as well.

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

15 Kath, do you have any questions?

16 MS. ALBRECHT: I do have a
17 question.

18 I'm not familiar with the
19 Brookhaven --

20 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Kathy
21 Albrecht's here on behalf of
22 Assemblyman Fitzpatrick, Mike
23 Fitzpatrick.

24 MS. ALBRECHT: Okay.

25 John, I'm not familiar with the

2 Brookhaven side of the lake at all.

3 So there was a beach there, or
4 there is a beach there, and the
5 revitalization program -- the
6 revitalization program is what we're
7 trying to do on that side to open it as
8 a beach?

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, what we
10 have at this point is -- is we have two
11 areas that have legitimately had
12 swimming in the past, I believe, at
13 Islip Town --

14 MS. ALBRECHT: Okay.

15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- down off of
16 Ocean Avenue -- right?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rosedale.

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Rosedale.

19 And then on the Brookhaven side,
20 Lieutenant Michael Murphy Park, which is
21 off of Lakeshore Drive. It actually
22 goes from Lakeshore Pond right there, I
23 believe.

24 Smithtown does have a short section
25 of shore frontage by Smithtown Boulevard

2 and by the Bavarian Inn. However, it is
3 inaccessible; it is underwater. If you
4 go back three, four, five years ago,
5 there was a section of parking lot that
6 went actually to the east of what the
7 county park is; that's Smithtown Town
8 Park property, I believe.

9 MS. ALBRECHT: Okay.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: However,
11 it's -- it's literally underwater.

12 MS. ALBRECHT: So when was the last
13 time that these beaches were actually
14 open and people were swimming?

15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Well, Islip is
16 able to have people utilize their beach
17 each summer, other than four days when
18 the coliform count exceeds. I believe
19 last year --

20 How many closures did we have over
21 on the Islip side, do we know? Or
22 conversely, how -- as Cathy said, did we
23 have weeks at a time where people could
24 use the beach? Was it days?

25 MS. PETERSON: I believe it was

2 104 closures that we had.

3 One second.

4 (Perusing documents)

5 I'm sorry, in 2009, it was -- it
6 was closed 28 days, Islip.

7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. Out of
8 a season that's maybe, what, a -- a
9 three month or a four month --

10 MR. DAWSON: 75, 80 days.

11 MS. PETERSON: May to September is
12 when we test.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. And in
14 the Brookhaven side, Kath, Brookhaven
15 apparently has had no legitimate
16 sanctioned swimming since 2003?

17 MS. PETERSON: 2002, I have.

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: 2002.

19 And that's all, I guess, predicated
20 on the fact that, at that time, there
21 was a consistent elevated coliform count
22 on the Brookhaven side.

23 Now, interestingly, there has been
24 a storm water remediation project that's
25 been completed since that time, and that

2 is the sump that actually was a
3 collaborative effort, I believe, between
4 DEC and the county and -- and Brookhaven
5 Town.

6 (WHEREUPON, Legislator Muratore
7 left the Legislative Auditorium.)

8 (Time noted: 7:17 p.m.)

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: So my
10 understanding is -- is that's taken a
11 significant amount of storm water that
12 was running directly off of Pond and
13 Lakeshore and Terrace and some of those
14 streets, and -- and it had been dumping
15 directly into the lake, and it's now
16 being held or recharged. So we may be
17 having some better water quality there
18 at the Brookhaven side.

19 There is testing that goes on there
20 at this point, Lorian, or it's just
21 there was the cessation of bathing and
22 so the testing ended also?

23 MS. PETERSON: Testing has
24 continued. We test that beach at least
25 twice to three times a week still.

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2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: On the

3 Brookhaven side, no kidding?

4 MS. PETERSON: Yes, sir.

5 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: And it's

6 consistently elevated?

7 MS. PETERSON: Yes, sir.

8 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

9 Hmm... well, strike that then.

10 MR. DAWSON: Can I just ask --

11 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Why?

12 MR. DAWSON: -- do you test the

13 county side? I know it's not an actual

14 swimming beach, but I do think people in

15 the water --

16 MS. PETERSON: No, we don't.

17 LEGISLATOR CILMI: John?

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Sure.

19 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Yeah?

20 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Yeah.

21 LEGISLATOR CILMI: How would you --

22 why would you -- why is it, I guess, is

23 the question, that the Brookhaven side

24 would be consistently -- would test

25 consistently higher than any other area

2 within the lake? What would cause that?

3 MS. PETERSON: My guess is that the
4 water balance being swooped to the other
5 side, they're staying on the other side
6 of the -- the Islip side is keeping
7 their beach clear. And they've also
8 instituted some nice storm water runoff
9 solutions there as well. They've done
10 some, you know --

11 LEGISLATOR CILMI: On the Islip
12 side?

13 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

14 MR. GUTHRIE? One -- one thing
15 about a bathing beach is, when there are
16 people there bathing, you don't see the
17 geese there. But they close the bathing
18 beach, the people go away --

19 LEGISLATOR CILMI: So it's like
20 the chicken and an egg thing?

21 MR. GUTHRIE: Yeah, it's -- it's
22 kind of a -- a self-fulfilling prophesy
23 almost. You need to control the geese
24 to get the water clean enough so the
25 people come back, and once the people

1 Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Task Force 4/14/10 48
2 come back, then the geese aren't going
3 to want to come back.
4 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Then they'll all
5 be on the Smithtown side.
6 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. Any
7 more questions, Kath, or is that --
8 MS. ALBRECHT: How many geese are
9 we talking about?
10 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: A lot. A
11 lot.
12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I honestly
13 don't know, but I guess since it seems
14 that we really do need to address some
15 of this more definitively, we're
16 probably going to have to extend an
17 invitation to Chart's colleagues in the
18 wildlife unit.
19 They're based out of Stony Brook
20 along with yourself?
21 MR. GUTHRIE: Yes, they are.
22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So
23 we'll -- we'll extend an invitation to
24 them to come and speak to us at next
25 month's meeting. And, clearly, I guess

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2 we're going to have to talk about some
3 possible solutions.

4 In keeping with the commitment to
5 try and get us out of here by 7:30,
6 folks, we do have Dawn from Lake
7 Ronkonkoma Civic who can give us some
8 additional updates on the Department of
9 State programs.

10 And, Dawn, are you going to be able
11 to speak to us at all about the pathway
12 that we have to go forward regarding the
13 LWRP, or do you want to defer that until
14 next time around?

15 MS. HOPKINS: Maybe the next time,
16 but I'll touch on some of it.

17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. That's
18 great.

19 MS. HOPKINS: Okay. Just so that
20 you know, currently, there are no
21 solicitations for the environmental
22 protection fund LWRP grant applications.
23 Acceptance of the state budget is what's
24 impacting this. That's going to accept
25 the -- direct the -- the timing, the

2 solicitations, as well as the amount of
3 money from the funds that will be
4 available.

5 Usually, the request of the grants
6 occur in the spring, but they have gone
7 out as late as October. There's usually
8 a three-month window from the time of
9 request for applications and the
10 deadline. So we know that's usually the
11 standard amount of time that we would
12 have together to get the application in.
13 I've handed you out an application,
14 the -- the cover page for it, so you get
15 some idea of what is going on with it.

16 You need to know also that there
17 are pre-application workshops that are
18 held around the state, to explain the
19 process and answer questions relating to
20 the process. Currently, none of these
21 workshops are scheduled. Again, once
22 the budget comes in, we're going to have
23 some action on this particular issue.

24 If you look at the request for
25 applications, you'll notice that there

2 are eight categories. Two are local
3 revitalization efforts. And I would
4 suggest to you to be very creative if
5 you can with this, and this certainly
6 could be used for the water foal issue
7 that you've just been speaking about.

8 There's also a section here under
9 the categories for adapting to climate
10 change. This also includes rising sea
11 border levels, which may be an issue for
12 us.

13 Grants are evaluated by using a
14 point system with priority funding
15 categories that change from year to
16 year. And bonus points awarded for
17 projects that address such things as
18 smart growth, as well as ecosystem base
19 management, among others.

20 This is a 50/50 match reimbursement
21 program. Awards cannot exceed
22 50 percent of the total cost of the
23 project that's identified in the
24 application.

25 The LWRP is usually done in phases.

2 Visioning and development of plans and
3 strategies is the first phase, and then
4 actual implementation. As I looked over
5 some of the grants that, in fact, have
6 been awarded, some of even the
7 implementation parts are done in phases.

8 I've included for you two summaries
9 for Suffolk County. The first one that
10 you see, which is the larger print, is
11 for the 2008-2009 grants in Suffolk
12 County; and the next page is the
13 2009-2010 grants that were awarded.

14 I found it interesting myself that
15 in 2008-2009, the Town of Brookhaven for
16 the Forge River used a designation, I
17 think as a DEC designation, of an
18 impaired water body to, in fact, deal
19 with their issues of -- of quality of
20 water. And so did the Town of Southold.

21 One of the concerns that we have
22 is, what body will be applying for these
23 grant monies. The advisory board does
24 not have the authority to, in fact, do
25 that. In my conversations with the

2 Department of State, they recommended
3 what they called a tried and true
4 technique, which is the development of a
5 nonprofit 501C3 Lake Association, which
6 would be intermunicipal. But that's
7 something that we're going to have to
8 think about in terms of who's actually
9 going to get this money. That would
10 have it that they -- intermunicipal
11 would have representation from everybody
12 on it.

13 Questions?

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Dawn, how much
15 of this work is predicated on us
16 awaiting the state budget actually
17 getting adopted?

18 Is there some of this preliminary
19 stuff that we can kind of consider, or
20 as a board, make a recommendation to
21 kind of take the next step?

22 I mean, if the Department of State
23 is saying that it really ought to be a
24 501C3 that gets formed and becomes the
25 applicant, you know, maybe we can do

2 some exploratory, make some
3 recommendations, or, you know, ask for
4 our -- our civics to guide us and kind
5 of get a couple of steps ahead because,
6 quite candidly, we don't know when the
7 state budget's going to get adopted.

8 MS. HOPKINS: Absolutely.

9 Absolutely.

10 Yeah, I've looked at the Lake
11 George Association and the Cayuga Lake
12 Watershed, intermunicipal organizations,
13 and they -- it's -- it's very clear, it
14 is so broad-based, including educational
15 outreach to local schools; some very
16 creative things.

17 I would advise you to look at,
18 there's a -- sorry -- a Web site at the
19 bottom of the first page of the -- the
20 requests for applications. It's
21 New York State, nyswaterfronts.com. If
22 you go there and go into the EPF site,
23 you can see all the grants that are to
24 be given out, and there are some really
25 creative ideas. We're -- we're not

2 limited here at all just in the
3 revitalization. As I said, the climate
4 change and then the hamlet
5 revitalization also.

6 So I think we should start to think
7 about those things, too; things that
8 people are interested in that can be
9 subsumed under this grid.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. I'm
11 going to -- if anybody has questions --
12 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: All right.
14 Dawn, I want to thank you very
15 much.

16 MS. HOPKINS: You're welcome.

17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: We apparently
18 have a couple of folks who have some
19 questions for us from the panel.
20 Generally, our format, folks, when we
21 have public portion for our committee
22 meetings, legislative meetings, is, you
23 know, we -- we have three minutes for
24 each speaker.

25 I mean, if somebody wants to come

2 to the podium or somebody's got a
3 question they want to shout out --
4 anybody?

5 MR. KANAKOS: (Indicating)

6 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Hey, Kevin,
7 there you are.

8 Come on up.

9 MR. KANAKOS: I'm Kevin Kanakos.

10 My question is -- relates to the
11 geese control. And an option I haven't
12 heard mentioned, I know it's available
13 in other species, but -- is geese
14 sterilization. They introduce something
15 into the food supply of other species
16 and it sterilizes them and reduces the
17 breeding population.

18 Is that something that can be
19 considered for our problem?

20 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I think at
21 this point, probably, we'll agree that
22 we'll consider anything that's, you
23 know, within the normal realms of
24 acceptable behavior. I don't know if
25 anybody's going to, you know, be running

2 around with barbecue spits yet, but
3 the -- the --

4 Certainly, I mean, Ginny and I were
5 just talking about -- I recall in our
6 last iteration, we had a presentation
7 one day about addling the eggs in the
8 nests or applying some kind of light,
9 you know, oil over them so they couldn't
10 hatch.

11 I guess there's a variety of
12 different things that folks look at, but
13 in my invitation to the wildlife unit
14 representatives for our next meeting,
15 I'll ask that they speak, you know, not
16 only about quantifying the existing
17 population, what their habits are at
18 this point, why they've stopped deciding
19 to migrate, how they're, you know -- you
20 know, reproducing, and then also ask
21 about, you know, control strategies.

22 Chart, should we be inviting
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, too?

24 Who would speak to us about how you
25 control the geese?

2 MR. GUTHRIE: Well, our regional
3 wildlife manager is Michelle Gibbons,
4 and I'm sure that she or someone on her
5 staff could speak to it and would
6 provide the contacts and the information
7 on what fish and wildlife service
8 permits would be needed.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

10 MR. GUTHRIE: If they felt there
11 was a better representative from the
12 fish and wildlife service to address
13 this, I'm sure they would let you know.

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. That
15 sounds great.

16 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: (Indicating)

17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Ginny.

18 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: I was just
19 going to say that -- first of all, the
20 answer to the state budget, we're not
21 even close, and -- and I'm hearing
22 August.

23 Yeah, I know, it's really -- and we
24 don't get paid, by the way. We had our
25 last paycheck March 31st. So until we

2 have a budget, we don't get paid. It's
3 not because we don't want to get paid,
4 but the numbers are so desperately bad;
5 we have \$9.2 billion as a deficit. And
6 just to fill the \$9.2 billion, there's a
7 lot of discussion on who gets cut and
8 who doesn't, and how much you can cut
9 each various agency.

10 And, by the way, DEC was hit very,
11 very badly. To the point of -- of
12 really being worrisome.

13 And on that note, when you talk
14 about egg addling or oil or any other of
15 these ways that you can try to sterilize
16 the geese, it's -- it's going to cost
17 money and no one really has any extra
18 money anymore to do any of that. So I
19 think anything that we attempt to do has
20 to be very, very -- so cheap that it's
21 free.

22 And then the other thing I just
23 wanted to offer up: I started Friends
24 of Connetquot -- I don't know --
25 12 years ago for Connetquot State Park.

2 It took us quite a while to form the
3 501C3. And now they do apply for
4 grants, they get them, and so forth.

5 I would suggest that you begin that
6 procedure immediately, because you can't
7 really do anything, budget or no budget,
8 without that. And it's going to take
9 quite a while to get it through
10 Department of State and everywhere else.
11 So -- and you have to put a board
12 together and -- it's timely, you know,
13 or it's going to be time consuming.

14 So I would suggest that at least
15 you begin that process, Friends of
16 Lake Ronkonkoma or whatever you want to
17 call it. And, eventually, some of the
18 programs that you want to see around the
19 lake, as you develop that and see
20 grants, you'll be able to get that money
21 and, hopefully, it -- it would be
22 helpful.

23 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: That's a good
24 idea.

25 Why don't we do this, I -- I don't

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2 want to put Lake Ronkonkoma Civic on the
3 spot, but you folks do have, you know,
4 some experience in -- in operating as a
5 501C3; has a very effective advocacy
6 group.

7 Mike Fallacara, who's here, is the
8 chair of our Commerdingers Society,
9 which is a 501C3, too.

10 I don't know if we have anybody
11 else, but if -- if you could at least
12 consider it, and then maybe at the next
13 meeting, give us a recommendation.

14 Should we just look at forming a
15 brand new entity, should it be a
16 splinter entity of, you know, what we
17 have in place now.

18 We have some, you know, functioning
19 501C3s that are stakeholders around the
20 perimeter of the lake. And I think, you
21 know, Assemblywoman Fields' advice is,
22 as always, very telling and very
23 poignant, and I think we best get at it
24 fairly quickly because it seems the
25 state is going to wait until hell

2 freezes over. I don't know.

3 MR. SCHRAMM: Gladly. Gladly, we'd
4 take on the responsibility.

5 It's unfortunate about the state
6 budget, but it does give us some extra
7 time to prepare the incorporation papers
8 and get ourselves set for the
9 application process, which probably
10 would not occur until the budget is
11 passed in August. So --

12 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Well, I
13 don't know if it's August. It could
14 be --

15 MR. SCHRAMM: Well, in any case,
16 whatever it may be --

17 ASSEMBLYWOMAN FIELDS: Right.

18 MR. SCHRAMM: -- time wise, it only
19 works for a minute, but there would be a
20 delay.

21 We will investigate what other lake
22 associations look like. Dawn had
23 suggested Cayuga, Lake George, and so
24 forth, to see how their members are made
25 up and make some recommendations on how

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2 to create a board and how to
3 incorporate, and we'll report back at
4 next month's meeting.

5 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you,
6 George. I think that's great.

7 The other thing that I'm going to
8 make a suggestion for, folks, is that --

9 Do we have a date yet, Ali, for
10 next month?

11 MR. NAZIR: Second Wednesday of
12 every month.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second
14 Wednesday. Okay.

15 I'm going to ask that we put a
16 calendar together so that it will be
17 circulated amongst all our members.

18 The other thing I'm going to make a
19 suggestion is, we should probably -- the
20 month of July, we're out of session as
21 far as the legislative body goes. A lot
22 of folks, you know, are traveling during
23 that time as well. So we ought to
24 consider, I guess, at least -- unless we
25 have something pressing, maybe the month

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2 of July we'll take a pass on convening.
3 MR. SCHRAMM: May 12th is the next
4 meeting.
5 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: May 12th?
6 MR. SCHRAMM: May 12th.
7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.
8 That's okay with everybody? We've
9 got that down on the schedule?
10 What are you -- my aide, Leslie, is
11 telling me something.
12 What are you telling me?
13 MS. KENNEDY: Your son is
14 graduating.
15 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, we're
16 going to be in New Mexico.
17 We will have left that day. I
18 won't be here. You'll be handling the
19 mike.
20 LEGISLATOR CILMI: Okay.
21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: All right.
22 Anything else?
23 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)
24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: No other
25 business?

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2 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)
3 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'll entertain
4 a motion to dismiss.
5 MR. SCHRAMM: I make a motion to
6 adjourn.
7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Motion by
8 George to adjourn.
9 I'll second.
10 All in favor?
11 ALL: Aye.
12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Opposed?
13 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)
14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: We're out of
15 here, folks. Great.
16 Thank you.
17 (WHEREUPON, this meeting of the
18 Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Task Force was
19 adjourned at 7:35 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

5

6 I, THERESA PAPE, a Shorthand Reporter and
7 Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby
8 certify:

9 That the foregoing is a true and accurate
10 transcription of the stenographic notes taken
11 herein.

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

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17 hand this 14th day of April 2010.

18

19

20

21

THERESA PAPE

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