ORIGINAL

LAKE RONKONKOMA

ADVISORY TASK FORCE

William Rogers Legislative Building
Rose Caracappa Auditorium

725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, New York

June 9, 2010
6:30 p.m.

BEFORE:

LEGISLATOR TOM MURATORE

REPORTED BY:

THERESA PAPE, Court Reporter/Notary Public

A P P E A R A N C E S:

LEGISLATOR JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
12 Legislative District

MARIA BARBARA, Legislative Aide to
Legislator Tom Cilmi

VERONICA KING, Town of Brookhaven

GREG DAWSON, Town of Islip

GEORGE SCHRAMM, Lake Ronkonkoma
Civic Organization

KEVIN KANOKOS, Lake Ronkonkoma
Civic Organization

ALI NAZIR, Chief Legislative Aide to
Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr.

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

CHART GUTHRIE, New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

JESSICA PROIOS, Chief Aide to
Legislator Tom Muratore

KEVIN HYMS, Ronkonkoma Chamber of Commerce

EDWIN PEREZ, Director of Minority Affairs

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

(Time noted: 6:52 p.m.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: All right. If we'd all rise, we could do the Pledge to the flag.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: First of all, let me thank every one for coming, taking time from your busy day. I know when you work a real job, and then you have to come here and spend time, but we really, really appreciate it.

So we'll start with the -- with the agenda. Is there anyone that was here for the public portion.

MR. ROSENBERG: (Indicating)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Come right up.

On the mic, the way it works is you have to press it and hold it.

MR. ROSENBERG: I'll make it quick.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Can we have your name, who you are, where you're from?

MR. ROSENBERG: Neil Rosenberg, 2188 Pine Ave, Ronkonkoma, New York. I'm a former member of the tri-town committee for the lake, and I recently read that this was being reformed. And I'd like to know if any of the older members or previous members were invited or contacted, or if any of the older papers were gone through, or anything of that nature, before this was formed or after this was formed?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Neil, as I had explained --

Neil and I actually had a opportunity to have a conversation and to -- about a week or so ago.

The -- this current reconvening, if you will, with the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Task Force, follows what had been an effort that I had been involved with when I first came in, say 2004.

And I believe my predecessor, Legislator Krukas (phonetic), as a matter of fact, had passed the resolution back in 2001 that convened the Advisory Task Force at that point.

The group that operated had representatives that might have gone upwards of maybe 20 different entities at one point. Councilwoman -- former Councilwoman Esposito basically ran the month-to-month operations, and many of the faces around this horseshoe were part of that initiative. Although, this latest version is a little different in that we do have the three of us, myself, Legislator Muratore, and Legislator Cilmi, who convene this.

As to how we had the benefit of some of the work that's been done by prior groups, I'm not privy to that, and we would welcome whatever might have been -- you know, any findings, any reports, any determinations, any kind of assessment work, any recommendations to

other state entities, or -- or planning types of documents. Absolutely, positively, we would all welcome that. And I extend an invitation to yourself to go ahead and come and be a part of the group.

And for that matter, if you have a list of contacts of other community folks who previously got involved in a collaborative, I'll make sure my office does correspondence to all of them; to send them the monthly meeting notices, invite them, and please encourage them to be a part of this. It's been designed to be an inclusive type of a venture, and in the short time that we've been in existence, since January, we've already made some significant progress, I think.

You're aware that we have the Costal Zone Designation for the lake itself, which is very significant. That's thanks to Senator Foley and Assemblywoman Fields for sponsoring the

bill that now makes us eligible for receipt of the state funding through the Department of State Local Watershed Assistance grants following the adoption of the local waterfront revitalization grants. And that's something that George Schramm, with the civic, has kind of helped in; and he's going to speak a little bit more tonight, I believe, about where we're at in formulating the governance entities.

So we have moved quite a ways, but we would welcome any -- any kind of assistance you can give us.

MR. ROSENBERG: Okay. I neglected to say that I was appointed as a member or an officer of the Ronkonkoma Civic Association, not to be confused with the Lake Ronkonkoma Civic Association, of which I was the vice president for about 25 years.

When we convened, I believe it was 1984 and we started meeting through '80- -- through the mid-'80s, and then

seriously through '88, '89, and so on. I don't have any of the original -- the finals -- final items, but I do have, I believe, almost all the minutes from all the meetings, and I will copy them if you would like and just -- I would give them to you and see what I could get.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Neil, I would welcome that, and I'm going to ask you to go ahead and speak with Ali, my aide from the office, and we'll make arrangements to go ahead and even assist, if there's a need to copy or, for that matter, we'll scan so we can make some of that material available for everybody.

MR. ROSENBERG: Okay. Thank you for your time.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you for coming out.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Neil, also, as you know, my office is closer, you can come by. I'm at 1919 Middle Country

Road, and I might be able to get copies a little quicker than John would.

MR. ROSENBERG: Thank you.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Anyone else wishing to speak on the public portion?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Okay. We can move to our presentations.

I guess the first one on the -- the agenda is our friend from the New York State DEC, Chart Guthrie.

The same thing to you, Mr. Guthrie, just make sure you push on the mic, and you have to hold it.

MR. GUTHRIE: Good Evening. My name is Chart Guthrie. I'm the Regional Fisheries manager with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

I just wanted to update you on -- we conducted an electrofishing survey of Lake Ronkonkoma the first week in May, and I have some of the results of our survey. I printed up a couple of

handouts. I'm afraid I don't have enough for everybody as Ali is --

MR. NAZAR: We'll make copies.

MR. GUTHRIE: -- is --

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: We'll get copies --

MR. GUTHRIE: -- distributing them --

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: -- that's not a problem.

MR. GUTHRIE: -- and we'll make some more copies.

I just wanted to give a quick update. We're looking at the walleye population that we've been stocking, the bass populations, and then the -- the populations of the other species as well.

The walleye population is doing well. The -- the catch rate -- I have the one table that I hand out -- have in the handout. The walleye catch rate has gone from less than one fish an hour in 1998 up to 12 fish an hour in our survey

this spring; but at the same time, the largemouth bass catch rate went from 12 fish an hour in 1998 down to one fish an hour this time. That was a little disturbing. Don't really know why, but -- but in -- at -- we also saw an increase in the smallmouth bass catch rate, and that's a good thing. So biology's never cut and dry.

One thing with the walleye -- I highlighted some of the changes that kind of point out -- it makes some points. One thing with the walleye, you'll see I have -- have it broken down by different size classes; stock, quality, and preferred. Generally, stock is the size at which a fish can first spawn; quality is the size that an angular looks for; and preferred is the size that an angular catches if they're really happy. For a walleye, it's 10, 15, and 20 inches; for a largemouth bass, it's 12, 15, and 18 inches.

Anyway, the -- the quality size

walleye, you'll see our catch rate this time actually went down. We caught more qual- -- I had a higher catch rate of quality size walleye in 2007. And based on that and some other things, our stocking policy in Ronkonkoma has been to stock 10,000 a year, we're going to drop that stocking rate to 5,000 a year. But I think that will still provide plenty of walleye fishing in -- hopefully, allow the walleye -- the quality walleye population to grow.

I observed the -- the small end of the small walleye we caught were -- last year's stock hadn't grown as much as the walleye were five years ago at that age. And so it -- it indicates that the -- there are probably more young walleye in there then we really need.

On the other side, I have the -- the panfish catch rates, and the -- the really important one is the white perch. In 1998, we caught 937 white perch an hour, and the vast majority of them were

small white perch, very small. You'll see the white perch catch rate in 2010 was higher than in 2007, but the -- the catch rate of quality size white perch has increase substantially; so, there's a lot of good sized white perch in there. And that was the main reason we were stocking the walleye, was to thin out the white perch.

The other panfish, there's been no real trends to report.

I also included length frequency distributions for those of you who can kind of see things better with -- with charts instead of tables. The one thing you have to remember with the -- the graphs is that these are numbers of fish caught, not catch per effort, and the effort wasn't always sustained. So -- but they're not absolutely comparable, but they're good to look at; the difference in sizes from one year to the next.

So that's pretty much what I had to

report. We will be doing some -- some survey work in the fall as well, so I'll keep you up-to-date on that.

The lake, when we sampled it, was the highest I'd ever seen it. There was a lot of water up in -- up into the trees, places where we couldn't sample, and that -- that area- -- those areas up in the brush and the trees that we couldn't get to, that's where largemouth bass are likely to be this time of year, and that may explain why we caught so few. Future surveys will answer that question.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Chart, do we have any pike in there?

MR. GUTHRIE: There are no pike on Long Island. We stocked tiger musky, which is a hybrid between a muskellunge and a pike, up through 1993. The last one reported caught, I think, was in 2002.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. I don't know freshwater fish that well, I mean, I -- I know saltwater fish. But somebody said they saw kids fishing actually in the parking lot, and they were fishing for pike. So, you know, I don't know.

MR. GUTHRIE: Well, there are --

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: They were fishing for something; obviously, it wasn't pike.

MR. GUTHRIE: The -- the Bavarian Inn parking lot is flooded, so you could be fishing in that parking lot. You wouldn't catch pike, but there are other fish they could catch.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you.

MR. SCHRAMM: Tom?

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: You have a question, George?

MR. SCHRAMM: Chart, based on these findings, is there any action planned for the next six months or so?

MR. GUTHRIE: The only action is

that we're going to change our walleye stocking rate. We'll actually be stocking walleye next week, I believe. We stock them as -- we call them "pond fingerlings." They're raised -- they hatch them and then stock the fry into fertilized ponds. And usually they -- they eat up everything that's available for them to eat and start eating each other in -- in mid June, and that's when they collect them out of the ponds and stock them. They're about an inch and a half long when they're stocked. So we've got them coming in next Tuesday. So we'll get 5,000 walleye to stock instead of the usual 10,000.

MR. SCHRAMM: Great. Thanks.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Anyone else?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Thank you very much.

MR. GUTHRIE: Uh-huh.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: We appreciate you coming. Thanks again.

Okay. Our next item is George Schramm on the update.

MR. SCHRAMM: So, I guess I'll start off with a brief summary of what was discussed at last month's meeting.

I made a presentation making the suggestion of the preparation of two entities -- long-term entities that would essentially take on the responsibilities of the Task Advisory Force as it exists now, as far as a temporary basis. Those two entities would be -- one would be an intermunicipal organization that would manage the watershed, and this organization would be made up -- would be formed by a memorandum of understanding between the three towns and the county. And I presented some information on -- from a set of bylaws that would govern how this intermunicipal organization would operate.

The second organization would be a

not-for-profit, 501(C)3 organization proposing the Ronkonkoma Lake Association.

Between these two organizations, we feel we have the greatest ability to make applications for many of the grant opportunities that exist. In some cases, each individual organization will make applications for some types of grants; the two organization would have to work together.

Now, the intermunicipal organization, in order to move forward with that effort, would require the county and the three towns reviewing those bylaws and suggestions, and, in essence, signing that memorandum of understanding.

In terms of the Ronkonkoma Lake Association, since that would be an organization that would just be incorporated under state law and the 501C3s under IRS, we're proceeding with that process since that requires no real

approval, and we can incorporate without a final version of the bylaws. So we're proceeding with that; specifically, volunteering the funds to pay for the costs of forming the 501(C)3. Once we have that in place, there will be a temporary set of officers that are going to -- just necessary for the incorporation papers, and then we'll move forward with holding some form of hearings to finalize the actual bylaws to the organization.

Currently, those bylaws are available for public comment; there is a Web site, www.ronkonkomalakeassociation.org. People can read the bylaws as proposed now, and then send an e-mail that goes to the civic. The civic collects those comments. They -- we have received some comments. Most of those comments have to do with not so much the way the organization would run, but how it -- it would be initially created. They're

very good comments. They're -- they're topics certainly of discussion.

The education of bylaws will govern how an organization will function after it is created -- and very few elements of the bylaws actually talk about the creation, but they're definitely something we'll have to discuss.

And one of the larger, outstanding issues in terms of the bylaws for the Lake Association is membership qualifications. Right now, it's proposed that members would include those property owners who live within the watershed, as combined with (inaudible); but that's subject to change based on comments and feedback we get from the board.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Questions for George?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: (Indicating)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: John.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Yeah.

First of all, thank you, George.

I've had a chance to glance at what you put together, and I know you put a tremendous amount of time into this effort already, and I know that it is an important predicate to creating the LWRP and to becoming a bona fide candidate for receipt of some of the funding that I mentioned before to Neil.

The memorandum of understanding, where can we find a sample for that? Is that something that we should be looking at? Do you have a draft? I -- I -- you may have spoke about it, I don't recall.

MR. SCHRAMM: I just spoke to your aide, Ali, and he was going to look for a sample of a MOU that the county may have signed with a town --

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

MR. SCHRAMM: -- for some other purpose, and we can repurpose that and include the other three towns.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: All right. We'll have one available for the next time we meet kind of as, at least, a

draft template. We'll work on where we need to go to get that; we can take care of that item.

But I -- I -- I'm just curious as to where you envision the two entities functioning, and what role the task force here will play with it, and -- and how things will go forward. Are we looking at three organizations that are going to exist simultaneously; are we -- are they interrelations of one entity; what -- what is the civic envision here?

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, I believe the -- this advisory board, in this limited time span as authorized by the county, before that authorization expires, per se, this intermunicipal organization would be set up and would actually exist as the official body that maintains and enforces the watershed area. It would replace disorganization. It would be more formal -- I won't go into too many details on the bylaws, but the organization has set committees that

contribute information back to this executive committee of the organization which is made up of representatives from each municipality -- the four municipalities.

So the goal of the intermunicipal organization is specifically just for the watershed, it is not an attempt to allow individual municipalities to follow their own agenda. The municipality organization has an agenda which is directly related to the watershed, and that's why it exists. And it's -- that's why the crafting of the MOU is so important, so that each of the organizations -- each of the municipalities understands what its purpose is.

There is still issues to be worked out. We attempted to write up the bylaws in a way that would minimize any costs to running the organization. And we try to do that by allowing volunteers to participate in the organization,

allowing elected officials or others that may be appointed by each municipality to participate in the organization. I'm sure there's going to be many other issues that we are going to have to discuss. We --

Moving forward, once we have a drafted MOU available and we accommodate whatever comments the board may come up with on the bylaws, we would probably have the board prepare an official letter with those two attachments that goes to the -- the town supervisors asking them, in a cover letter, to please review, provide comments, and then try to move forward in a process to negotiate the final version of the MOU and the bylaws, and then have each municipality sign it. And once we do that, the organization has been created.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'm just curious with -- with the MOU, who do you think would be the natural entity from the county level to interface with the

three towns? Do you think we would be looking at parks, or planning, or --

GEORGE SCHRAMM: I think that's probably a decision to be made by the county executive as to which department or which person they would like to appoint as a representative on the IO.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: All right. We'll -- we'll cut ahead of that one now, I'm going to look into it, so that we can finally have something that actually -- as you say, sustain it as it goes on, and then be the applicant for some of the stuff that we're talking about.

MR. SCHRAMM: I -- I think that's one of the important features of the IO, is that we didn't just make up this organization. This is a model of other organizations that exist for lakes all around New York State. So we know that this type of organization does receive funds at -- are in existence in places like Cayuga and Lake George and so

forth. And that it's facing us favorably on intermunicipal organizations, especially when the watershed covers more than one municipal area. In this case, we've got -- we've got four; the three towns and the county. And the state likes to see organizations that exists solely for the purposes of protecting the watershed, and this is a -- it exists through an agreement through all those municipalities.

So there's very little risk here that we're not creating the correct organization here. This is based on other organizations that we know function at this level and do quite well at it.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. We'll do the research and we'll try to have one available for the next time we meet.

Okay. That's it for me, Mr. Chair, thank you.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: I guess

anything else, George, that you wanted to bring forth?

MR. SCHRAMM: Yeah. I can answer questions or take comments on the bylaws for each of the organizations at this point. I think -- certainly I want to get input from the board on the Lake Association, but I think that the chief goal here is really providing comments on the bylaws from -- from this board.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: With that being said, does anyone have any questions or comments for George Schramm?

MR. KANOKOS: Question.

George, you may have answered this in part, but how do you foresee this intermunicipal organization and the private corporation of a 501(C)3 interacting with each other and making agendas that are aligned with each other?

MR. SCHRAMM: That's a good

question, Kevin.

As I mentioned before, the IO's main purpose is to enforce and monitor the watershed. The Lake Association is chiefly made up of property owners, so, again, it's in their best interest to cooperate with the IO in enforcing and maintaining the requirements on the watershed. But, then, there are other issues that the IO may not be involved with that the Lake Association would be involved with; for instance, issues revolved around private properties that abut or occur -- abut the lake or occur within the watershed, and what kind of development may occur in some of those properties; issues regarding community functions of some sort. Like right now, the civic hosts a fall festival that occurs on the Brookhaven side, but we foresee the possibility of other types of functions that would occur lake side, and we certainly have the ability to promote something like that; or working

with the DEC on promoting the kind of fish and fishing that's available to people. Some forms of tourism are possible, also.

The Lake Association has a much more varied venue of things they can foresee as opposed to the IO. And because it's chiefly run by the residents and property owners that surround the lake, they can choose to take it in any direction that they'd like to, while the goal of the IO is very limited.

I think it works well that way, because I don't think it's really necessary for us to rely on municipalities to do something like putting together a lake festival. I -- I think that is -- that is something that can only exist with the support of the people that live around the lake, and the Lake Association gives them the ability to create things like that.

MR. KANOKOS: George, this is

sounding a little bit like an incorporated village.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Please talk into the mic. Bring it a little closer to you.

MR. KANOKOS: Okay.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Hold the button down, please.

MR. KANOKOS: Would the actions of the Lake Association be binding on other residents that are living in the watershed area? Some of the things you said just reminded me of resident associations where you can't hang your laundry outside, and things like that. Where is the difference?

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, you're not -- residents or property owners will not be required to join the Lake Association, so if the organization wanted to fulfill its goals, then they should probably promote higher membership as possible on those people that could be eligible.

Now, who's eligible is

questionable. But I -- I think because the lake does occur in the three towns, that the Lake Association does exist as -- as a way of bringing those people together with a common focus; the lake, regardless of what town they live in.

Now, the proposed bylaws enables elected officials to be members of the Lake Association so that there's a connection there. Whether or not that will withstand scrutiny by -- and commentary by people who want to participate and comment on the bylaws is yet to be seen, but there -- there is intended to be a connection between elected officials that I know in the Lake Association, they -- they do so share many common goals.

But I -- I think to make this work well, there's got to be -- the Lake Association has to be a 501(C)3 charity with an (inaudible), with a focus on education and preservation of the lake; and right now, there is no organization

whose chief function is that. We have civics, like Ronkonkoma -- Lake Ronkonkoma that certainly participate in activities to achieve those goals, but I think it's essential that we have a -- an organization that should be made up of property owners around the lake who can participate in decision-making about how things are going to go forward at the lake.

MR. KANOKOS: Thank you.

MR. HYMS: (Indicating)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Kevin.

MR. HYMS: Okay. I have a question of how the newly formed Lake Association would interact with other local organizations, such as all of the civics around the lake besides the Ronkonkoma Civics. We do have several others, and the -- Ronkonkoma Chamber of Commerce, the Nesconset Chamber of Commerce, and any other local organizations.

MR. SCHRAMM: Currently, within the bylaws of the Lake Association, it

allows the executive board to form partnerships or reach agreements with other organizations that would further the goals of the Lake Association. So, there's nothing that says they have to form these relationships all based upon what the executive board decides. But, there are (inaudible) that are necessary to form the relationship of when entertaining the chamber of commerce or the civic to help further the goals of the Lake Association, and it's expected the organization will follow that route.

MR. KANOKOS: Oh, okay.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: What I see is going to be about cooperation, and knowing George, I -- I -- he's the kind of man that -- that does that. He's -- he's spearheading, and I think that's going to be the key; just cooperating. We're all on the same page, we all want the same purpose, and we all want to achieve the same goals. That's perfect, that's great.

MR. GUTHRIE: (Indicating)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Another question? Go ahead.

MR. GUTHRIE: Yes. I'll speak up so, hopefully, you don't have to use the mic.

When you mentioned that the boundary, I think, of both the intermunicipal organization and the Lake Association, at least for right now, are set in the watershed; I think you said that you used the watershed from the -- the updated lake study. It's been a while since I looked at that, and I don't remember. Was that the surface water contributory area, or the groundwater contributory area, or both? Do you know?

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, the IO has no limits, but its function is to maintain the -- the watershed. In terms of the Lake Association, we were using this as a guide as a possible boundary, not to say that this -- this is the way it will

happen. Once the organization is formed and we hold meetings to discuss the bylaws, I don't -- I really can't predict what will be decided, but I believe, in the updated lake study, there is a map that indicates the surface water -- the contributory surface water, that boundary would be, like I say, a suitable, if temporary, boundary marker for deciding who may be a voting member of the organization.

Again, since the chief focus of the Lake Association is the lake itself, at a certain point, we need to decide whether a property owner really should have voting rights in an organization. And the watershed was just a way to, you know, create a -- a boundary that seemed reasonable, that somebody that lived outside the watershed probably would not have the same interests or concerns or be effected in the same way by the lake as someone who was within the watershed.

MR. GUTHRIE: I would encourage

you to consider using the groundwater contributory area in terms of lake management decisions, because the groundwater -- in Lake Ronkonkoma, the groundwater lake and the things that happen in the groundwater are going -- going to effect the lake.

And one thing that I think we probably -- most of us realize, that area was developed -- fairly high density, summer bungalows with -- mostly done 60 years ago or more, when the -- the requirements for septic systems were much less strict. And they were built for summer occupancy, not year-round occupancy. And so one thing that I think both organizations in -- in the whole framework of the waterfront revitalization is -- is going to have to address is how to clean up and address groundwater issues in the area of the lake, and that's why you want to include groundwater contributory area when you're defining an area for the need.

MR. SCHRAMM: That's a good point. We'll certainly keep that in mind, and I encourage you in continue to participate in creating for both organizations. That kind of in- -- it's very important to establishing the focus of -- of the organizations.

Thank you.

MR. GUTHRIE: You now, I'm really pleased with the way that you put this together. You may want to talk with the folks in the Town of Brookhaven, because they're putting a -- a watershed, or talking about the watershed overlay zone from the Carmans River. Of course, they have it a little easier since the entire Carmans River sits within the Town of Brookhaven, they don't need the intermunicipal agreement Ronkonkoma needs. But some of the things that they're talking about doing in that may -- you may want to think about doing some of the same sorts of things in -- in the Lake Ronkonkoma project.

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, for someone who personally appreciates the -- contributes -- contributions of science, taking the scientific view, I'd say it's definitely important. I think that's one of the reasons why we decided to use the watershed area as a -- a proposed boundary. Whether science will prevail over other concerns that the property owners will bring in the creation of the organization, we'll have to wait and see.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Anyone else for George?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Okay. Moving on.

I don't know, do we have any legislation pending, John; or do you want to go over updates?

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I don't think we have anything at this point from the legislation area. Although, again, I'm going to ask Ali to take a look at the

original resolutions that formed us -- and I do recall during committee discussion -- you're going to have to get the minutes, Ali -- that I did make a representation that we would report back to the legislature about the functioning of the committee at increments; and I -- I just can't remember whether or not I said it would be 90 days, or 180 days, or whatever.

So pull the resolutions, pull the committee minutes, take a look at what we talked about, and then I think we probably ought to think in terms of maybe September, if we can, if that's okay with the committee here, to do at least some type of briefing to the legislature in total. I know many of our other colleagues had an interest about what kind of work we would be undertaking. Legislator Viloria-Fisher expressed a direct interest; I know Legislator Nowick from Smithtown spoke about it. So it probably would be a

good time for us, even if maybe in the beginning of a general session, to do just a simple, you know, 10 to 15 minute update on where we come from and what we're expecting, you know, in our next increment; if that's okay with the rest of the committee.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: All in favor?

(WHEREUPON, the members voted.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Opposed?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Yay.

Okay.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Ali, you have a question?

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: I don't know if you're allowed to ask questions, Ali.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: No, you're not, but you're with me.

(Laughter)

MR. NAZIR: Actually, I think according to our bylaws, we have to report to them at least twice a year.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So

then, if that's okay with everybody, why don't we look at September as a time that we're going to contemplate the kickoff on that?

On the updates, Greg very graciously just furnished a copy of the border collie contract for the goose control on the Islip beach town side.

I just penned a -- a scratched note for our Deputy Commissioner, Tracey Bellone, for our Lake Ronkonkoma area -- Lake Ronkonkoma park area, and then Supervisor Lesko, to at least consider possibly implementing this, because it does seem that Islip had good success with this by virtue of the fact that the Islip Town beach has remained open with our -- our water quality testing.

Clearly, that seems like it would be something that would be germane to an oversight committee adopting a policy or a clause; and I think -- I think we would get some benefit there.

The folks over at Wallfest Estates

(phonetic) desperately want to go down to use the lake for swimming purposes, and I know Brookhaven, you know, does not have the lifeguards there. As a matter of fact, it was suspended a while ago, I believe, because of our health department's testing policy.

Leslie and I actually met with folks out at our health department, and they suspended the testing process about five or six years ago just based on the fact that they consistently had elevated coliform or fecal coliform content; so maybe that's something we can revisit.

Other than that, I think the only other thing that I'd suggest, Mr. Chair, is, is talk about when we may want to reconvene; see if we take a hiatus for -- for -- for part of the summer with the -- with the whole thing.

MR. GUTHRIE: (Indicating)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Yes.

MR. GUTHRIE: Yeah. Two -- two things.

One with regards to the -- the geese. A few meetings ago, you had indicated that you'd like to get a presentation from the DEC. I spoke with our regional wildlife manager, they'd be happy to come; they just need an invitation from the committee.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Who will we get the invitation to, Chart?

MR. GUTHRIE: Michelle Gibbons is the regional wildlife manager.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay.

MR. GUTHRIE: The other thing, and this actually dovetails well with your possible suggestion of a -- of a hiatus of the meetings;

I wanted to announce that -- that the -- my unit, the Regional Fisheries Unit and the I FISH NY Program will be holding a lakeside fishing clinic on Wednesday, the 14th of July, in the evening from -- from 6:00 to dusk; so it would interfere with your next scheduled meeting, unfortunately.

This is a -- a clinic we've held several years in a row in associated -- association with the -- the local civic organizations. And -- actually, no, it's with the Town of Brookhaven. I'm sorry, we coordinated that with the Town of Brookhaven.

It's at a Brookhaven beach. It's a preregistration event. Anybody who wants to come is welcome, but they do need to call us and register because we have a limited number of spaces. The number -- phone number for registering is 444-0273 -- no, 0283, excuse me. And that is an official free fishing event, so you don't need a fishing license to participate.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Do they bring their own gear?

MR. GUTHRIE: We supply the fishing gear, we supply the bait, we supply the instruction; the only thing we don't supply is the fish, the lake has to supply that.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: The lake's doing that for you.

MR. GUTHRIE: Yeah.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Chart, and what is -- remind me again, because I'm thinking, we have a number of scout troops in the area, I'm sure this would be ideal for, you know, boys and girls that would be involved in here.

What's the age with the fishing license?

MR. GUTHRIE: When you turn 16, you need a fishing license.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay. So if we had Webelos or even Girl Scouts of that age that were under 16, they could participate --

MR. GUTHRIE: Well --

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- without a license?

MR. GUTHRIE: -- this -- this event -- this specific event is a free fishing event, nobody needs a license.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Oh, I'm sorry,

I mis- -- I --

MR. GUTHRIE: No.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: -- I misunderstood, I thought you said that there was a license required.

MR. GUTHRIE: No, no, there's no -- no requirement for a license at this specific event.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Okay, good.

MR. GUTHRIE: Also upcoming, the last weekend in June, is designated free fishing weekend every year, you don't need a license that year -- that weekend. And that does apply to the marine license as well as the freshwater license.

But then we have this lakeside fishing clinic on July 14th, it's a free fishing event.

If you know scout troops that would want to do a fishing event, they should call us at that same number, and we can set up to do an event for them at -- at their -- you know, on their schedule.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Excellent. That's -- that's excellent.

And what time does the July 14th even start?

MR. GUTHRIE: 6 o'clock --

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you.

MR. GUTHRIE: -- p.m.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Anything else? Any other new business?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Okay. Going back to what John said about the little sabbatical for the summer, what I would say to you with regard to the committee that -- the ledge is really down in -- in July. So I was thinking maybe we would not have a meeting in July and August, and then continuing up the second Wednesday in September; how's that?

Everyone, anyone have a problem with that?

Is that okay with you, George? I know you're the driving force here, and

I want to do anything I can to help you.

MR. SCHRAMM: The only thing I'd ask is that we move it forward -- move forward with attempting to form the IO, and, if necessary, you know, we can have like a working-group session to hammer out the bylaws and so forth that --

We don't need a public hearing to do that, in the sense that that would be an agreement reached by the municipalities involved. So whether or not any one of those municipalities or -- or the county wants to hold some sort of public forum to discuss what's being entertained, then each municipality can make that decision for themselves, but we would just continue to push forward to try to hammer out the details of the IO, then --

I kind of feel a little more confident that we're heading in the right direction. I believe, what we had established at one of our first meetings

is that we want to take advantage of whatever state money may become available at the earliest point in time, and we really need the IO and the Lake Association's assistance in order to do that.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Hopefully -- I mean, do you see we can have this done by September or October, before election day?

That's a good time to approach them for money, you know?

(Laughter)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Just prior to election day is a great time to approach a politician for a grant or something.

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, if we can encourage politicians to participate in the process of creating the IO, then that would be a benefit. And I believe that -- that could occur at -- at no cost to anyone. As long as the municipality can agree that the bylaws and so forth -- once the organization

and the IO is created, the IO itself, which is a cooperative effort by all the municipalities, will decide how they want to raise money, whether they want to charge each municipality money in order to contribute to a general fund inside the IO, or if they think they can operate without any funding; that's entirely up to the IO, but the IO has to exist in order for them to make those decisions.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Certainly, we'll do what we need to do to make ourselves available so that we can continue to work on that trial fashion. And we do have everybody's e-mail address, I believe, here, so if we have interim working documents, we'll make sure that everybody gets them, has an opportunity to look at them.

There's just one other thing, I think, and it's kind of part and parcel with what you're talking about; keep this forward momentum.

We have made renewed efforts again to try and find out the status of what's going on with the Bavarian Inn. We're getting a tremendous number of complaints from mainly -- not only of that the visual, you know, issues, but, apparently, this thing, on hot days, has got a horrendous odor to it.

And I -- I just -- I don't have my staffer here tonight; I put him out on trying to contact everybody that's involved with trying to do the foreclosure. But, once we have a -- a -- entitle with the business loan center, or whoever is going to present the foreclosure, the state -- the State Emergency Management office seems disposed to want to go on-hand and help support the acquisition; and then the next thing is through our county parks.

So we really do have, you know, a bona fide angle to pursue here, and -- and we just have to take a legal capability to have a willing seller to

present to the state. That was the impediment when we attempted this last fall; we had no willing seller.

MR. SCHRAMM: Well, I can -- I can propose another possibility. When the draft bylaws are written for the Ronkonkoma Lake Association, we included language that will enable the Lake Association to own properties.

Looking ahead with the issue of the Bavarian Inn, we sort of assume that situations like that may occur again, and the Lake Association was able to get itself a grant to purchase the property in order to create an education center or something of that nature; we have the ability to do that. So if at some point in the future things don't seem to work out with the Bavarian Inn, the Lake Association could, you know, spearhead an effort through -- through fundraising or getting grants to actually make a price purchase.

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Good. Yeah,

yeah, I like that. That's good thinking. Okay.

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Anything else?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

LEGISLATOR MURATORE: Okay. Seeing nothing else, we'll adjourn. I thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedules, and have a good night.

(WHEREUPON, this meeting of the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Task Force was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of June 2010.

THERESA PAPE