

John M. Kennedy, Jr.

Suffolk County Legislator

12th Legislative District



~PRESS RELEASE~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2010

Contact: Ali Nazir
Office 631.854.3735
Cell: 631-767-6230



June 23rd, 2010 – Legislator Kennedy, Smithtown Engineer Ted Sanford, CEQ Vice Chairman Michael Kaufman, and H2M Engineer Steve Hyman present to the Suffolk County Water Quality Review Committee (WQRC). This group, led by Energy and Environment Commissioner Carrie Meeks Gallagher, reviews projects requests associated with the county’s sales tax funded groundwater protection fund. More then \$4

million in funding requests were received from throughout various County, Town and Village agencies, with approximately \$2 million in funding recognized as revenue for distribution in 2010.

Two applications were submitted for work in the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue River corridor, or more simply known as "The Branch". Legislator Kennedy and Smithtown applied for \$250,000, representing approximately half of the actual cost to implement Phase II of the town's silt remediation and storm water reconstruction project.

The second application also sought \$250,000 to fund planning, engineering, and DEC permit preparation actions on the behalf of the Village of the Branch, as well as the Suffolk County Parks Department, for that section of The Branch and adjoining tributaries, flowing north from Clearbrook Drive to Miller's Pond. Both applications were favorably received, and scored highly on the point scale when reviewed by the Committee.

This important next phase of the project funding will next be considered at the Environment, Planning and Agriculture EPA Committee meeting, chaired by WQRC member and Deputy Presiding Officer Vivian Valorio Fischer. The EPA committee next meets on Monday July 24, 2010, at 1 p.m. at the William H. Rogers Building in the county North Complex, located at 725 Veterans Highway, Hauppauge, N.Y. The actual resolution reflecting appropriation of the funding is I.R 1453, (a copy of which is attached), which all community members may come out to speak in favor of.

Should the resolution pass out of committee, it will be before the full legislature on Tuesday, August 3, at the same location, beginning at 9:30. All residents are welcome to speak at the public portion, or later when the resolution is deliberated. This sight will be updated with the results of the vote.

Equally important to note is the work of the County Departmental crews. During the month of June, Parks Department Crew leaders and laborers cleared vegetation and debris from the Hallock Acres drainage channel. In addition, the Parks and Department crew removed obstructions from the southern most area of the wetlands, approximately 5 acres of which is in County hands. Finally, Suffolk County Department of Public Works employees cleared obstructions and silt from drainage culverts in the Village of the Branch. Stream flow improved immediately, and long term benefits will be realized when the heavy rains of fall and winter are upon us.

We will continue to remain focused on this critical effort, and look forward to your comments and suggestions.