

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: September 15, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: Leg. Pinto; B. Randolph (CEO); Comm'r. R. Butler (WCDPW); Dep. Comm'r. P. Neglia, C. Matthews, D. DeLucia (Parks); D. Kvinge (WCDP); C. Manfredi (FCWC); A. Jaffe Holmes (GNC)

Meeting called to order at 3:40 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Bronx River Pond Rehabilitation and Bank Stabilization**

Chair Abinanti opened the meeting with a discussion of proposed legislation to issue bonds to finance the design of a rehabilitation project at Crestwood Lake, located on the Bronx River in Tuckahoe and Yonkers. Mr. DeLucia described the present impaired quality of the lake, caused notably by sediment accumulation and invasive species.

Mr. DeLucia stated that through a previous study, Parks Dep't. had reviewed three alternatives to rehabilitate the lake: i) dredge lake and construct a "forebay" to capture sediment, ii) remove sediment and create series of deep pools in the center of the lake, and iii) let natural processes flow through and to remove invasive species and reconstruct an existing dam. Parks concluded that the third alternative was the most desirable, with an estimated project cost of construction is approximately \$1.5 million.

Mr. Pinto stated that an existing boom captures much material, and that several fallen trees should also be removed. He also said that the Army Corps of Engineers allowed the Town of Eastchester to raise the height of the abutting ballfields by approximately 5 feet, effectively removing flood retention by this parcel and resulting in floodwaters now emptying onto the Bronx River Parkway and nearby streets.

Upon query by Leg. Rogowsky, Mr. DeLucia stated that permits from NYSDEC will be required for the project. Leg. Rogowsky asked whether "low-head" hydro-electric power could be installed at this location, especially because of the existing dam at this

location. Mr. DeLucia stated that the elevation differential at the lake is approx. 4 feet. Comm'r. Butler said that he would include this aspect in the RFP to consultants.

Upon query by Leg. Nonna, Comm'r. Butler said that relocation of the dredge spoils, rather than ultimate disposal, will reduce project costs. Mr. DeLucia said that the bank stabilization will be achieved through various plantings. Mr. Pinto suggested scheduling a community meeting to inform the public on the project. Comm'r. Butler said he would like to use one consultant to incorporate design of this project with flood mitigation studies recently approved by the County Board.

Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Nonna, the Committee approved the legislation (all in favor).

Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting (all in favor).

Chair Abinanti adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.

[audio recording of the meeting is on file]