

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

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

A meeting of the Environment, Parks & Agriculture Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on April 24, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Anthony Piccirillo, Chairperson
Leg. Robert Trotta, Vice Chair
Leg. Bridget Fleming
Leg. Leslie Kennedy
Leg. Kara Hahn
Leg. Nicholas Caracappa
Leg. Al Krupski

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature
Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Jason D. Smagin, Commissioner/Parks Department
Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner/Department of Planning
Jocelyn Dupre, WSP/Vice President/Climate Resiliency & Sustainability
Aryeh Lemberger, WSP/Practice Lead/Traffic Engineer
Mikael Kerr, Economic Development & Planning
Harrison Tobi, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Vanessa Lockel, Director/Cornell Cooperative Extension
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski
Robert Martinez, Aide to Leg. Caracappa
Erika Hershberger, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Irene Donohue, Aide to Leg. Fleming
Derek Stein, Aide to Leg. Krupski
Ali Nazir, Aide to PO
Chris DeLuca, Aide to PO
Desiree Benn, Coindre Hall Community Group
Jennifer Quinn, public speaker
Joe Coniglione, public speaker
Riley Hughes, public speaker
Susan B. Leach, public speaker
Daniel Karpen, public speaker
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:06 AM

1
2
3 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

4 Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Monday, April 24, 2023
5 meeting of Environment, Parks & Agriculture. Could we all stand
6 for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of
7 silence.

8
9 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

10
11 **MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

12
13 Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Clerk.

14
15 **CLERK TASSONE:**

16 Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

19 Roll call, please.

09:07AM 20
21 **(Roll call by Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature)**

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

24 Present.

25
26 **LEG. TROTТА:**

27 Here.

28
29 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

09:07AM 30 Here.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 Present. Good morning.

34
35 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

36 Here.

37
38 **LEG. HAHN:**

39 Present.

09:07AM 40
41 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

42 Here.

43
44 **CLERK TASSONE:**

45 Seven.

46
47 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

48 Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Is there any correspondence?

49
09:07AM 50 **CLERK TASSONE:**

51 All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

52
53 **PUBLIC PORTION**

54
55 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

56 Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Okay, we'll start with public portion. When

1 you hear your name, please come up to the podium. You'll have
2 three minutes to address the Legislature and this Committee. First
3 up we have Jennifer Quinn. Good morning, Miss Quinn.

4
5 **JENNIFER QUINN:**
6 Good morning.

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
9 How are you?

10
11 **JENNIFER QUINN:**
12 Good, thanks. How are you?

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
15 Thank you for coming. You have three minutes, ma'am.

16
17 **JENNIFER QUINN:**
18 Sure. I don't even need three minutes. I am Dr. Quinn. I am the
19 superintendent -- I didn't write it -- I'm the proud superintendent
09:08AM 20 of the Comsewogue School District. I was Dr. Rella's assistant for
21 my entire career at Comsewogue. I followed him from the high
22 school to district office and ultimately when he retired became the
23 superintendent. I felt that you should get an understanding of the
24 person that you're voting on today so we have a very brief video
25 that we're going to show it. It's a three-minutes video.

26
27 And I just want to end with, you know, many people who go into
28 education, it's our goal to leave a legacy and a good memory. Dr.
09:08AM 29 Rella was by far the kindest, most intelligent, just best person
30 that I have ever met in my entire life. And I was up at the high
31 school for an event on Saturday and just kind of walking around.
32 We lost him four years ago. And the amount of art work that our
33 students are still hanging in our school is amazing. I mean, this
34 was hanging. This, the class of 2024, forever Rella, love the
35 class of 2024. You know, they're still continuing to talk about
36 him, to remember him. He was an inspirational leader and, you
37 know, it would just be such a great honor for our community and our
38 school district, so. Thank you for your consideration.

39
09:09AM 40 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
41 Thank you very much for your time today. We appreciate it. Any
42 questions? Seeing none, next is Joe Coniglione. Mr. Coniglione,
43 are you here? Good morning. Thank you for coming. You have three
44 minutes, sir.

45
46 **JOE CONIGLIONE:**
47 Thank you very for providing us the opportunity to speak here today
48 on behalf of the occasion that could be incredibly monumental for
09:09AM 49 our community. The Green Belt Trail is something that provides a
50 community with access to so many great things. It's a safe place
51 where people in a community can enhance their lives. So it's very
52 fitting that there's a possibility that the Terryville one could be
53 in honor of Dr. Joseph Rella.

54
55 Joe embodied all of those beliefs. He started Day of Community
56 Service where the Comsewogue students give back to their community.

1 He was all about community, bringing people together and making
2 sure that each person had the ability to live the best life
3 possible in that community. He believed nothing more than that.
4 So to have his name attached to a project that embodies all of the
5 beliefs that he really stood for would be a tremendous honor. And
6 it would make obviously our school district, our community and
7 especially his family, and his son is here today that would make
8 him very proud. So we thank you again for our opportunity to speak
9 here on behalf of what, you know, Joe was and still is because he's
10 still a tremendous influence in our community. So, thank you.

09:10AM

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

13 Thank you very much, Mr. Coniglione. And we appreciate it. Any
14 questions? Seeing none. Next up, Riley Hughes. Miss Hughes? All
15 right. Good morning, ma'am, you have three minutes.

16
17 **RILEY HUGHES:**

18 Good morning. I'm a senior at Comsewogue High School. When I
19 think of Comsewogue, I think of Dr. Rella. Not only was he the
20 face of our school district, he was the soul. As a student you
21 very rarely know who the superintendent is, let alone know the
22 history of them. Dr. Rella started out as a part-time music
23 teacher and then moved onto a full-time teacher. He then became a
24 principal and then the superintendent, all while living and serving
25 in the same community.

09:11AM

26
27 As a student, Dr. Rella was always available, always visible and
28 was highly involved in school activities across the genre from arts
29 to sports. It was common for him to play piano in everything from
30 elementary school plays to high school plays; to accompanying
31 students in NYSMA competitions. As a young student you don't
32 necessarily understand the impacts these actions have on you, but
33 they impact and shape you without you knowing it until you reach
34 the age when perspective is found. In some way I feel for Dr.
35 Quinn as she has a very difficult job following the legend Dr.
36 Rella was. I believe that the request is fitting and deserving,
37 would honor the legacy of a man who so positively influenced
38 thousands of students as well as a community as a whole. Thank
39 you.

09:11AM

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

42 Great job, Riley. Thank you. Next up, Susan Leach.

43
44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 Mr. Chair?

46
47 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

48 Yes, Legislator Krupski.

49
50 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

51 If I could, I'd just like to -- just compliment, this is for
52 Sitings --

09:12AM

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

55 Yes.

1
2 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

3 But whoever had -- did the outreach for this, I just want to thank
4 them.

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

7 Legislator Hahn's the brainstorm.
8

9 **LEG. HAHN:**

10 Me.
11

12 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

13 Legislator Hahn, thank you. Because a lot of times for Sitings
14 Committee, we get a text, "Hey, we'd like to rename this after so
15 and so," and that's the extent of the information we're working on.
16 So I just want to thank you for getting some community support
17 there to explain why this is important.
18

19 **LEG. HAHN:**

20 Thank you.
21

22 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

23 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Next
24 up, Susan Leach. Good morning, Miss Leach, you have three minutes,
25 ma'am.
26

27 **SUSAN LEACH:**

28 Good morning. My name is Susan Leach. And I'm here today on
29 behalf of the Coindre Hall Park community. Stewards of the Coindre
30 Hall Park are a volunteer, unpaid 503(c) not-for-profit group; has
31 been actively responsible for the care and protection of Coindre
32 Hall Park.
33

34 Every week we conduct multiple trash cleanups and invasive plant
35 removal. We report to the DEC and the County on issues that
36 present hazards in the park such as the wetlands being damaged by
37 storage materials or concerns about the park such as people driving
38 dirt bikes and cars on the grassy hill behind the mansion. We
39 promote awareness of Coindre Hall Park to the public and are
40 actively involved in taking steps to protect the invaluable
41 wetlands and provide free unpaid support to the county and care of
42 the grounds at the park.
43

44 We are asking the county to provide our not-for-profit
45 organizations space in the mansion. The space request is for three
46 uses. One, storage space for our equipment purchased by our
47 organization at our own cost used in the maintenance of the park;
48 two, access to the restroom in the mansion where we have our own
49 key. It is not convenient or practical to have to knock at the
50 door and hope that someone from Lessings or one of the other
51 not-for-profits allow us in, hear the knocking to use the bathroom.
52 Recently actually it was the case and no one answered the door.
53 The use of restrooms in the mansion would be for when our members
54 are working on the invasive plant removal or trash removal on the
55 grounds. Without bathroom access our members doing the work now
56 have to drive home to use their bathrooms and some people come

1 actually from quite far away. As you know, Suffolk County is a big
2 place.

3
4 Use of the meeting room -- the third request is for use of a
5 meeting room or office space in which to conduct our weekly
6 organizational meetings typically attended by around a dozen people
7 in person or on Zoom. Currently our group is using the meeting
8 room at the public library and recently paid hundreds of dollars to
9 rent space for at the Unitarian Fellowship for a really wonderful
09:14AM 10 presentation which was free to the public about Coindre Hall Park.
11 It was presented presented by the naturalist, David Jakim, and it
12 was very well attended, a presentation that was hosted by our
13 organization, to educate and promote awareness about the unique
14 aspects of the wetlands at the property at Coindre Hall Park.

15
16 There's currently a void in care for the necessary care of the
17 grounds at Coindre Hall Park. This void in care is currently being
18 filled by our volunteer community group, evidence that the Coindre
19 Hall Park community role and partnership with the county is a vital
09:15AM 20 one. We request the support of the county and the cooperation in
21 our valid, appropriate and necessary request for the space in the
22 mansion. As you know, there are other -- several other
23 not-for-profits that have leases and space in the mansion at no
24 cost to them for rent. But with arrangements that benefit
25 supposedly the taxpayer in lieu of payment for rent as the
26 designated custodian of Coindre Hall, the mansion, the
27 not-for-profit Splashes of Hope is tasked with maintaining the
28 museum at Coindre Hall on page six, section 2 (a) of their lease --
29

09:16AM 30 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
31 Your three minutes is up, ma'am.

32
33 **SUSAN LEACH:**
34 Okay.

35
36 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
37 Any questions?

38
39 **SUSAN LEACH:**
09:16AM 40 Could I finish? It's like one more second. Like 30 seconds.

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
43 You can wrap up, go ahead.

44
45 **SUSAN LEACH:**
46 Okay. I'm paraphrasing. The county grants to the licensee and
47 licensee accepts the department, yada yada. They're supposed to be
48 providing and managing a public museum; promotes the history and
49 preservation of the site. There is space in the mansion for
09:16AM 50 Coindre Hall Park Community, the only non-profit that directly
51 benefits the county-owned property, caring for the grounds of the
52 mansion. I have copies of the lease which I brought.

53
54 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
55 You can give them to the Clerk. She'll pass them out.

1 **SUSAN LEACH:**
2 I don't know if there's quite enough. I think there's nine copies.

3
4 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
5 We'll share.

6
7 **SUSAN LEACH:**
8 Thank you.

9
10 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
11 Save a tree.

12
13 **SUSAN LEACH:**
14 Oh, actually I have more. Thank you.

15
16 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
17 Thank you. Next is Desiree Benn. Good morning, Miss Benn. You
18 have three minutes, ma'am.

19
09:16AM 20 **DESIREE BENN:**
21 Good morning. My name is Desiree Benn, President of Coindre Hall
22 Park Community. Coindre Hall Park Community was formed out of
23 concern for the lack of maintenance of the grounds and exterior of
24 Coindre Hall mansion. We have stepped into fill this void as a
25 service to the Suffolk County taxpayer. Our actions thus far have
26 benefitted the general public who utilize the park at considerable
27 -- at considerable expense to our organization, whose sole focus is
28 the Coindre Haul property.

29
09:17AM 30 We are requesting access to the bathroom for volunteers. And on
31 May the 20th we would like access to the bathrooms. We have an
32 event with the Sierra Club and you're all invited. You don't have
33 to pull invasives but you could just find out about them. We are
34 requesting a place to put our work carts and equipment which have
35 been purchased by our group for the sole purpose of removing
36 invasives in the park. There is no public access to bathrooms at
37 this site. We are requesting office space for volunteers to meet
38 and discuss work on the property; issues and solutions with the
39 property; and landscape plans that we are developing using metrics
09:18AM 40 we have commissioned from studies; public space within the mansion
41 -- and also public space within the mansion for ecological
42 presentations about the park. On page 6 of the Suffolk County
43 Historic Trust Manual states, and I quote, "It should be the policy
44 of the Historic Trust not to do things that the local community can
45 do but to assist local communities in their preservation efforts."
46 We ask that this policy be followed and we humbly ask for
47 assistance by having access to bathrooms.

48
09:18AM 49 Coindre Hall mansion is an 80,000 square foot mansion with 40
50 rooms. We are the only group that is dedicated to the maintenance
51 of the grounds of the property which is a full-time job. I will
52 hand out pictures for the Clerk to have dirt bikers, ATV riders,
53 potholes in the driveway, potholes on the lawn and dumping and so
54 forth. I haven't yet reported it to the Commissioner. We have a
55 steward report form. I haven't yet done that, but it just goes to
56 the show that this is -- it requires maintenance; it requires

1 someone there and we've been watching out for the place. We
2 understand that Splashes of Hope is the current custodian of the
3 mansion. They are not tasked with its care of the exterior or care
4 of the grounds. Their actual mission is to provide a healing
5 environment through arts. Arrangements with lessees must have
6 Suffolk County taxpayers at the center. We believe that the
7 lessees, though appropriate at one time, the leases are outdated
8 and need to reflect the needs of the properties and the benefit for
9 Suffolk County taxpayer.

09:20AM

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

12 Thank you, Miss Benn. Any questions? I have one. How far is the
13 Gold Star Beach bathrooms from where you are in case somebody needs
14 to go?

15
16 **DESIREE BENN:**

17 The Gold Star Beach bathrooms are --

18
19 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

20 It's adjacent to where you are, right?

09:20AM

21
22 **DESIREE BENN:**

23 I don't know how --

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

26 Just in case; an emergency, if somebody can't get in the bathroom
27 at Coindre Hall.

28
29 **DESIREE BENN:**

30 But they're not always open.

09:20AM

31
32 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

33 They're not open at Gold Star either.

34
35 **DESIREE BENN:**

36 No, they're not always open.

37
38 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

39 Okay.

40
41 **DESIREE BENN:**

42 So, there's no reliable bathroom. If you knock on the door of
43 Coindre Hall, no one may answer. I've been able to get into the
44 gym. They have a bathroom. But only if they're having pickle ball
45 tournaments.

46
47 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

48 Right.

49
50 **DESIREE BENN:**

51 If you're good, you can get in. But while we're doing volunteer
52 work, as it gets hotter and a larger group comes, the Sierra Club
53 want to come and they ask "Do you have a bathroom?" And the Boy
54 Scouts want to -- even though they won't be pulling invasives, they
55 want to do often ornithology badges there; so anyone who's coming
56 from any distance for any period of time would like the bathroom.

1 And the Gold Star Beach bathroom isn't always open. So just -- for
2 now it's something that requires people putting their heads
3 together.

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
6 Yes.

7
8 **DESIREE BENN:**
9 Perhaps a key for when -- you know, one person can be in charge of,
10 I can be in charge when I'm there, when the volunteers are there,
11 just open up the gym. And it doesn't have to, you know -- or some
12 place.

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
15 Okay, we'll speak to the Parks Commissioner.

16
17 **DESIREE BENN:**
18 Thank you.

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
21 Thank you for your time. Next is Daniel Karpen. Mr. Karpen. Good
22 morning, Mr. Karpen. You have three minutes, sir.

23
24 **DANIEL KARPEN:**
25 Good morning. My name is Daniel Karpen. I'm a licensed
26 professional engineer. Welcome to the Daniel Karpen Show direct
27 from the Suffolk County Legislature. I'd like to talk about
28 Coindre Hall and the boathouse. The restoration of the seawall was
29 considered ordinary maintenance repair. However, when the seawall
30 was rebuilt, there was also a road added, an access road of
31 recycled concrete aggregate and crushed gravel.

32
33 That road, as I have told the entire Legislature, was illegal
34 segmentation in violation of the State Environmental Quality Review
35 Act. The problem with Coindre Hall is that there's no long-range
36 plan for the management of this property. I'd like to hand out
37 Onondaga Landfill versus Flacke, which is the key court decision in
38 New York State regarding illegal segmentation. Because the road
39 was put in in violation of Onondaga Landfills versus Flacke and
40 also the fact that it was a -- not a Type II Action. Because a
41 Type II Action cannot include the repaving of existing highways not
42 involving the addition of new traffic lanes. So that's a Type II
43 Action if you're just repaving existing highways, not involving the
44 addition of new travel lanes.

45
46 But the County put in this road. And that's a violation of the
47 State Environmental Quality Review Act. All that recycle like
48 concrete aggregate and the gravel must be removed in violation of
49 State Environmental Quality Review Act. And I want to know from
50 the Parks Department when they're going to take it out? Because
51 they put it in illegally; ought to know. When are they going to
52 correct their mistakes they made? And this mistake is a key
53 problem in terms of the management of the park. The problem is is
54 there's nobody in the Parks Department who truly understands the
55 State Environmental Quality Review Act and the machinery which it
56 operates. If somebody had truly understood what the State

1 Environmental Quality Review Act was all about, they would have not
2 put in that road. It's just a disaster, disaster in terms of a
3 lack of administration; a lack of knowledge; and the fact that
4 basically, unfortunately, the Parks Department really doesn't care
5 about taking care of their parks. Thank you. Any questions from
6 anybody?

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

9 Have a nice day. Would anyone else like to address the Committee
10 this morning? Seeing none, we're going to move into our agenda.
11 Legislator Hahn, do you want to take Dr. Rella's IR out of order so
12 that the people here can see the video and we'll do it first?
13 Yeah.

14
15 **LEG. HAHN:**

16 I'd like to make a motion to take IR 1242 out of order if that's
17 okay.

18
19 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

20 But we can't vote because it hasn't gone through Sitings.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

23 We can discharge it without recommendation.

24
25 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

26 Okay, perfect. Okay.

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

29 I just need a motion to take **1242 out of order.**

30
31 **LEG. HAHN:**

32 Motion.

33
34 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

35 Motion by Legislator Hahn; second by Legislator Krupski. All those
36 in favor? Opposed? Absentions?

37
38 **CLERK TASSONE:**

39 Seven. (7-0-0-0)

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

42 1242 is now before us. If we can play that three-minute video and
43 then we will vote to discharge without recommendation.

44
45 **LEG. HAHN:**

46 And if you don't mind, if you don't mind, I would, you know, like
47 to --

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

50 Absolutely, the floor is yours.

51
52 **LEG. HAHN:**

53 Thank you very much and thank you to Dr. Quinn, to Joe Coniglione,
54 to Riley, to Richie Rella for being here and everyone. I know we
55 could probably fill this auditorium if need be to pass this. And I
56 don't think we will need to because Dr. Rella's reputation precedes

1 this legislation. And folks here at the horseshoe have heard
2 wonderful things about him. And I'll just add a few words of my
3 own, that in many ways may repeat what's been said here, but I'd
4 like to put an exclamation point on it.

5
6 Dr. Rella was caring, compassionate, considerate,
7 community-oriented. He was a true champion for Comsewogue. He was
8 absolutely beloved in our community. Every child in Comsewogue
9 School District knew Dr. Rella cared; that he loved them; that he
09:26AM 10 believed in them; that he respected them and expected their respect
11 back. He was fair. He encouraged. He modeled and he led. He
12 found a genuine connection with everyone he met and he used that to
13 connect others and create a strong sense of solidarity. As you
14 heard, Rella, he was a music teacher when he first came to the
15 Comsewogue School District and eventually rose to take positions as
16 principal, then assistant superintendent and finally retired as
17 superintendent in 2019 after a total of 25 years of service. Not
18 an unusually long tenure, but truly that's what makes his legacy
19 remarkable. Becoming a community and education icon. He was a
09:27AM 20 local rock star. And as you heard Riley said, a legend.

21
22 Among Rella's many accomplishments, which I certainly can't list
23 all, you know, he helped get Comsewogue School District a Middle
24 State accreditation, a designation of educational excellence
25 bestowed on schools that meet rigorous and comprehensive standards
26 in the mid-Atlantic region. Dr. Rella was a fighter for public
27 school educators, parents and, most of all, students. He was a
28 leader in the Opt Out testing movement fighting against common core
29 and high stakes testing. And that movement spread across Long
09:28AM 30 Island and most of New York State. He was described as one of the
31 most courageous and inspiring educators ever met.

32
33 You know, I think I'm going to just read one sentence of something
34 he said about the testing. And no matter how you came down on that
35 issue, I think you'll recognize from this sentence, that he wrote
36 "Young children will receive the clear message that since these
37 tests are predictors of college success, they are not college
38 material in the third, fourth or fifth grade???!!" That message
39 is unconscionable and it is hurtful to our children. Everything
09:29AM 40 Dr. Rella did, said, modeled, led on came from a place in his heart
41 of love and caring for his students and our community.

42
43 And that is why we would like to rename this park that sits behind
44 the high school after Dr. Rella. I knew him personally when, you
45 know, as a music teacher when I came to him to create a concert
46 series in Port Jefferson Station; one of the -- the only community
47 in my district that did not have its own summer concert series. He
48 said "How can I help and let's do it at JFK Middle School." It's
49 since grown and has moved to the park behind the train car, but he
09:29AM 50 helped make that happen and he knew the importance of community and
51 a sense of place.

52
53 I could continue to go on but I hope my words have given my
54 colleagues a sense of the man who we are honoring with this
55 renaming and will support me in the effort. Just to explain to the
56 folks who came here today, this bill needs to go before our Sitings

1 Committee, which takes place this afternoon, unfortunately after
2 our Committee so we're going to discharge without recommendation.
3 That will not in any way reflect how we feel about the naming.
4 It's just a procedural way to get it to move out of this committee
5 and onto the Sitings Committee and then onto the floor of the full
6 Legislature. So with that, I ask that my colleagues support the
7 motion and thank you.

8
9 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

09:30AM 10 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. That was wonderful. Legislator
11 Caracappa.

12
13 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

14 Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Though I didn't know Dr. Joseph V.
15 Rella personally, his reputation absolutely precedes him. And
16 everything I have heard about this man has been positive. And I'll
17 say that anyone who commits their life's work to the education,
18 advancement of our youth, is a person who lived a rich life by
19 enriching the lives and the experiences throughout our children's
09:31AM 20 journey and education and creating memories that will last a
21 lifetime.

22
23 So by agreeing and voting in favor and supporting this measure to
24 name this trail after Dr. V. Rella, we are just advancing and
25 holding onto that memory; and ones that people can share and go
26 back and reflect on. So I stand in full support of this,
27 Legislator Hahn. And I can appreciate just by your comments and
28 the comments of others how important this really is to the
29 community. So, thank you for this.

09:32AM 30
31 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

32 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Anyone else? Seeing none, okay,
33 IT you want to help us play that video or -- Mr. Clerk, would you
34 be able to do that? It's always the quiet ones you gotta watch out
35 for.

36
37 **VIDEO PRESENTATION**

38
39 **APPLAUSE**

40
41 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

42 Thank you very much. Appreciate it. So I'm going to entertain a
43 motion to discharge this resolution without recommendation. Motion
44 by Legislator Hahn; second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in
45 favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

46
47 **CLERK TASSONE:**

48 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

09:36AM 49
50 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

51 1242 is discharged without recommendation. Congratulations,
52 Legislator Hahn.

53
54 **APPLAUSE**

55
56 **PRESENTATIONS**

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

3 Okay, we're going to go back to presentations. The first
4 presentation is Harrison Tobi, lead researcher Cornell Cooperative
5 Extension of Suffolk County, to give a presentation update on the
6 bay scallop restoration project. Come right to the table, sir.
7 Vanessa's here, too, come on down. You want to sit at the table,
8 you can. Whatever you want. You got it. Just hit the button
9 there.

10
11 **HARRISON TOBI:**

12 There we go.

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

15 There we go.

16
17 **HARRISON TOBI:**

18 All right.

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

21 Just state your name for the record, please.

22
23 **HARRISON TOBI:**

24 Hi, my name is Harrison Tobi. I am the lead shellfish researcher
25 for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's bay scallop
26 restoration program. First, I just, you know, want to thank you
27 guys for having me today. I really appreciate it. But I also want
28 to really address that, like, everything I'm about to present today
29 has been made possible because of you guys. So, thank you so much
30 for all of your support over the years. I know I'm new to the
31 program, but I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your support. And
32 I really appreciate everything you have done so far in moving
33 forward.

34
35 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

36 Thank you, Mr. Tobi.

37
38 **HARRISON TOBI:**

39 Perfect. Let's get it into presentation mode. So I think we can
40 go through the introductory slide now. All right, so I'm sure a
41 lot of you are probably familiar with bay scallops. They're very
42 iconic on Long Island and throughout, you know, wherever their
43 native ranges are. But we're going to be talking about genetics
44 today later on in this presentation so it's very important we
45 address the fact that there are two subspecies of bay scallops
46 throughout their native range from Maine through the Gulf of
47 Mexico. But on Long Island we have the northern bay scallop. And
48 its native range is Maine through North Carolina. So these two
49 subspecies are very important once we start talking about genetics.

50
51 But historically it was a very profitable and sustainable fishery.
52 This fishery was very important to local economies and communities.
53 However, throughout the 1980s and 1990s there were a series of wild
54 fishery collapses throughout its native range. Primarily these
55 collapses in the '80s and '90s were due to harmful algae blooms and
56 the subsequent habitat degradation that followed.

1
2 Just kind of outlining my discussion topics, I know we're short on
3 time, so I'm just going to address them as we go through them. But
4 our first discussion topic, we'll just be going over the bay
5 scallop culturing and planting we do at Cornell. So it all starts
6 at the hatchery. The hatchery is probably the most important
7 component of our culturing process, primarily the algae culturing.
8 So Mike Patricio is the manager of the bay scallop hatchery in
9 Southold. He does amazing work. He's basically God. Don't tell
09:38AM 10 him that, though. He cares for the algae year-round. Most of the
11 year it's in tiny little flasks, but towards this time of the year
12 he's really working hard to bump up production.

13
14 On the upper right-hand corner that's actually our sea cap system
15 and all of those large bags are full of algae, which will be food
16 for the broodstock. So I just went and collected broodstock last
17 week from Mikey. It was wild scallops. We like to use wild
18 scallops to ensure we're not hitting any genetic drift or genetic
09:39AM 19 bottlenecks. So by getting the wild ones it kind of helps with
20 that. And Mikey will be conditioning those broodstock using the
21 algae that he's been caring for year-round. And then once he
22 spawns those scallops out, the algae will be used to take care of
23 the larvae and then the post settlement phase as well.

24
25 So in the lower left-hand corner you're actually looking at one of
26 our downweller systems. It's a nursery system inside of our
27 hatchery. The scallops will stay there for a couple of weeks. And
28 then we move them out to our intermediate grow out site at Cedar
09:39AM 29 Creek, also in Southold. Mike will take care of them there in
30 commercial aquaculture gear for about three weeks or until ten
31 millimeters in shell height. And then Mike will hand them off to
32 Ben Brannon and Joe Hym who take them out to our Orient Harbor grow
33 out site. If you've ever driven out towards the Orient Harbor
34 ferry and you're going across the causeway heading east and you
35 look off to your right, you'll see rows and rows and rows of buoys.
36 Well, there's thousands of lantern nets out there and at times
37 almost a million scallops.

38
09:40AM 39 So we keep the scallops out there for 3 to 16 months. The reason
40 there's age variation is because we plant scallops at different
41 times. So a large portion we plant as juveniles in that first
42 year. We also keep adults through their second year as well. And
43 we call our Orient Harbor long line site the spawner sanctuary
44 because those adults will spawn when they're out there. And a
45 really fundamental part of bay scallop reproduction is that the
46 adults need to be near each other to ensure successful cross
47 fertilization. So by having them in nets, the long lines, it
48 ensures that at least one population of scallops out in the
09:40AM 49 Peconics is successfully spawning and helping to contribute to
50 local recruitment. And then again when we look at the numbers we
51 plant annually of adult and juveniles, it's around 700,000 a year.
52 And since the initiation of the program in 2005, that would be over
53 ten million scallops Cornell Cooperative Extension has planted.

54
55 So now we're going to go onto the second portion of just the County
56 project, which is our population monitoring. So these are done via

1 benthic dive surveys. We get in our scuba gear and we dive down.
2 We document juvenile and adult scallop densities. We also document
3 bottom type and bottom characteristics and changes over time. This
4 can be very important. We also document predator type and
5 prevalence as well. So these monitorings happen -- they're the
6 same procedures but there's two types. So we do biannual
7 monitoring, which occurs in May, so I'm actually going to be
8 starting next week. And then we do a fall survey as well in
9 October right before harvest season so they can get an idea of what
10 the baymen will be seeing out there for their fishing. And this is
11 21 sites, Flanders all the way through Hallock. We also do monthly
12 surveys as well. This was very important during the mass die-offs
13 that we've been seeing and I'll get into detail on that. This
14 typically ranges from three to six sites depending on what other
15 research goals we have. But we always have our three main sites,
16 which are Orient Harbor Causeway, Barcelona Point and Northwest
17 Harbor and then Cow Yard Flanders.

18
19 So moving on we'll go to our recent and current field observations.
20 So we just talked about the northern bay scallop; now we're
21 narrowing our lens down into the Peconic Bay scallop populations.
22 They are northern bay scallops. We're just trying to focus in.
23 Same as with the northern when we went over that. Historically
24 valuable fishery; however, a series of Brown Tide events in the
25 '80s and '90s drove the Peconic populations to near local
26 extinction. And they stayed at very, very, very low levels. And
27 this led to the initiation of CCE restoration program in 2005
28 spearheaded by Chris Smith and Dr. Tettelbach. And that led to
29 the subsequent recovery of the fishery. So, again, 2005 initiation
30 of the program. Moving forward we see some variation. Scallops,
31 bay scallops, can just have some slight variation year to year, but
32 if look at the overall trend, pretty successful increase in
33 commercial landings. Here we're looking at pounds per -- pounds of
34 meat by the thousands per harvest year.

35
36 And then comes 2019 and onwards. And that was our first mass
37 die-off year. And I'm going to go into quite a bit of detail on
38 what we believe now is causing that and where we're going to go
39 with that information we now have. So this is a graph -- it's
40 showing a similar story to the last one just in different metrics.
41 So I was talking about our benthic surveys. These were -- the gray
42 bars represent adult scallop densities in our fall surveys. And
43 then the black line represents commercial landings but in dollars.
44 So this is by the thousands of dollars and not by the thousands of
45 pounds. And what I'm kind of just trying to show here is that our
46 fall surveys tend to be a pretty good predictor of what we're going
47 to be seeing in commercial landings.

48
49 So that is why the decreases we've been seeing since 2019 are
50 pretty concerning. So between -- this is looking at the decrease
51 between our spring surveys in May and our fall surveys in October.
52 So the difference that happens over those summer months. So in
53 2019 we saw a 94 percent reduction in adult bay scallop densities;
54 97 in 2020; 95 percent in 2021; and 99 percent in 2022. So, again,
55 these are differences between the spring and the fall. But this is
56 why we do those monthly surveys so we can kind of narrow it down to

1 kind of figure out, piece out at what point during these summer
2 months are these die-offs occurring. And I have a figure coming up
3 later. Likely due to mass mortality events in summer months. So
4 now we'll move onto the likely causes. So I'll go into detail on
5 all of these, not a ton, because I know we're short on time. But
6 there's a microparasite now that we're documenting increasing
7 year-round water temperatures, not just during the summer, but
8 coupled with elevated water temperature comes low DO. As water
9 gets warmer it's ability to hold oxygen goes down. And then
09:45AM 10 spawning stress. So all of these are happening at the same time
11 and I'll show that in just a minute.
12

13 So we now kind of believe the main culprit is actually this
14 microparasite. So Dr. Bassem Allam of Stony Brook University, the
15 Marine Animal Disease Laboratory has provided a letter of support
16 for our program today, but his lab, his wife, Dr. Pales Espinosa,
17 she actually was the first one to do the genetics and kind of
18 figure out that this is a new parasite never documented before.
19 They gave it a name bay scallop micro-sporidia. This was first
09:46AM 20 documented in 2019, which was the first mass die-off year and has
21 been documented every year since. It's a microparasite. It's an
22 apicomplexan parasite, I won't go into too much detail on that, but
23 it infects the tissue. So it infects the abductor muscle and all
24 the other tissues but primarily it infects the kidneys. So it
25 impacts all life functions, which is really detrimental obviously.
26 But what we're looking at here, also, is when infection intensity
27 is highest, this may or may not be a surprise, the summer months.
28 So, I won't go into detail too much on what that graph in the lower
29 right-hand corner represents, but it's pretty straightforward. You
09:46AM 30 have an intensity scale zero to three. And as you can see, June
31 through more or less August, we're seeing a pretty steady increase
32 in very high intensity levels in the scallops we're sampling.
33

34 So we have the parasite. We also have elevated summer water
35 temperatures. And even if it's not crazy abnormal high water
36 temperatures, it's still we're getting all of this stuff all at the
37 same time. And then I mentioned spawning stress. So what this
38 graph in the lower right-hand corner represent are the gonadal
39 indices of scallops we sample. These scallops would be aquaculture
09:47AM 40 scallops we plant at three different locations: Orient Harbor,
41 Northwest Harbor and Cow Yard. And every two weeks we go out and
42 we do gonadal indices. But what I really want you to focus on here
43 is, are the peaks and valleys. So as we see the GI indices go up
44 and then we see that quick drop, it means they're spawning out.
45 So, from this graph we can kind of infer that they're spawning in
46 the month of July.
47

48 And on the lower left-hand corner is one of the graphs representing
49 our monthly population surveys. This is data from 2021 and 2022.
09:48AM 50 And as you can see by August, it's almost zero. So if we can kind
51 of, again, make an inference that these mass mortality events are
52 occurring around the month of July when the parasite intensity is
53 highest, when water temperature is highest, and then there's
54 spawning. So Emanuel or Dr. Pales Espinosa, she labeled it a
55 perfect storm. So we're next. You know, it just kind of seems
56 like doom and gloom, but it's really not. Now that we kind of have

1 an understanding of what is going on, we can start to adapt our
2 management strategies and start creating new experiments that focus
3 on solutions instead of just the problem and that's what we're
4 currently doing.

5
6 So, we have two new -- new and upcoming projects. I say upcoming,
7 they're actually underway already. We have a fall spawn versus
8 summer spawn project that started last year. We also have a
9 restorative breeding program, which is a massive collaborative
09:49AM 10 project with Dr. Allam at the Marine Animal Disease Laboratory and
11 this also started last year. So we already saw this graph and we
12 are looking at the summer spawn. When we're talking about fall
13 spawns, you know, you can see, again, that peak and valley so these
14 scallops likely spawned in the month of September. And that's what
15 we're going to be talking about when we refer to fall spawns. But
16 why do we care about fall spawns? So if we're losing all the adult
17 scallops in the summer months, we might be losing robust fall
18 spawns in general. And in addition to that, we still don't even
19 really understand what role they play in population dynamics. So
09:49AM 20 if we lose them, we lose the ability to understand them. And I
21 think we have a pretty good example. I mean, obviously this isn't
22 concrete, it's not published, but I think we have a pretty good
23 example of importance within the Peconic data that we have from the
24 past 15, 20 years.

25
26 And you remember I was talking about in red numbers because it was
27 bad, we were talking about the decreases in adult scallop densities
28 between our spring and fall surveys. So what was interesting is in
29 2017 and 2018 multiple sites actually saw an increase in adult
09:50AM 30 scallop densities. So adult scallops they live -- in general
31 scallops live 18 to 24 months. So it's kind of confusing how can
32 you get an increase in adult scallops within one year, doesn't that
33 mean they're probably juveniles. Well, the answer is no.
34 So what we're seeing here is we saw an increase as high as 943
35 percent at one of our sites in 2017 and 958 percent increase in
36 2018.

37
38 So, what Dr. Tettelbach hypothesizes is that we're seeing these
39 increases because these scallops, a large majority, were from fall
09:50AM 40 spawns. So if you're born, if you're a scallop and you're born in
41 June, you have the entire summer to grow before winter. And then
42 in winter growth stops. So a scallop born in June, say I'm diving
43 next week, they could be anywhere from 35 to 57 millimeters in
44 shell height. However, one from a fall spawn that's born in
45 September or October might be five to ten millimeters. So your
46 eye, it trains itself, you're down there, you're diving, you might
47 overlook the small ones because you're subconsciously training your
48 eye to find the big ones. And Steve believes that this is why they
49 saw the increase in those two years. Also, these were the two
09:51AM 50 years prior to the mass die-offs as well.

51
52 So the kind of field plan and potential benefits of this project I
53 think we already kind of went over some of the benefits but this
54 project we will -- I'm actually deploying the screw anchors
55 tomorrow out of multiple locations so I'll be diving tomorrow
56 morning. What we're going to do is comparative field studies. So

1 last year we spawned our typical spawn at CCE in June, but we also
2 did a not typical spawn in October. And we're going to be taking
3 scallops from each of those cohorts, the June cohort, the October
4 cohort, putting them in aquaculture gear on the bottom, running
5 them side by side. Every two weeks we'll go out, we'll sample for
6 survival. What's nice about keeping them in the aquaculture gear
7 is they can't swim away. Scallops can swim so keeping them in one
8 spot allows for us to kind of assess their survival over time.

09:52AM 9
10 But we're also going to look at parasite intensity. And the reason
11 parasite intensity could be important to look at is when you look
12 at the graph, again, we already saw this graph, but if the parasite
13 intensity is highest in the summer months and you're born in June,
14 your window of infection is much larger than if you're born in
15 September or October. So scallop born in September or October
16 might not even have exposure to the parasite, which is important
17 moving into that second year when they go to spawn. So scallops
18 allocate their resources away from survival and towards spawning.
19 But if you're already infected with a parasite and you're
09:52AM 20 constantly battling that, you're already have a reduction in energy
21 reserves. So, if a scallop is born in the fall, it might have
22 higher energy reserves to fight infection and help mitigate all
23 those summer stressors and survive to the fall. This could lead to
24 them contributing to future fall spawns. But the real goal of all
25 of this research is to bring back the commercial fishery. So if
26 they're born in the fall, and they survive to the second fall and
27 they're able to be harvested, that's fantastic news for everyone.

09:53AM 28
29 And then this is the big project, this one's huge. This is our
30 restorative breeding project with Dr. Allam. We're using genetics
31 and parasitology work to kind of piece through all of this. The
32 first big step is we're trying to identify genetically unique Long
33 Island populations. One thing that I really want to emphasize,
34 too, is that all the scallops we use for these projects all come
35 from Long Island. We're not doing any genetic modification.
36 They're not from other states. We're focusing just on fixing the
37 problem within Long Island using Long Island resources.

09:53AM 38
39 So, first we're trying to identify unique populations around Long
40 Island. Dr. Allam sent out 900 samples back in January. I won't
41 even say how much he spent for that but it was a lot of money. So
42 it's very generous of him to do that. But another big thing is
43 that we want to identify genetics that promote increased survival.
44 And what we're looking at here, it's a little confusing, he's much
45 better at explaining it than I am, but basically let's focus on the
46 upper right-hand figure. Each color, each dot represents scallop;
47 each color represents a time point. So what I really want us to
48 focus on are the yellow dots in that upper right-hand corner. All
49 of these scallops are from the same spawn at Cornell hatchery.
09:54AM 50 They're not from -- you know, they all share the same parents but
51 genetic variation can occur within, you know, siblings. I mean, my
52 sister has had COVID three times and gets very sick. I don't. You
53 know, genetic variation happens within the same parents or the same
54 progeny.

55
56 So the yellow dots there represent scallops we sampled in October.

1 And as you move from left to right, that represents difference in
2 dominant genes. So the ones in yellow have very different dominant
3 genes than the ones we sampled at the beginning of the year. The
4 ones in yellow are also the survivors. So those genes represented
5 in yellow might represent genes for increased survival or
6 resilience to the parasite, resilience to elevated water
7 temperature. So what we would do is we take those surviving
8 scallops, spawn them at our hatchery at Cornell, use them in all of
9 our restoration efforts and at our spawner sanctuary. So this
09:55AM 10 survival due to genetics would probably happen over time, but it
11 would be brutally slow and given just the minimal population size
12 we have now in the wild, it may never even happen. So all we're
13 really doing is speeding up natural selection with this genetic
14 restorative breeding programs.

15
16 So, where are we now with that? So, we did the trials with the
17 aquaculture scallops. We also went to areas where there had been
18 mass mortality events which is basically throughout the entire
09:56AM 19 Peconic. And Tettelbach and I last spring spent over a week diving
20 for adult scallops at these locations. And that week was spent
21 mostly underwater. And we weren't just struggling with survival of
22 the parasite and, you know, everything that came that first summer.
23 We also had to compete with the fact that baymen had already fished
24 down most of these areas. But we were able to get some and we
25 spawned multiple scallops from different locations and we've
26 created what we're calling for strains for this year. The genetic
27 work still needs to be done to identify if they really are unique.

28
09:56AM 29 But what we're doing this summer is we're doing another field
30 deployment similar to the fall spawn one. We're going to put out
31 multiple lines. And then every two weeks we're going to go out and
32 track survival. And then monthly we'll send out samples for
33 pathology and genetics to Dr. Allam. And that's going to be going
34 through October of this year. But hopefully this program will
35 continue to go on beyond just this year as well. Additionally, any
36 adult scallops we come across in the wild, we're also going to send
37 to Dr. Allam for genetic works to be done.

38
09:57AM 39 So that's about it, except for acknowledgements which are massively
40 important. I would like to obviously thank my coworkers and
41 colleagues at CCE; Peconic Estuary partnership; NRAC at the
42 Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center; National Science Foundation
43 More Charitable; my colleagues at Stony Brook, not just Dr. Allam
44 and his lab but we also do a lot of collaborative work with the
45 Peterson Lab as well and some with the Gobler Lab. But last but
46 not least, I would like to thank Suffolk County for all their
47 support of this project. And my colleagues would also at Stony
48 Brook are also very grateful for all you have done for us and
49 everyone's extremely appreciative. And thank you so much. So now
09:58AM 50 I'll take any questions.

51
52 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

53 Thank you very much for your presentation and thank you for the
54 work you do --

1 **HARRISON TOBI:**

2 Thank you.

3

4 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

5 -- for the people of Suffolk County, we appreciate it. First, we
6 have Legislator Trotta and then Legislator Krupski.

7

8 **LEG. TROTТА:**

9 Over here. Are they having this problem any place else in the
10 country?

09:58AM

11

12 **HARRISON TOBI:**

13 So the parasite has been documented in Nantucket but the water's
14 colder; much colder. So they think that that's slowing the
15 infection rate of the parasite. And they also don't have to deal
16 with as much stress from elevated water temperature as well. It's
17 just naturally colder there. So the parasite is there, but I think
18 this mesocosm, microcosm of the Peconics that we're looking at,
19 they're going to start seeing it further north. And -- go ahead.

09:58AM

20

21 **LEG. TROTТА:**

22 I'm assuming there's no way to kill this parasite?

23

24 **HARRISON TOBI:**

25 No.

26

27 **LEG. TROTТА:**

28 Okay. You mentioned that you're only using scallops from here. I
29 mean, is there a reason you don't take them from warmer waters down
30 south and test them up here?

09:58AM

31

32 **HARRISON TOBI:**

33 Yeah, so it's my understanding DEC won't allow that. And also the
34 big part -- thing --

35

36 **LEG. TROTТА:**

37 Who won't allow that?

38

39 **HARRISON TOBI:**

40 DEC. That's what I've been told, you're not allowed to import
41 subspecies into the Peconics right now.

09:59AM

42

43 **LEG. TROTТА:**

44 Right now. But, I mean, it seems to me there's scallops that grow
45 in warmer water.

46

47 **HARRISON TOBI:**

48 Correct.

49

50 **LEG. TROTТА:**

51 Our water is presumably warmer, it would just sort of be logical
52 that you would try to put something in there that would make it
53 something --

09:59AM

54

55 **HARRISON TOBI:**

56 I've floated the idea, but as for right now we're going to try to

1 -- try to use scallops from Long Island because we want to keep
2 Long Island scallops Long Island scallops.

3
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**

5 Have you ever, like, thought about, I guess the DEC would do
6 skipping a year; like when stripe bass disappeared you couldn't
7 catch them for a couple of years.

8
9 **HARRISON TOBI:**

10 That goes back to the fact they only live for two years.

11
12 **LEG. TROTТА:**

13 Oh, really?

14
15 **HARRISON TOBI:**

16 If the baymen didn't catch them, they'd just die. Natural. They
17 have natural senescence after two years. It's very precarious.

18
19 **LEG. TROTТА:**

20 All right. Thank you.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

23 Thank you, Legislator Trotta. Legislator Krupski. And then on
24 deck, Legislator Fleming.

25
26 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

27 So thank you for doing this work. I mean, this is a real legacy
28 work coming out. And you laid out your success that Cornell's had
29 in restoring the scallop population, which was such a cultural
30 shock back in the '80s when the population died. It was really --
31 it affected the whole community because people relied on that as
32 income, harvesting and opening and all that. So, you're building
33 on that legacy, which is really encouraging. And you've come a
34 long way, wow, since the first, you know, couple of years ago when
35 this die-off occurred. It's really impressive to see that kind of
36 collaboration, a scientific collaboration on trying to address the
37 problem. So thank you for all that.

38
39 **HARRISON TOBI:**

40 Thank you.

41
42 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

43 I do have a question about the predation. When they're smaller
44 with a fall spawn, is that -- are they less vulnerable to predation
45 or doesn't it matter?

46
47 **HARRISON TOBI:**

48 I would say they're as vulnerable to predation as, you know, a
49 summer -- as a summer spawn scallop would be at that size, you
50 know, probably same predators are out there. But if you're
51 comparing a 50 millimeter scallop to a five millimeter scallop,
52 you're going to have some differentiation and predation. But,
53 yeah, I would say there's probably increased predation on
54 juveniles. You see it in a typical spawn as well. So a five
55 millimeter scallop is probably going to have more predators than a
56 50 millimeter one.

1
2 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

3 Thank you. And then the other question is, I know that -- and you
4 mentioned the fall spawn being important and when the scallops
5 died-off in the '80s there was a push from, you know, you mentioned
6 Steve Tettelbach and Chris Smith, they pushed the local governments
7 to the DEC to push back the harvest, which was traditionally
8 mid-September. It was pushed back to mid-October. Then it was
9 pushed all the way back to November because of the importance of
10 that fall spawn.

10:01AM

11
12 **HARRISON TOBI:**

13 Exactly.

14
15 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

16 Do you see any, you know, any possible change to the harvest season
17 recommended because of what -- the work that you're doing or is it
18 too early to tell?

10:02AM

19
20 **HARRISON TOBI:**

21 I don't think there would be any need to change the timing of
22 harvest. I mean, scallops more or less by November they're not
23 really eating that much anymore and they're almost going dormant.
24 And also the selectivity of dredges, you know, a scallops that's
25 five millimeters is going to go right through the dredge. So I
26 don't see any need as of right now or even moving forward to really
27 change the timing of harvest. And, I mean, the whole idea is to
28 promote harvest. And I think that we need to keep it how it is
29 right now, but moving forward, you know, we can adapt if necessary.

10:02AM

30
31 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

32 Great. Thank you very much. And thanks for your work. This is
33 really important and encouraging, I'll tell you, thank you.

34
35 **VICE CHAIR TROTTA:**

36 Legislator Fleming.

37
38 **LEG. FLEMING:**

39 Thank you, Mr. Trotta. Thank you so much for your presentation,
40 Harrison, and for the great work that you're doing. I echo Al's,
41 you know, points about the importance of the Peconic Bay scallop to
42 our economy and to our way of life. Truthfully it's the source of
43 great pride and great food on the table, so we miss. So I'm happy
44 to hear that there's work being done.

10:02AM

45
46 Can you just describe for purposes of the Legislature and our
47 understanding of how we can be most supportive of this clearly very
48 important work, I know there's a bay scallop technical review
49 committee that includes DEC, it includes Stony Brook which is where
50 Dr. Allam is.

10:03AM

51
52 **HARRISON TOBI:**

53 Yep.

54
55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 Includes yourself, Cornell. I see Director Lockel here. What is

1 the relationship there? And could you just describe, if you could,
2 the funding, how we can most effectively support the work that
3 you're doing not only through Cornell, but specifically for the bay
4 scallop with the technical review committee?

5
6 **HARRISON TOBI:**

7 So, you know, I think continued support just of the base program,
8 of the restoration program, is immense. I mean, that's really the
9 lifeblood of the research Dr. Allam does as well.

10:03AM 10

11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 Meaning the Cooperative Extension? Cornell Cooperative Extension?

13
14 **HARRISON TOBI:**

15 Exactly, exactly. So I'm going to be honest. I didn't really --
16 the point of this presentation was to just thank you guys for
17 everything you do. I didn't really have in mind of asking for
18 anything. I know that Dr. Allam a lot of his funding comes from,
19 again, from again we had the NRAC, the restorative breeding work
20 we're doing this summer comes from NRAC. And I know that funds a
21 large portion of what he does. So, I know that he would probably
22 be an important -- you know Bassam, right? Dr. Allam, yes. So he
23 would be a good person to talk to about what could potentially be
24 done on his end. But as of right now him and I are keeping a
25 pretty open channel as to collaborative needs, you know, like,
26 *you're asking a lot, Dr. Allam, we need to modify some budget*
27 *numbers.* But really right now it's running very well, very
28 smoothly. But moving forward I'm sure we'll hit some roadblocks.
29 But what Dr. Allam would like, too, is just get it more -- more not
30 open communication but continuous communication; just of all the
31 stakeholders. So just getting more input continuously, not like on
32 a daily basis, but I can you when I don't talk to my staff for,
33 like, two weeks -- something small came up two weeks ago and they
34 didn't tell me and now it's, like, huge. So I think just continued
35 conversation of where we're going, what our goals are, the
36 importance of those goals. And I think needs will kind of present
37 themselves as we go. But as for right now, I think we're in a very
38 good position. If that answers your question.

10:04AM 20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
10:05AM 30

39
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 Yeah, no, that's good to hear. I mean, I know there was a federal
42 disaster declaration around this --

43
44 **HARRISON TOBI:**

45 They're waiting on that yeah.

46
47 **LEG. FLEMING:**

48 -- harvest die-off. But, you know, we actually looked into through
49 the technical committee, we did talk about what the funding behind
50 that disaster declaration meant and where it would be distributed.
51 And I think that although the baymen lost significant revenue over
52 the course of these three harvest die-offs, I think everyone
53 recognized that the limited funding, I think, it was less than
54 \$300,000, would -- if it were distributed to the baymen who lost
55 revenue, would end up being, like, \$1200 to each of them. And
56 really made a lot more sense to be infused into the research --

10:05AM 50
51
52
53
54
55
56

1
2 **HARRISON TOBI:**

3 Yeah.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 -- that you're doing. So that's, I think, important for
7 Legislators to understand, you know, where the funding is coming
8 from, where the funding is going. And then we're sort of keeping
9 an eye on supporting it in the most effective way.

10
11 **HARRISON TOBI:**

12 Yeah.

13
14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 And I think the research through the technical review committee
16 through Cornell and through Stony Brook are probably the best ways
17 to do that. I just wanted to confirm that.

18
19 **HARRISON TOBI:**

10:06AM 20 Actually you do bring up a point. So, what's interesting is that
21 -- you know, you look at those graphs I present and it's got, like,
22 a nice little dot. Each dot takes one day to get. So this
23 restorative breeding project, I'll make it, I'll survive this
24 summer. It's going to be long and it's going to be hard just due
25 to staffing. If we end up expanding on this, we'll have to --
26 definitely have re-visit because this is a ton of work for the
27 restorative breeding protect. Field site setup, the number of
28 samples we're putting out, I mean it's a lot of work. And this is
29 something that I've had to have discussions with Dr. Allam about
10:07AM 30 because he always talks about his ivory tower and, you know, he
31 always says "You're the base of ivory tower. Without you, I'll
32 collapse." But we need to make sure that the base that's driving
33 all of this has the funds and the staffing to drive this forward
34 because, I think, this restorative breeding is probably one of our
35 best bets right now.

36
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**

38 Great. And that leads to, I only have two other areas of question.
39 But one being the timeline on that, you know, certainly it's
10:07AM 40 hopeful that, you know, if you're able to develop thermal and
41 disease resistant scallop species, then, obviously we're in much
42 better shape and that's what we've gotta do everywhere in terms of
43 climate change, you know, ecosystems are adjusting and we just want
44 to encourage them to adjust in a way that supports what we value,
45 right.

46
47 **HARRISON TOBI:**

48 U-hum.

49
10:08AM 50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 So what is the timeline? I'm so hopeful to hear about your being
52 able to select from the fall spawns and this idea that there's a
53 possibility of spawning, you know, seeding in the fall and
54 harvesting in the following fall. I wasn't aware that that was
55 something that was anticipated. Is that -- I had thought that the
56 breeding -- restorative breeding process was the more likely

1 solution to this.

2

3 **HARRISON TOBI:**

4 Yeah.

5

6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 But it sounds like that -- and it's just a brief question, but
8 what's the timeline on that seeding of the fall, you know, sort of
9 bolstering the fall harvest.

10:08AM 10

11 **HARRISON TOBI:**

12 So the fall spawn project is -- it's very small. That's like a
13 very much a pilot-scale project. It was from a donation. That's
14 where we got the funds to do it. That's a very small project. The
15 restorative breeding one is much, much larger and they are
16 separate. Sometimes if you read some of the newspaper articles
17 that have come out recently, they accidentally get them melded into
18 the same thing. Obviously genetics could be involved in fall
19 spawns as well. I don't see why we wouldn't if we do find
20 resilient strains. But the restorative breeding project is
21 separate. And the funding for that goes through -- the current
22 funding only goes through October of this year. So we currently
23 don't know if we have funding for the future but we're very
24 hopeful, but we're still waiting on that for the continuation
25 beyond 2023.

10:09AM 20

26
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 And I'd certainly be interested to know how we can support the
29 funding of that project in the future. And then the last question
30 I have, obviously, I'm not a scientist, it will be very clear from
31 my question, where does this parasite come from? You said this is
32 the first occurrence or the first observed occurrence? Where does
33 it come from?

10:09AM 30

34
35 **HARRISON TOBI:**

36 Yes, so, it kind of looks like -- when you look at it, it's like,
37 okay, it showed up in 2019 the first mass die-off year. It looks
38 like the smoking gun. However, that was the first year we tested
39 for it. So it was likely here before. But as we've seen with any
40 type of virus or parasite, you know, their life cycles are very
41 quick. We had massive yields the two years prior to the mass
42 die-off. You have a really dense population. A parasite can
43 evolve very quickly if you have a dense host population. So this
44 parasite was likely here prior to 2019. It just evolved to being
45 very virulent by 2019.

10:10AM 40

46
47 **LEG. FLEMING:**

48 And it hasn't been seen anywhere else? Like did it come from some
49 place warmer or is the temperature --

10:10AM 50

51 **HARRISON TOBI:**

52 The likelihood is it just -- it's always been here; it just
53 evolved. And now we're dealing with that evolution now. So,
54 that's the best hypothesis that we have as of right now. Just
55 because we didn't test prior to 2019 -- there's a gray meat
56 disease, it's a different Apicomplexa but there's the gray meat

1 disease in sea scallops; there Icelandic scallop parasites now,
2 too. And, you know, we document them when the problem happens.
3 That's when we first start looking for them. Likely they were
4 always there. It's just parasites evolve very quickly because of
5 their life cycle, how quick their life cycles are.

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**

8 And is temperature responsible for their thriving?
9

10:11AM 10 **HARRISON TOBI:**

11 Let me show you something really interesting. So, this is data we
12 got from last summer. This is our -- our best site is Barcelona;
13 it has the best water quality, correct? And then Bullhead Bay,
14 dissolved oxygen went down below one, like that is definitely low;
15 however, as you see -- I don't have the temperature graph, but as
16 the temperature went up, we believe that there was actually a
17 temperature threshold of the parasite. And survival was actually
18 highest at that site; our worst environmental factor site.
19

10:12AM 20 So we don't really understand exactly what's going on here, but
21 it's pretty interesting data. And when you look at Barcelona,
22 which was our best, the parasite intensity stays pretty high
23 throughout the entire season and it had our lowest survival. So
24 there's still stuff -- we've got a pretty good idea that the
25 parasite's not great, but we still don't fully understand all the
26 factors impacting the parasite. So, water temperature definitely
27 plays a role, I mean, as metabolism goes up, replication increases.
28 But there appears from this data, there's appears to be some sort
29 of temperature threshold as well for the parasite where it does not
10:12AM 30 thrive. So very interesting data.
31

32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 Very interesting. Thank you for all your work. And I do look
34 forward to following up to make sure that we know how we can most
35 effectively support this research moving into the future. Thank
36 you.
37

38 **HARRISON TOBI:**

39 I really appreciate that. Thank you.
10:13AM 40

41 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

42 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Legislator Kennedy.
43

44 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

45 Hello. Thank you for this research. It's marvelous and it's
46 needed. And I, too, will support the project in any way. We as a
47 Committee and go forward with it. Just, I guess, attaching onto
48 Legislator Fleming's question, this parasite, has it been found
49 anywhere else; other sea life; in the algae; in the water; any food
10:13AM 50 sources.
51

52 **HARRISON TOBI:**

53 So, that's a fantastic question. We do take water samples and we
54 take sediment samples and they're in those peak intensity months.
55 It is in the water and it is in the sediment. However, we have not
56 identified an intermediate host. So, right now our understanding

1 is its entire life cycle is carried out in a bay scallop for we
2 have sent out samples of whelk, channeled and knob whelk. We're
3 going to probably look at crepidula this summer as well, send some
4 samples out for parasitology because crepidula live on the shells
5 of scallops and scallops love crepidula barrens. So we're -- still
6 as of right now the understanding is that its entire life cycle is
7 carried within a scallop but it can -- you know, it's in the water
8 and it's in the sediment around the scallops as well, but we still
9 don't have any evidence of an intermediate host. So, the Icelandic
10 and the Atlantic sea scallop, they have a similar parasite. It has
11 a small whelk as an intermediate host. But as of right now we
12 still haven't found that. Right now our only understanding is that
13 it infects primarily or only bay scallops.

14
15 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

16 The area where your -- the areas where you're testing, the
17 pollutants are low?

18
19 **HARRISON TOBI:**

20 So, it depends on which site but overall our water conditions are
21 pretty good at all of our sites except for Bullhead Bay, which we
22 kind of chose because it gets really warm. It's like five feet
23 deep. It's by a golf course. But we had the highest survival
24 there. So it's just kind of a -- there's still a lot of work that
25 needs to be done.

26
27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

28 You definitely have a lot of work that needs to be done.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 **HARRISON TOBI:**

33 So, there's answers, but whenever there's answers, there's way more
34 questions. Right now they're still a lot of questions that need to
35 be answered.

36
37 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

38 Thank you again. Keep up the good work.

39
40 **HARRISON TOBI:**

41 Thank you.

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

44 Thank you. I just have two -- thank you, Legislator Kennedy. I
45 just have two quick questions. One is I just from talking to
46 people that the water may be a little colder on the south shore.
47 Have we thought about doing that near the inlet?

48
49 **HARRISON TOBI:**

50 So, we would like to go and get more surveys in, potentially going
51 towards the south shore. I mean, it takes an immense amount of
52 time to get everything down there. I mean, our hands are full with
53 the staffing we have and the timeframe we have. That being said,
54 we have done dives down there and we did collect samples, not from
55 actually -- not from Great South Bay but we did dive near Tiana and
56 we got some adult scallops for Bassam from there as well to do

1 genetics on. Again, those 900 samples he sent out back in January
2 so we're still waiting on that. But the Great South Bay, I heard
3 there was decent -- decent catch this past fall and winter.

4
5 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

6 Yep.

7
8 **HARRISON TOBI:**

9 And we would love to get down there, the Peterson Lab, they
10 actually have a boat out there; so I'm hopefully going to get out
11 with them. I'm sure I'll have to barter my time for something
12 else, but that's how it goes. But I'd love to get samples from
13 down there. Bassam actually got 20 from slope baymen down there.
14 He got 20 samples this fall to send out for genetics. So we have a
15 lot of testing going out for genetics; be really interesting to
16 look at parasite down there. You know, everything moving forward.
17 So great question. I don't know if we fully have an answer, if we
18 can, you know, design a field plan for that quite yet but --

19
20 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

21 Yeah, from my understanding the oysters are thriving on the south
22 shower, so.

23
24 **HARRISON TOBI:**

25 Yeah.

26
27 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

28 It would only lead me to believe that the scallop program might
29 also be a success there. And just quickly, you know, what role did
30 commercial fishing play in the degradation of shellfish across
31 Suffolk County?

32
33 **HARRISON TOBI:**

34 You know, I've seen what they use and I've seen, you know, what,
35 you know, other fisheries use. And I've seen -- I've actually gone
36 out on the dragger before and it's very passive. So people could
37 say they rip up the eelgrass. Eelgrass is mostly by the time the
38 fall is -- I think it's called fronds, like the blades, so the
39 roots, the rhizome stay there. The blades come off but they're
40 more or less going to come off naturally anyways. The Bullhead bay
41 site, which is really interesting, that has dense -- dense eelgrass
42 until like August. And then it all disappears. And then it all
43 comes back the next year. The blades die off but the rhizomes and
44 roots all stay there and it comes right back. So I would say that
45 I don't -- I don't personally believe that the draggers that
46 commercial baymen are using are leading to habitat degradation
47 that's negatively impacting the fishery.

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

50 Good to know. Legislator Kennedy.

51
52 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

53 Just one more question.

54
55 **HARRISON TOBI:**

56 Yes.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

10:18AM
10:18AM
10:18AM

10:18AM
10:19AM
10:19AM

LEG. KENNEDY:
Is there any work on the scallops and the parasites on the north shore in the Sound or no?

HARRISON TOBI:
Not to my knowledge, no, I don't think Bassam's got any samples from there yet.

LEG. KENNEDY:
And the reason for that would be --

HARRISON TOBI:
We've just been focusing -- just focusing right now on the Peconics. Hopefully as we move forward with more funding from other sources, we can expand the range in which we're collecting samples both for parasitology and genetics, but right now the primary frame or lens is the Peconic right now.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Just let us know what we can do to assist.

CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:
Any more questions? Thank you very much for your presentation today.

HARRISON TOBI:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:
We appreciate all your work. Keep it up. You got it.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTION

CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:
Okay, if it's okay with the Committee, just before our next presentation briefly if we could go to 1277 (**Amending Resolution No. 217-2020, extending the deadline for the completion of the Georgica Pond 27 Rest Stop Remediation Project (CP 8240.128). (Co. Exec.)**).

LEG. FLEMING:
Motion to take out of order 1277.

CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:
Thank you, Legislator Fleming. The Chair seconds that motion. Anybody on the motion? So the motion is to take 1277 out of order. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

CLERK TASSONE:
Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:
1277 is now before us. Legislator Fleming.

LEG. FLEMING:

1 Motion to approve.

2

3 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

4 Second. Any questions on the motion? Seeing none, all those in
5 favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

6

7 **CLERK TASSONE:**

8 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

9

10:19AM

10 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

11 1277 is approved.

12

13 **LEG. FLEMING:**

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

17 You're welcome, Legislator Fleming. Any time. Commissioner
18 Lansdale, you're up. Commissioner Lansdale will be talking to us
19 about the coastal resilient -- the findings of the Coastal
20 Resiliency Project. We look forward to the presentation as always.
21 The floor is yours, Commissioner.

22

23 PRESENTATION

24

25 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

26 Good morning, everyone. Sarah Lansdale, Commissioner of Economic
27 Development & Planning. I'm here -- joined with me today is
28 Jocelyn Dupre. She is the Vice President of Climate Resiliency and
29 Sustainability for WSP, the consultant -- the main consultant on
30 this project and she'll be assisting me today in the presentation.
31 We're going to keep it brief. I know we sent around the
32 presentation; happy to answer any questions but we'll run through
33 this. Also joined with us today is Aryeh Lemberger also from WSP,
34 who is the New York City Practice Lead and Traffic Engineering and
35 Intelligent Transportations systems lead at WSP. So with that this
36 is just a brief update on capital project CP 5384 and where we are.

10:20AM

37

38 So this is the timeline of the project. It started in 2020 when we
39 issued a request for proposals and we've had a kick off meeting and
40 several consultations with various departments within the county,
41 Economic Development & Planning as well as Parks, DPW, Department
42 of Health Services and many Legislators, many of whom are on this
43 Committee today.

10:21AM

44

45 So with this I'm going to turn it over to Jocelyn to talk briefly
46 about the process.

47

48 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

49 Great. Thank you. A really important part of this process was,
50 you know, setting the county up for implementation. So we quickly
51 went through analyzing, prioritizing sites and then starting to
52 develop plans to implement. We started out with a list of over
53 24,000 sites and narrowed those down to 2200 county-owned at risk
54 sites for either tidal flooding or a storm surge flooding. We then
55 prioritized that list down to 25 with 10 priority sites and we'll
56 walk you through those today.

10:21AM

1
2 We were also lucky early on, and I think we can go to the next
3 slide, or actually the one after this, that talks about it, to have
4 the opportunity to support the County in submitting a grant for
5 three wetland restoration sites that are low cost, high impact
6 projects that can happen today. And so we submitted that grant --
7 the County submitted that grant last year and we'll hear this
8 summer if they get that funding. And what these projects are able
9 to do is, if wetlands are restored and they function well and
10 naturally, they actually naturally adapt to sea level rise and can
11 protect the surrounding communities from flooding, both from the
12 chronic tidal flooding as well as mitigating the impacts of wave
13 action during storm events.

10:22AM

14
15 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

16 Just for the Committee, could you just go over the three sites,
17 just where they are?

18
19 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

20 Absolutely. Scully Marsh, Smith Point South Marsh and then the
21 Cupsogue Marsh, all along the south shore.

10:23AM

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

24 Thank you.

25
26 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

27 Absolutely. Go to the next slide. So these are the priority
28 findings, the 25 sites that I mentioned earlier. We wanted to make
29 sure that we were identifying replicable projects and therefore
30 you'll see both from the list of the top ten as well as the
31 additional 15 representations across the categories of wetlands,
32 parks, assets and roadways. The top ten were identified because of
33 their criticality to the County; the level of flood risk; the
34 extent of flood risk; as well as the ability to develop those
35 replicable projects.

10:23AM

36
37 We can go to the next slide. This is another representation of
38 those same 25 sites on a map so you can see where they're located
39 across the County. We're also looking for distribution across the
40 board.

10:24AM

41
42 We can go to the next slide. These are the roadways. Every black
43 point represents a point of flooding. And as you have this
44 presentation in the appendix, there are corresponding maps both for
45 everyone at the main sites but also every one of these points that
46 shows the flooding along the roadways. This is another way to
47 understand the flood risk. So we looked at 15 different scenarios
48 to understand flood risk going from 2025 out to 2100. Chronic
49 tidal flooding happens on sunny days even when there's no storm
50 event. We looked at 30, 60 and 90 day inundation periods. And
51 then for storm surge we looked at both the 10 percent annual chance
52 event as well as one percent annual chance even, which is more like
53 a Hurricane Sandy. And then you can see how that risk increases,
54 2025 out through 2100 you start to see a lot more of the tidal
55 flooding and then the same thing in the additional 15 sites. And
56 here you see 2025 flood risks. You can see if we go to 2100 how

10:24AM

1 the flood risk starts to expand across the County.

2
3 These are a few projects that we wanted to just walk through very
4 quickly that show demonstrations of how we might implement some of
5 this work. Here Franklin 98 in Monroe County, Florida, you know,
6 there were multiple attempts to raise and protect a roadway
7 evacuation route; yet erosion continued to threaten the stability
8 of the roadway. And so we are now in construction of a living
9 shoreline along this roadway to stabilize it long-term and protect
10 it.

10:25AM

11
12 Next slide. Here in Twin Lakes, Florida, we are -- we have
13 proposed to elevate roadways that are adjacent to wetlands so we
14 can protect the wetlands, but at the same time also protect from
15 flooding.

16
17 Next slide, and here in Virginia Beach, Florida, we're implementing
18 a project with tide gates, new pump station. You can see on the
19 left all the homes that are flooded and on the right the reduction
20 in flooding with the measures in place. And it shows how important
21 drainage is to protecting from flooding, not just coastal barriers.

10:26AM

22
23 I think we talked through this. So, next steps we will in addition
24 to the three sites that we already developed concepts for and
25 submitted the grant application, we will be developing concepts for
26 seven additional sites working on an implementation plan that
27 identifies potential grant funding pathways for each of those
28 sites. And there'll be a spring stakeholder meeting to review
29 fundings. Thank you so much for your time. Happy to answer any
30 questions.

10:27AM

31
32 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

33 Thank you for your presentation. Thank you, Commissioner. Did you
34 do the south shore of Islip, Sayville, Bayport, Oakdale? West
35 Sayville?

36
37 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

38 I'm sorry, can you ask one more time?

39
40 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

41 Have you done the south shore of Islip, Bayport, Sayville, West
42 Sayville, Oakdale?

43
44 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

45 We looked at sites; all county-owned sites across --

46
47 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

48 All county-owned sites.

49
50 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

51 All county-owned sites.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

54 Right. But just in general was there a process where you saw
55 flooding in general? Because I know it's very bad down there, just
56 --

1
2 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

3 Yeah, absolutely. We can look at -- you know, you can see the
4 broader flood maps here --

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

7 Yeah.

8
9 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

10 -- certainly.

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

13 Thank you. I appreciate it. Legislator Hahn, Legislator Krupski.

14
15 **LEG. HAHN:**

16 Thank you. And so you touched on the answer to my question
17 wondering about if there is funding sources, you know, to do the
18 mitigation work now that these priorities have been identified.
19 And you mentioned -- can you be more specific about the grants that
20 you've applied for and what we expect?

21
22 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

23 Sure, I can answer that. So we worked with WSP to apply for a \$4.5
24 million federal grant for wetlands restoration restoring 390 acres
25 of county-owned land on the south shore. This bolsters our prior
26 efforts in wetlands restoration where we were able to secure
27 \$564,000 to restore the northern portion of the Smith Point
28 wetlands, which is 80 acres of marshland as well as an additional
29 260 acres using 1.3 million in federal Hurricane Sandy coastal
30 resiliency competitive grants.

31
32 Just on Friday, speaking of grants, the federal administration
33 released funding called PROTECT: Promoting Resilient Operations
34 for Transformative Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation. It's
35 a discretionary grant program. WSP noted it to us, so thank you,
36 Jocelyn. And there's a minimum of award of 500,000 and there are
37 no maximum award size. The grants are due August 18th and we will
38 be working on a submission. And I hope that answers your question.

39
40 **LEG. HAHN:**

41 Yes. So, the 4.5 million federal grant for wetlands restoration is
42 what you'll hear about this summer that you mentioned?

43
44 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

45 This summer, u-hum.

46
47 **LEG. HAHN:**

48 Okay. And then the PROTECT grant, you haven't yet applied -- those
49 applications are due August?

50
51 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

52 In August. It was just released Friday.

53
54 **LEG. HAHN:**

55 Would you mind saying what PROTECT stands for one more time?

1
2 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

3 Sure. It stands for Promoting Resilient Operations for
4 Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation.

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

7 You good, Legislator Hahn?

8
9 **LEG. HAHN:**

10 Yes.

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

13 All right. Legislator Krupski; Legislator Fleming; Legislator
14 Kennedy.

15
16 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

17 Yeah, thank you. This is a really comprehensive plan. I took a
18 look at it this morning. I didn't -- I didn't have a chance to
19 look at the rating systems and how they would affect different
20 projects moving forward. Could you tell me the difference between
21 Corey Creek East and West?

22
23 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

24 We can definitely look at the map.

25
26 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

27 Okay.

28
29 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

30 To view it on the geographies. I don't know how to describe it,
31 but we can go to the detailed maps.

32
33 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

34 It ties into one of my other questions is, is are we going to --
35 and I guess this is for Commissioner Lansdale, are we going to,
36 based on this great work here, prioritize land preservation
37 efforts.

38
39 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

40 It's something we've certainly prioritized in our rating sheet for
41 open space acquisition, coastal resiliency and flooding. So, we
42 can take a closer look at that and see how this process can inform
43 a further refinement in the rating sheet if you'd so like.

44
45 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

46 Yeah, thank you. I think it would be very helpful, especially some
47 of these areas are targeted obviously by the towns, also villages
48 that are being affected. Once you add infrastructure then it
49 becomes at risk during flooding times. And the timeline for the
50 road elevation, are we -- and I saw the priorities and I thought
51 that, you know, you were spot on. Is there a timeline for
52 investing in these -- in our infrastructure? Because a lot of
53 these are very critical, heavily-used roadways for the County.

54
55 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

56 There is certainly tremendous funding at this moment. So we did

1 the HMGP last year. There'll be new HMGP, BRIC. There are PROTECT
2 funds. I mean, I would say every month there are new federal grant
3 applications being rolled out. There are billions of dollars
4 available through IAG, IRA. The Environmental Bond Act has 4.2
5 billion available. That funding is not really being rolled out yet
6 but they're in process of figuring it out. So, I would say from my
7 perspective this is the moment to take advantage of this funding
8 and be able to implement these projects and anything like that.

9
10 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

11 So, Commissioner Lansdale, who would be applying? Your department
12 or Commissioner Brown?

13
14 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

15 I think that's something we have to further discuss and get back to
16 you. It would be either department, but we will -- I will -- I
17 want to have that discussion first with Commissioner Brown before I
18 respond.

19
20 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

21 You can volunteer him, no? And then Franklin 98, it was on there
22 for some Florida coastline there, what are the offshore structures?

23
24 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

25 Those are oyster reefs.

26
27 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

28 Okay. All right. Are they in cages?

29
30 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

31 I can send over more details on the project.

32
33 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

34 It looks like they are.

35
36 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

37 Okay. And the spelling -- one other thing, it's just a grammatical
38 thing, there's probably a dozen or more spellings of Hashamomuck so
39 I don't know if we need to introduce a new one for this report.

40 You might want to look at some of the historical ones. There's a
41 lot of extra "o"s and --

42
43 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

44 Legislator, we have upped the maps of Corey Creek West and East.

45
46 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

47 Yeah, how do you divide that? Because I know the Town's getting
48 close to preserving part of that.

49
50 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

51 We worked very closely with the specific asset managers within the
52 County to identify these sites. So, the red delineated line here
53 where you see the rectangle in the top left is defined as the Corey
54 Creek West Site and then the more odd shaped boot is defined as the
55 Corey Creek East Site.

1
2 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

3 Oh, okay, okay. So there's been a lot of progress made in that
4 area and there will continue to be, so, thank you.

5
6 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

7 Yes.

8
9 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a great --

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

13 Thank you, Legislator Krupski.

14
15 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

16 -- great, great effort here. Thank you.

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

19 The Chair recognizes Legislator Fleming.

20
21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And this is really very exciting; a really
23 good example of, I think, government at its best. I think this
24 started out with a resolution for \$250,000 in funding from the
25 legislative fund and then received an additional million dollars
26 from the ARPA grants that has really given us -- excuse me -- a
27 great opportunity to develop what's here. And I know the original
28 vision was to look at County assets, so not just where the flooding
29 occurs but really where taxpayer dollars are going to be impacted
30 because assets are threatened, like the roads. And so thank you
31 very much for that great work.

32
33 Question, with regard to the assets, I notice, for instance, that
34 Bergen Point wastewater treatment is in the top 10 priorities and
35 yet the flooding incidents is probably lower than in, for instance,
36 the roadways. But I'm assuming that it's the impact of flooding on
37 a system that's so important that brings it -- that, you know,
38 causes it to be brought up in the priority list. Is that accurate?
39

40
41 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

42 Absolutely. And you could see, and that's why we wanted to bring
43 up that Virginia Beach example, how critically important drainage
44 is. So it's also access to the actual site. So CR 96 is one of
45 the roadways where you see significant flooding and so we're
46 proposing projects fall first year in 96 as well as the sewage
47 treatment plant. Because you need to be able to operate those
48 plants during emergency events to drain out the water as quickly as
49 possible both to reduce damage and loss of life during these flood
50 events.

51
52 **LEG. FLEMING:**

53 And do you expect that there might be grant funding available to do
54 the kind of remediation they did at the Virginia plant? Because I
55 can well imagine that if there is -- I know it's very expensive,
56 but still a simple fix of, you know, more efficient drainage, you
have the opportunity to avoid large scale disaster, you know, in

1 the event of an extreme weather event. Is that something that you
2 anticipate you might be able to find grant funding for in these
3 rounds of funding that are coming -- that are happening?
4

5 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

6 Absolutely. And I think we've seen an exciting change from FEMA
7 with both HMGP and BRIC where previously they wanted to fund those
8 large coastal seawalls and much less drainage infrastructure. In
9 the last couple of rounds there has been significant funding for
10 drainage projects including for Virginia Beach, which got 25
11 million from the BRIC, Building Resilient Infrastructure and
12 Communities grant program.
13

14 **LEG. FLEMING:**

15 It's really exciting to be part of this. And I know the
16 specifications in the RFP that were developed for this project
17 included engineering firms that had expertise in grant -- in
18 identifying grant sources. And I think we've put ourselves in a
19 very good position because we are now -- we now have the foundation
20 of a program that can pursue what might be coming, you know, in
21 terms of grants especially around climate and, you know, the
22 threats to county assets.
23

24 So, I did want to ask also the Suffolk County Police Department
25 Marine Bureau is a structure that has kind of obvious threats
26 associated with it because of its location right on the water and
27 very, very expensive equipment there. But that's in the additional
28 15. Also, the Shinnecock Canal powerhouse and pump house is in the
29 additional. And I'm just wondering if they might also be
30 considered like Bergen Point, you know, although the direct threat
31 might not be there in terms of, you know, imminent future, that the
32 impact of damage there from a weather event which could come this
33 season, you know, Sandy's coming again, you know, I'm just wondering
34 if those might, one, be more -- might be considered more -- higher
35 priority because of those -- the impact. And, then, secondly, if
36 they might be eligible for grant funding because of that,
37 especially the law enforcement structure. I know we've had
38 conversations about this. I don't mean to spring this on you. But
39 it just occurs to me that that might be something worth
40 considering.
41

42 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

43 Definitely, we can take a closer look at that. And we on a weekly
44 basis monitor federal and state grant opportunities and we'll keep
45 this in the mix.
46

47 **LEG. FLEMING:**

48 I would certainly think especially on the law enforcement side of
49 it, you know, our marine bureau is critically important for law
50 enforcement, which isn't the case in many communities but certainly
51 is for us.
52

53 The other thing I wanted to ask about was just if you could
54 elaborate a little bit on the replicable projects aspect of this.
55 I know Al asked about oyster reefs, you know, there are concepts
56 that are being developed in terms of nature-based solutions to the

1 threats of climate change. One of the reasons why we first started
2 this project was because folks like your firm have done projects
3 like the Virginia Beach project, like the Florida project. And for
4 us in terms of trying to protect taxpayer dollars here in Suffolk
5 County, could you just talk about the value of developing even
6 limited numbers of projects that might have application in other
7 sites?

8
9 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

10 Absolutely. So, I think, you know, what's really interesting,
11 right, for the roadways, I mean, essentially there's a couple of
12 different things you can do, right. You can build a wall around
13 it; you can raise the roadway itself. And then there are the
14 issues of erosion and chronic tidal flooding where there are
15 opportunities to build out nature based natural shorelines that can
16 help protect against that regular flooding and that erosion. So, I
17 think, you know, with the few different roadways that we chose,
18 under the top ten we're able to explore these different concepts.
19 And then, you know, those can be applicable to roadways across the
20 County.

21
22 The same thing for the wetlands restorations project. We actually
23 developed a brand new methodology for these wetlands restoration
24 projects of how you can get to a positive benefit cost analysis
25 with a FEMA grant fund, which is quite challenging for a lot of the
26 nature-based solutions. So now that that's been developed, it can
27 be used again both in terms of the grant funding, but then also in
28 terms of thinking about those low cost, high impact solutions for
29 nature-based projects. So those are a couple of examples of how we
30 can apply this concept of replicability across the ten concepts.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 It's really exciting. In the Newsday yesterday, the cover of
34 Newsday yesterday addressed this issue. And one of the sites that
35 they sited to was in my district where they're talking about a
36 roadway, which is not a county roadway but a roadway completely
37 disappearing in the very near future. And I wonder are there --
38 are the concepts that you're developing including sort of
39 replacement infrastructure? What the Newsday article talked about
40 is a bridge that will have to take you to Montauk once Napeague is
41 washed out. Is that part of the concepts or are the concepts
42 really just to mitigate flooding and storm surge?

43
44 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

45 We've been focusing on needs as a part of this study on mitigating
46 for the existing asset.

47
48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 I just think for government, one of the things that we have to be
50 aware of is if we're not proactive, if we're not mindful of the
51 threats and the costs associated with impact, we are going to have
52 to start replacing infrastructure and you're going to have bridges
53 where roads once were. I hope that kind of an effort will enable
54 us to be mindful about that and to avoid enormous costs in the
55 future by making some of these low cost solutions often
56 nature-based that you've identified. So thank you very much for

1 your hard work. Thank you, Director Lansdale, for your creativity
2 and your tenacity and your ability to really zig and zag your way
3 through government and make things happen. I do appreciate it.
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

7 Absolutely. I just want to thank also Elisa Picca, who is the
8 Deputy Commissioner, for really spearheading this project along
9 with Dorian Dale. Thank you.

10:43AM

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

12 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Thank you, Commissioner Lansdale.
13 Next up, Legislator Kennedy.

14
15 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

16 Thank you, Commissioner, and thank you for this presentation, both
17 of you, all of you, for your work. I realize this was a south
18 shore project. I have two questions. The first one is on the
19 maps, the two maps that you had put up of the sites that were being
20 treated, all of the Hamptons that touches the water is left out and
21 that section of Islip that Legislator Piccirillo just said is a big
22 flooder was left out. Is there another reason why those two areas
23 that both, in my opinion, needs some shoring up are not included in
24 any way? That wasn't -- it was with the black marks.

10:43AM

25
26 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

27 This one? The roads?

28
29 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

30 So, for the roadways, we looked at two things. We looked at
31 critical evacuation routes, which in terms of county-owned sites,
32 there were very few actually subject to flooding and then we added
33 to that the county-owned roadways that were subject to tidal land
34 use flooding to get a more comprehensive picture. So in those
35 areas, there are no -- as far as the data we have, there are no
36 county-owned roadways either that are coastal evacuation routes or
37 subject to tidal flooding.

10:44AM

38
39 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

40 Okay, so county road --

10:45AM

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

43 Either or. Evacuation site, just put that --

44
45 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

46 -- ferries? Okay.

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

49 Yeah, it's an evacuation site.

10:45AM

50
51 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

52 Okay. And what about the Hamptons areas because they do need to
53 evacuate, too. What about the Hamptons areas where nothing is
54 being done where they directly touch the Atlantic Ocean. That has
55 been known to flood and take houses out. What's their evacuation
56 route? Why are we not shoring them up?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

10:45AM

10:46AM

10:46AM

10:47AM

10:47AM

JOCELYN DUPRE:
We can look at what the evacuation route is for that area, but our data set started with the list of county-owned roads as the scope of this study.

LEG. FLEMING:
I can note, too, County Road 60 is Sag Harbor and it's one of the top three.

LEG. KENNEDY:
In the bay, yeah. No, I'm talking about where it hits the Atlantic Ocean.

LEG. FLEMING:
But these were county -- county road -- this is -- the goal of it was to save taxpayer dollars by not -- by avoiding long-term very high costly impacts. So, yeah, no, it's a great question. And I would just say County Road 39 is the only county road takes you out of the east end.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Which is a danger.

LEG. FLEMING:
But County Road 60 is an important roadway there.

LEG. KENNEDY:
All right, so maybe you should look into that. Now, there was another one similar to this that showed flooding. And my concern, as I'm a Legislator for the north shore, is the Nissequogue River corridor. It showed what it's -- is at present and what it is expected to go to. For 17 years, I've been working on the effects of flooding -- yeah, that's one -- into my area. And the concern now for the first time is in the center of my district. There are massive amounts of phragmites that have never been there and it's from the backflow from the storms. So, my question is not with this Capital Project, which as I said is mostly south shore, can we look into what we can do?

COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:
(Nodding head yes)

LEG. KENNEDY:
On that?

JOCELYN DUPRE:
Absolutely. And we can definitely provide the more detailed information on the flood risk there. The absence of sites there is the absence of county-owned sites, specifically in that area. But we can definitely provide information on the flood risk.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Well, we do have county-owned sites, parks, etcetera, not roadways. Although the picture shows past 347 so that's the state. Maybe we can get some state funding for that.

1
2 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

3 I do know there were a few parks that we looked at on the north
4 shore where the beaches of the parks were in the floodplain but the
5 actual main parkland was elevated and was on bluffs and not subject
6 to flooding.

7
8 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

9 Okay, all right, thank you.

10:48AM

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

12 Thank you. The Chair recognizes Legislator Thorne.

13
14 **LEG. THORNE:**

15 Thank you. Good morning. Right here, dead ahead. Hi, how are you
16 doing? There we go. So I did, of course, have some questions. I
17 noticed by your map of the county roads, County Road 65, Middle
18 Road, which goes into my district and then mostly into Legislator
19 Piccirillo's district, when we talk about flood mitigation and
20 elevating the roads, is that the only option you're looking to do
21 down there? I mean, I know the town put in flapper valves and
22 one-way valves on some of their drainage to make sure it just
23 doesn't come back up from stormwater runoff, but --

10:48AM

24
25 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

26 Yeah. Definitely not just raising roads. I think there's, like, a
27 few -- a few different tools that we'll be looking at, you know,
28 flood walls, of course, are always a potential tool, raising the
29 roadway, natural shorelines and as well as green infrastructure
30 where you're not directly abutting the shoreline, green
31 infrastructure solutions that capture stormwater at the site and
32 help with that drainage is also really important.

10:49AM

33
34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 And, by the way, I guess I should have started this with this is
36 extremely important work and I do appreciate your work on it. So,
37 most of -- a big chunk of my district now is Fire Island. What are
38 we doing to mitigate the risk to that Island and ultimately to our
39 shorelines on the south shore?

10:49AM

40
41 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

42 So Fire Island has a large Army Corps project. So we did not
43 include those sites intentionally knowing that they should be
44 protected through the Army Corps' work.

45
46 **LEG. THORNE:**

47 Okay. And of course the final thing -- only because they talked
48 about evacuation routes, one of them is the Davis Park Ferry that
49 comes into Patchogue waters, Patchogue Village waters. And though
50 they have a very -- well, I'll say it straight up, pretty cool
51 project going on with a living shoreline down at that park, it's
52 something that we do have to consider the south end of the village
53 tends to flood regularly. And we want to continue to keep that
54 area in focus for numerous reasons; evacuations and things like
55 that. And when I ask the question about the Middle Road, my
56 concern, too, is all the houses that sit south of it, and that's

10:50AM

1 why I ask about not just elevation because then what do we do with
2 the houses or the homeowners that are south of Middle Road that
3 will be flooded from an elevation or possibly flooded from an
4 elevation of our road, to just take the area as a whole. So these
5 are two very big concerns of mine.

6
7 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

8 Okay. Thank you.

9
10 **LEG. THORNE:**

11 Thank you, ma'am.

12
13 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

14 Legislator Thorne, much appreciated. Any other questions? Seeing
15 none, thank you, ladies, I appreciate your presentation.

16
17 **COMMISSIONER LANSDALE:**

18 Thank you. We're going to -- thank you for all the feedback on
19 this. We will take this into consideration and follow up with all
20 of the individual Legislators to take your concerns and comments
21 into account. Thanks.

22
23 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

24 Thank you, again.

25
26 **JOCELYN DUPRE:**

27 Thank you.

28
29 **APPOINTMENT RESOLUTIONS**

30
31 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

32 All righty, we have no more presentations this morning. We do have
33 an Appointment Resolution. **IR 1354, Appointing Chairman of the**
34 **Suffolk County Water Authority Charles A. Lefkowitz. (Pres. Off.).**

35
36 **LEG. TROTТА:**

37 Motion to approve.

38
39 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

40 Second.

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

43 Motion by Legislator Trotta; second by Legislator Kennedy. Anyone
44 on the motion? On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

45
46 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

47 Is Mr. Lefkowitz going to attend?

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

50 He was just in front of us a few months ago so I didn't see a need
51 for him to re-attend the meeting.

52
53 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

54 Okay.

55
56 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

1 Up to you if you want to --

2

3 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

4 No, I'm not going to hold it up. That's fine. Thank you.

5

6 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

7 Appreciate it. We have a motion and a second. All in favor?

8 Opposed? Abstentions?

9

10:51AM 10 **CLERK TASSONE:**

11 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)

12

13 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

14 1354 is approved. Congratulations, Mr. Lefkowitz. Let's go to
15 Tabled Resolutions. Legislator Hahn -- we don't have a quorum,
16 we're going to have to wait a second.

17

18

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

19

20 Okay. We're good. This is you, Legislator Hahn. IR 19 -- Tabled
21 Resolution 1921-22, Authorizing the appraisal of land under the
22 Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by
23 Local Law No. 24-2007, 2384 Belmont Ave., LLC property - Town of
24 Brookhaven (SCTM Nos. 0200-159.00-02.00-008.002 and
25 0200-159.00-02.00-008.003). (Hahn).

26

27 **LEG. HAHN:**

28 Needs to be tabled again. Thank you.

29

10:52AM 30 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

31 You want to table it?

32

33 **LEG. HAHN:**

34 Yes, please.

35

36 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

37 Motion to table; second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed?
38 Abstentions?

39

10:52AM 40 **CLERK TASSONE:**

41 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

42

43 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

44 1921 is tabled. Tabled Resolution 1069, approving a License
45 Agreement for a County employee to reside at West Neck Farm County
46 Park, 101 Browns Road, Huntington, New York 11743. (Co. Exec.).
47 I'll make that motion to approve; second by Legislator Trotta.
48 Anyone on the motion? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

49

10:52AM 50 **CLERK TASSONE:**

51 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA NOT PRESENT)

52

53 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

54 1069 is approved. 1071, Approving a License Agreement for a County
55 employee to reside at Blydenburgh County Park, 795 Veterans
56 Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York 11787. (Co. Exec.). Motion

1 by Legislator Kennedy; second by Legislator Trotta. Anyone on the
2 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

3
4 **CLERK TASSONE:**
5 Six. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1/LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA NOT PRESENT)

6
7 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
8 1071 is approved. 1073, Approving a License Agreement for a
9 County employee to reside in at Southaven County Park, 801
10 Sunrise Highway Service Road, Yaphank, New York. (Co. Exec.).
11 Motion by Legislator Kennedy; second by Legislator Trotta. Anyone
12 on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
13 Abstentions?

14
15 **CLERK TASSONE:**
16 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
19 1073 is approved. 1242 we took out of order already. Let's move
20 into Introductory Resolutions.

21
22 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

23
24 **1249, authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County**
25 **Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No.**
26 **24-2007, Breslin property - Town of Smithtown (SCTM Nos.**
27 **0800-076.00-04.00-003.001, 0800-076.00-04.00-004.000,**
28 **0800-076.00-04.00-005.000, 0800-076.00-04.00-007.002 and**
29 **0800-076.00-04.00-016.000). (Kennedy). Motion by Legislator**
30 **Kennedy; second by Legislator Trotta. Mr. Kerr, are you here?**
31 **The Chair recognize Legislator Krupski.**

32
33 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
34 Yeah, was that amended?

35
36 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
37 That's a good question. Mr. Kerr?

38
39 **MR. KERR:**
40 Correct, it was. It was amended just to reflect the active and
41 passive recreation uses of the parcel.

42
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
44 Thank you.

45
46 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
47 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Floor is your, Mr. Kerr.

48
49 **MR. KERR:**
50 Sure. I have some maps I can pull up. I think Joe already set me
51 up, so.

52
53 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
54 Perfect.

55
56 **MR. KERR:**

1 All right. So this is an approximately 9.8 acre parcel. Property
2 composes of five separate parcels. It's along West Main Street in
3 the Town of Smithtown. This is planned to be used for active
4 recreation. It will be a partnership with the town. They plan to
5 provide a financial contribution as well as the maintenance and the
6 improvements on the property.

7
8 It received a 51 out of a hundred point rating on the active
9 recreation sheet. And the property is being considered under the
10 Suffolk County Drinking Water & Protection Program for active use.
11 I have some quick concept plan that the Town provided. So the
12 concept plan includes three soccer fields, a playground, restroom,
13 concession area as well as parking spaces and then vegetated
14 buffers along the borders of the property.

15
16 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

17 Thank you, Mr. Kerr. Legislator Hahn.

18
19 **LEG. HAHN:**

20 So I did notice this in the packet. So I can't see -- I have to
21 look over here. Okay, so this is near the Nissequogue River. This
22 is near some really sensitive land. Is there a reason why we're
23 purchasing this for active? I mean, fields and a big parking lot
24 next to something so sensitive feels wrong to me. Trees that will
25 be removed for this purpose and it just doesn't seem like the right
26 space.

27
28 **MR. KERR:**

29 It's mostly second growth trees. This used to be a lumber yard in
30 this area that operated until it was vacated. The town is -- if
31 you see on the left side of the image, all of that will still be
32 preserved. The elevation here is also pretty high in this area
33 where the fields are going to be so the town doesn't expect any
34 adverse impacts.

35
36 **LEG. HAHN:**

37 I'm sorry, one more time about the elevation?

38
39 **MR. KERR:**

40 Sure. It's a little hard to tell. Where these fields are, it's a
41 higher elevation. There's a large hill leading up to this area.
42 And then this will all be preserved, though, to the left on the
43 left side around the river corridor.

44
45 **LEG. HAHN:**

46 Yeah, so all the more reason, like anything would flow off of this
47 and down towards the river is what I would think. And so why can't
48 -- if the town wants this -- I just question why we would get
49 involved in something that creates ball fields next to a -- like it
50 seems like a completely town -- you know, town responsibility here.
51 If we were partnering to preserve this land to protect the
52 Nissequogue River, that's in our bailiwick. That's in what we do,
53 right? But to preserve land to then bulldoze to make ball fields
54 in a parking lot next to the Nissequogue River seems like the
55 funding should come a hundred percent from the town, in my mind
56 anyways.

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

3 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Legislator Kennedy.

4
5 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

6 Okay, I just want to speak on this. First off, I'm not sure that
7 they still want to put three fields in. I had heard one at last
8 group. Now, if you look on that map, Givens Park, the canoe area
9 is down on the side. The bathroom that they use right now for
10 canoers is right on the watershed. So what's happening is way up
11 on the top, they're going to put in a bathroom. There'll be a
12 walking path down, they'll have to walk to go to the bathroom when
13 they canoe or when they use any of the parklands or the fields.

14
15 The town will put in the fields or the field and be responsible for
16 its maintenance. And that was said to save the county money. But
17 we are reducing pollution by not using the bathroom right on the
18 river, the bathrooms right on the river; moving them way uphill and
19 far away where there is a commercial area you can see. And the
20 area where you see, I can't even read what it says, but where you
21 see water, none of that will be touched because that's DEC
22 property. It cuts off where the DEC property ends. And I don't
23 mean owned by the DEC but under DEC domain because it's wetland.

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

26 Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Any other questions? We have a
27 motion and a second to approve. All those in favor? Opposed?
28 Abstentions?

29
30 **LEG. HAHN:**

31 Opposed.

32
33 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

34 We have one member in opposition.

35
36 **CLERK TASSONE:**

37 Six. (VOTE: 6-1-0-0)

38
39 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

40 Thank you, Mr. Clerk. 1249 is approved. **IR 1251, Designating the**
41 **last full week of June as "Pollinator Week" in Suffolk County.**
42 **(Hahn).** Motion by Legislator Hahn; second by myself. Anyone on
43 the motion? All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

44
45 **CLERK TASSONE:**

46 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

47
48 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

49 1251 is approved. **IR 1270, Appropriating funds and PAYGO funds in**
50 **connection with Improvements to County Golf Courses (CP 7166). (Co.**
51 **Exec.).** I'll make that motion; second by Legislator Trotta.
52 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
53 Abstentions?

54
55 **CLERK TASSONE:**

56 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

1
2 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

3 1270 is approved. 1271, Appropriating PAYGO funds in connection
4 with Improvements to Campgrounds (CP 7009). (Co. Exec.). I'll make
5 that motion; second by Legislator Trotta. Anyone on the motion?
6 Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

7
8 **CLERK TASSONE:**

9 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

10:59AM

10
11 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

12 1271 is approved. 1272, Appropriating funds and PAYGO funds in
13 connection with Improvements to County Parks (CP 7079). (Co.
14 Exec.). Motion by Legislator Hahn; second by myself. Anyone on
15 the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
16 Abstentions?

17
18 **CLERK TASSONE:**

19 Seven (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

20
21 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

22 1272 is approved. 1277 was taken out of order and approved. 1278,
23 Authorizing the acquisition of Farmland Development Rights under
24 the New Suffolk County ¼% Drinking Water Protection Program
25 (effective December 1, 2007) for the Eberhard/HJE Real Estate, Inc.
26 Property (H. Eberhard Nurseries) - Town of Brookhaven - SCTM Nos.
27 0200-679.00-01.00-001.000, 0200-679.00-01.00-002.000,
28 0200-679.00-01.00-003.000 p/o, 0200-679.00-01.00-004.000 p/o,
29 0200-679.00-01.00-005.000 p/o - to be merged. (Co. Exec.). If it
30 doesn't have a vowel, I have a hard time pronouncing it.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

35 Motion.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

38 Motion to approve by Legislator Krupski; second by Legislator
39 Fleming.

11:00AM

40
41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Sure.

43
44 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

45 On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

46
47 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

48 Thank you. On the motion, so if I could ask Mikael, so this is a
49 change in the funding source here?

11:00AM

50
51 **MR. KERR:**

52 That's correct. It had originally -- when the committee authorized
53 us to commit funds for this property to make an offer, that had
54 come out of the Paygo, but now we have the bond -- bonding for the
55 future funded, the bonded fund. So, we amended this to have the
56 funds come out of that funding source so that we can have more

1 funds for open space preservation and this for farmland.

2
3 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

4 And this is -- I mean, this is a good parcel and this family has
5 participated in the Farmland Preservation Program in the past. And
6 this adds to that preservation farmland in the area, but I'm not --
7 that's not why I'm -- I just want clarity on how -- we just want to
8 see the program consistent on clarity on how the funding works and
9 how the appraisals work and everything.

11:01AM 10

11 **MR. KERR:**

12 And ideally all of our farmland PDR moving forward will come out of
13 the bonded funds. But this one, the offer was authorized before
14 that was available, but we want to just continue to use that found
15 for PDR acquisitions.

16
17 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

18 So if the funding source changes, we can just amend it.

11:01AM 19

20 **MR. KERR:**

21 Correct.

22
23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 Okay. Thank you.

25
26 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

27 Myself and -- I had conversation with Majority Leader about this,
28 that we have this farmland fund, if we're going to do this, why not
29 use that money and that way we have more money for open space and
30 other projects so we're not all pulling from the same pot. I think
31 it's important that we separate those funds for the projects that
32 we're going to do one by one.

11:02AM 30

33
34 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

35 As long as the farmland fund is adequate for the need.

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

38 Absolutely.

39
40 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

41 Yeah.

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

44 And if we run out, obviously then we can go into the other funds.
45 Let's just try to draw down as much as possible --

46
47 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

48 Sure.

49
50 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

51 -- from fund to fund.

52
53 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

54 Thank you.

1 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

2 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Anyone else on the motion? We have
3 a motion and a second, sir?

4
5 **CLERK TASSONE:**

6 We do, Mr. Chair.

7
8 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

9 All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

11:02AM 10

11 **CLERK TASSONE:**

12 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

13
14 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

15 It is approved. 1270's approved. Excuse me, before I move on, I'm
16 going to recognize the Majority Leader for point of personal
17 privilege. Commissioner Smagin, could you come up for a second?
18 Legislator Caracappa, the Chair recognizes you and you have the
19 floor.

20
21 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

22 Hi, good morning, Commissioner. How are you?

23
24 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

25 Morning; how you doing?

26
27 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

28 Good, good. Listen, I meant to do this earlier during the public
29 portion. But I was involved in some other things I was taking care
30 of. But something irked me a little bit this morning. I just want
31 to go on record because this person went on record and said that
32 the Suffolk County Parks Department doesn't care about his parks.
33 I'm sure you heard that. I take great offense to that. I wish Mr.
34 Karpen was here right now to tell him so he can hear me say to you
35 personally that nothing can be further from the truth. Suffolk
36 County has probably the most pristine and beautiful parks
37 throughout New York State. I just want to comment on it and say,
38 look, this is happening because of your leadership and the work of
39 the county employees. And you know what, everyone up here and
40 throughout Suffolk County, we love our parks, you know. And so do
41 our residents.

11:03AM 30

11:04AM 40

42
43 So I just want to say I appreciate the work that, you know, you
44 oversee and the hard work of our employees. And there's no other
45 place that my kids love to walk around in some of our county parks.
46 So I just want to go on the record saying I highly disagree with
47 that comment. All right? And I had some other things to say about
48 Coindre Hall but I'll wait for the next because I'm sure they'll
49 all be here for that. All right. Well, Jason, thank you very
50 much. I appreciate it.

11:04AM 50

51
52 **COMMISSIONER SMAGIN:**

53 Thank you, Legislator. It's very kind of you to say that. Thank
54 you.

55
56 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

1 Thank you, Legislator Caracappa.

2

3 **LEG. CARACAPPA:**

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

7 You're welcome, sir. Back into our agenda (1280), **Authorizing the**
8 **use of Gardiner County Park in West Bay Shore by Operation VEST for**
9 **its Dog Tag Run Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.).** I'll make that motion;
10 second by Legislator Caracappa. Anyone on the motion? Seeing
11 none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

11:04AM

12

13 **CLERK TASSONE:**

14 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

15

16 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

17 1280 is approved and please place that on the consent calendar.
18 **1281, Authorizing use of Cedar Beach County Park in Southold by**
19 **Event Power for the Mighty North Fork Triathlon. (Co. Exec.).**
20 Motion by Legislator Krupski; second by Legislator Fleming. Anyone
21 on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
22 Abstentions?

11:05AM

23

24 **CLERK TASSONE:**

25 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

26

27 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

28 1281 is approved and please place that on the consent calendar. **IR**
29 **1282, Authorizing an easement with Hampton Bays Water District for**
30 **the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of a**
31 **High-DensityPolyethylene (HDPE) subaqueous water main pipe at**
32 **Meschutt Beach County Park, Southampton, New York. (Co. Exec.).**
33 Motion by Legislator Fleming; second by Legislator Krupski. Anyone
34 on the motion?

11:05AM

35

36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 On the motion.

38

39 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

40 Legislator Fleming.

11:05AM

41

42 **LEG. FLEMING:**

43 Thank you. I just want to note that this infrastructure, the main
44 pipe at Meschutt is one of sort of the ancillary infrastructure,
45 critical infrastructure that might be protected by the projects
46 that are being proposed under the presentation we just heard of in
47 the capital project. So I just wanted to make a note of the
48 confluence of events.

49

50 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

51 Thank you. Subaqueous, and just to let everyone know, there's two
52 SAT words in this resolution. That usually doesn't shall happen.
53 We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?
54 Abstentions?

11:06AM

55

56 **CLERK TASSONE:**

1 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

2

3 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

4 1282 is approved. 1292, Amending Resolution No. 833-2019, as
5 amended by Resolution No. 150-2021 in connection with the
6 Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade Project at Cedar Beach West,
7 Town of Brookhaven (CP 8710.155/.337). (Co. Exec.). Motion by
8 Legislator Caracappa; second by myself. Anyone on the motion?
9 Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

11:06AM 10

11 **CLERK TASSONE:**

12 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

13

14 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

15 1292 is approved. IR 1304, Authorizing the appraisal of land
16 under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as
17 amended by Local Law No. 24-2007 – Historic and/or Cultural Park
18 Component – Deepwells Farm addition (SCTM No.
19 0801-007.00-04.00-004.005) – Town of Smithtown. (Co. Exec.).

11:06AM 20

21 **LEG. TROTTA:**

22 Motion.

23

24 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

25 Motion by Legislator Trotta; second by Legislator Kennedy. Mr.
26 Kerr.

27

28 **MR. KERR:**

29 Thank you. And I have another map. Okay, so this is an appraisal
30 resolution for a 5.9 acre parcel located on North Country Road.
31 This is actually across the street from the Deepwells Farm historic
32 property that's currently in county ownership. This property that
33 we're considering was part of the original farm and the property
34 contains the remains of the foundation of a barn that was used as
35 part of the farm. So this scored a 36 out of 100 points on the
36 historic and cultural rating sheet. Parks recommends acquisition
37 of this property. And so we're asking to do an appraisal to
38 hopefully add it to the Deepwells assemblage.

11:07AM 30

39
40 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

41 Thank you, Mr. Kerr. Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those
42 in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

43

44 **CLERK TASSONE:**

45 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

46

47 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**

48 It is approved. 1304 is approved. IR 1329, Amending Resolution
49 No. 841-2022, as amended by Resolution No. 971-2022, in
50 connection with a project to initiate development of the Suffolk
51 County Seaweed Cultivation Management Program in Peconic Bay and
52 Gardiners Bay (CP 8710.165). (Co. Exec.).

53

54 **LEG. TROTTA:**

55 Motion.

56

1 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
2 Motion by Legislator Trotta; second by Legislator Fleming, I think.
3 Anyone on the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
4 Abstentions?

5
6 **CLERK TASSONE:**
7 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

11:08AM

9 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
10 1329 is approved. IR 1359, Authorizing use of Blydenburgh County
11 Park by the New York Cancer Center for a 5K Run. (Thorne). Motion
12 by Legislator Kennedy; second by Legislator Trotta. Anyone on the
13 motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

14
15 **CLERK TASSONE:**
16 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

17
18 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
19 1359 is approved. That concludes --

20
21 **CLERK TASSONE:**
22 Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, are we placing that on the consent
23 calendar also?

11:08AM

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
26 That will be placed on the consent calendar. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
27 That's what happens when you have a diligent Clerk. Great job.
28 That's it for IRs. We do have executive session to discuss the
29 triple A program. I'll take a motion by Legislator Trotta; second
30 by Legislator Krupski to move into executive session. Anyone on
31 the motion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Opposed?
32 Abstentions?

33
34 **CLERK TASSONE:**
35 Seven. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)

36
37 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
38 We are in executive session. If you can please clear the
39 auditorium. Thank you, folks.

40
41 Executive session 12:09 PM - 12:25 PM

42
43 **CHAIRPERSON PICCIRILLO:**
44 Okay, we're out of executive session. The Committee has directed
45 the department to make an offer on Lewin Holding LLC. With no
46 further business in front of this Committee, we stand adjourned.

47
48
49 **THE COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 12:30 PM**