



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

March 9, 2017, 7:30pm  
Law Library, Town Hall

**Attendees:** Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point), Nora Haagenson (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Bruce Bent, Chuck Idol (Baxter Estates), Chris Shannon (Councilwoman DiGeorgio's office), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Erin Reilley (Town of North Hempstead), Jed Siegel (Plandome Manor), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Kevin Braun (Town), Ton Pang (Thomaston), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:40pm with a quorum in attendance.**

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow. Motions are highlighted in blue.

Account balance (2/28): \$128,458.53

**Update on Fuss and O'Neill water quality report** (see [notes](#)): Based on comments received, Fuss & O'Neill came back with a potential 6-point task list to finish up the water quality report. Questions posed by the Committee during this discussion included:

- How many GIS layers did we ask for and did we ask for spatial analysis?
- Original RFP called for correlation between bacteria and rainfall, why is there a charge?
- #6 – most reports come up with recommendations, not just data analysis, what does this cover?
- Ask for more clarification on the standard being used – some states wouldn't allow swimming at these numbers. Can we jump in the water in the bay?

**2017 Boat Tour:** Nora Haagenson made a motion for a \$1200 planning budget; Jennifer Wilson-Pines seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The boat tour will be planned for Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>.  
**Post-meeting follow-up:** Meyran Marine is selling the party boat, Deonarine is looking into alternatives.

**Minutes:** Jed Siegel made a motion to accept the draft meeting Minutes of February 2, 2017 as final, Dan Fucci seconded. The motion passed with one abstention (not present at 2/2 meeting).

**Water quality monitoring program:** After discussion (points follow) the motion came from Erin Reilley to not pursue UWS, approve the letters sent and about to be sent to the State legislature in support of state funding for water quality monitoring, and to apply to the EPA equipment loan program. The motion was seconded by Dianne Sheehan and all were in favor.

- Unified Water Study: Erin Reilley reached out to Peter Linderoth of the Unified Water Study for answers to questions raised by the Committee (see [notes](#)). After some discussion, the Committee decided not to pursue this monitoring option. We would still have access to the data, but we wouldn't have a seat at the table when grading was decided.
- Possibility of State funding: Eric Swenson (Hempstead Harbor) has been leading the charge to secure a line item in the State's Environmental Protection Fund for \$125,000 for water quality monitoring support in the three north shore embayments (Manhasset Bay, Hempstead Harbor, and Oyster Bay), this would leave around \$30,000 for our water quality monitoring. Deonarine had sent letters in mid-February on behalf of the Committee to support this request and had two more letters prepared for state assembly members.
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Updated: 4/10/2017

- EPA equipment loan program: EPA Region 2 has an equipment loan program to which Deonarine would like to apply for a YSI Multi-parameter Sonde (Temp, DO, pH, Salinity; an example can be seen at <https://www.ysi.com/proplus>) to be used this summer in our water quality monitoring program. Deonarine spoke with Mal Nathan, Chief Bay Constable, who was on-board with using a meter so long as training could be provided.

**Port Washington Library Earth Day Event:** April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12-4pm. The event is meant to be action inspiring. Our table will have the usual volunteer sign-up, but Deonarine will also prepare pledge cards directing participants to post a picture to our Facebook page and/or explore BayWalk Park and write about it on our Facebook page. **If you wish to volunteer, please let Deonarine know.**

**New Water Quality Improvement Plan:** Our current plan is almost 20 years old and a lot of things have changed (see [notes](#)). **Deonarine will begin gathering information in order to prepare an application to the State's funding program when the announcement is released and will write a letter to Senator Phillips asking for support.**

**Ideas for Joint Protection Committee meeting:** The meeting is tentatively going to be in May somewhere in the Oyster Bay watershed (we hosted last year). See [notes](#) for topic ideas. Committee members liked the idea of having someone from Washington D.C. come speak (like newly elected Congressman Tom Suozzi). The Committee members wanted to wait on an MS4-themed meeting until the new draft of the permit comes out, as there likely would be a lot of changes. While an "MS4 101" topic was a good idea, they didn't feel it should be a whole meeting. The idea was also floated to have someone compare all the sampling programs in an effort to identify how to bring them closer together.

**Town of North Hempstead stormwater campaign:** In the next two months, the Town will be doing an "only rain down the drain" type stormwater educational campaign and press event. Deonarine supplied the following quote for their forthcoming press release, "Polluted stormwater continues to be a problem for our estuaries and drinking water. The Committee has helped the Town and local villages by supplying metal "Don't Dump, Drains to Bay" markers for storm drains and is very excited to see the Town take such a creative approach in furthering our shared goal of clean water."

#### **Municipal Updates:**

**Town of North Hempstead (Erin Reilley):** Sustainable Long Island is looking to widen their scope of services and will be applying for a grant to do rain gardens on north shore. Be prepared as they may be reaching out to find out where there are good locations for such work.

**Seagrass restoration through Cornell Cooperative Extension:** They are willing to do an assessment of the Bay for potential seagrass restoration, if there is funding available. Deonarine and Reilley are gathering more information.

**Town of North Hempstead (Erin Reilley):** The Town will be sending out information on rain garden and native planting trainings (MS4 public education requirements) which are open to anyone on LI. The dates are May 20 & 23<sup>rd</sup> and in September. The Town's STOP (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) dates are April 8 & 9, June TBD, and October. However, they are unable to accept pharmaceuticals – residents have to take medications to their local police stations.

Dianne Sheehan made a motion to adjourn at 9:09pm.

**Upcoming meetings:** April 6, May 4, June 8, joint meeting TBD, boat tour June 19

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## F&O Water Quality Report

Current cost (base + NOAA data) = \$7,478; Add-ons = \$1,491; New total (if we pursue all) = \$8,969

Based on comments in the meeting, your comments, and the comments from Erin, I see the following as the potential tasks to be completed:

1. Minor edits to tables and text
2. Add the IEC station at 9-413 (recall there is no bacteria data there, so DO and Secchi depth) and use the surface data at all stations or analysis/comparison with the MB stations.
3. Break out the data into "dry" (no rain in prior 2 days) versus "wet" (rain within the prior 2 days).
4. Correlation with rainfall.
5. New GIS figures – as you know new land use mapping is out of scope and would be a new figure charge. The other point data we can add, if the data is provided to us as per the scope:
  - a. Land use – need data from town
  - b. Addition to existing WWTP outfalls – need data
  - c. Additional stormwater outfalls – need data
6. Recommendations on monitoring changes/additions.

I looked at our existing budget and the total authorized now is \$5910+\$1568(see the optional task highlighted) = \$7478. I worked up an estimate of additional costs for the items 1-6 above –

1. Minor edits to tables and text	Included in current scope.
2. Add the IEC station at 9-413 (but there is no bacteria data there, so DO and Secchi depth) and use the surface data at all stations or analysis/comparison with the MB stations.	No additional cost
3. Break out the data into "dry" (no rain in prior 2 days) versus "wet" (rain within the prior 2 days).	\$392
4. Correlation with rainfall	\$392
5. New GIS figures;	
a. Land use – need data from town	\$315
b. Addition to existing WWTP outfalls – need data	No additional cost if outfall locations are supplied.
c. Additional stormwater outfalls – need data	No additional costs if outfall locations are supplied.
6. Recommendations on monitoring changes/additions.	\$392

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## Unified Water Study Responses

-Can sites be from shores or docks instead of boats? Yes, some of the UWS stations are sampled from land but they need to be representative of the embayment. However, given the size and bathymetry of Manhasset there is a need to obtain open-water stations to achieve representative sampling. Save the Sound monitored stations in Manhasset last year, as part of the study pilot, that were discussed with the project science advisors and are now ready for a group to adopt. Please see attached shapefiles if you're interested in reviewing the locations.

- What labs will process the samples? Interstate Environmental Commission (Staten Island), Harbor Watch (Norwalk, CT), and UCONN (Avery Point, CT) are onboard for this year. Any certified lab that is running EPA method #445.0, "In Vitro Determination of Chlorophyll a and Pheophytin a in Marine and Freshwater Algae by Fluorescence" (Arar and Collins, 1997) or Standard Methods 10200 H3, "Fluorometric Determination of Chlorophyll a" (Eaton et al., 2005) is acceptable for the study. STONY Brook also offered to help. I am working to centralize lab fees. Save the Sound plans to contract with IEC for all Long Island UWS Chl-a samples. Fees will be covered, we just need to set a monthly meet point for all the LI groups. My team can transport all samples to IEC lab in Staten Island in bulk.

-Why are they sampling for dissolved oxygen at dawn, when oxygen is lowest? This is a recommendation from the project Science Advisors and was agreed on in the early workshops attended by State Agencies, LISS, Municipalities, Academics, and Community Sampling Groups. Sampling for DO in the middle of the day would lead to the likelihood of very high DO concentrations and saturations in many embayments. A condition that could very well be related to eutrophic conditions and excess algal/plant growth; not signs of a healthy ecosystem. If we have groups taking samples at all hours of the day we lose comparability and those data are misleading without advanced crunching to account for photosynthetic processes.

- Do they sample for bacteria? Bacteria is not included in the UWS as we are primarily interested in eutrophic conditions and ecological health. It is of course a good parameter for groups to consider for their own projects!

- Is the Interstate Environmental Commission involved/ expected to participate? They are very much involved with the project and have expressed interest in participating in the monitoring and lab work.

### Messaging and Grading

- Future grading: will the evaluations incorporate historic improvement (i.e. compare us to ourselves or to other embayments only)? Grading criteria is not set in place yet. It may be a challenge to compare data from the UWS with historic data on Manhasset Bay, but is something to consider. A baseline for intra and inter embayments comparisons will certainly be established by the UWS.

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-Will the sampling organizations get a seat at the table when the grades are being decided? This is very much a study that has been designed with as much stakeholder input as possible. A seat will be made available to organizations/groups that would like to participate in the development of UWS grading criteria.

-How will discussions of ecological health be handled? There is a dissonance between the chemical data and the observed animals, fish, etc. There are generally accepted criteria for the parameters in the UWS. And, macrophyte surveys in the study are qualitative. Groups participating will be expected to be upfront and transparent with data collected. This is a collective effort to assess the health of our bays and harbors. And, a means to package information for the general public in a responsible and concise way. Meetings will be held to discuss messaging.

### Funding

- How long is the funding anticipated to last? The funders are behind this project and have plans to support it into the future at an expanded capacity. As you heard at the meeting, and groups that are participating can attest to, equipment, lab fees, supplies, staff time are all appropriate for funding requests. In addition to group-specific needs....

On that topic, we are very close to completing an equipment and supplies loan program and centralized lab fees which only leaves group-specific items for participants to request. Equipment and supplies can be returned on intervals or kept for long-term basis with the main stipulation being the equipment is returned if the group no longer participates in the UWS.

- Can money go to municipalities, or must it go to 501 c-3's? Yes, we have one muni in CT that wishes to undertake the study and the funders have said they should submit a proposal.

-Will funders collaborative pay for staff time / overtime for municipal boat use? They ultimately make the call. But, yes on staff time, boat fuel, and other items. Overtime boat use would be at their discretion.

-Peter

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## WQIP

May 1999; Dvirka & Bartilucci

Things that have likely changed:

- Depth
- Land use in the watershed
- Population
- Regulations & laws
  - NDZ
  - MS4
- Beach days (increase?)
- Bacteria standards
  - 1999 shellfishing: coliform bacteria less than 70 MPN (most probable number)
  - 1999 swimming: average for month (or at least five samples) less than 2,400MPN and no more than 20% of samples in a month can exceed 5,000MPN
- New computer modeling software
- Climate change is forefront
- Nitrogen upgrades at WWTPs, two **Great Neck** plants combined

Things that have happened since 1999:

- Superstorm Sandy
- New LISS CCMP

## Joint Protection Committee meeting

Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor is host this year.

Topic ideas:

- MS4 101/102
- We could invite our new Congressman Tom Suozzi to speak to us on what is happening in Washington.
- An umbrella education program to incorporate all the things we want homeowners to do (get pumped, scoop the poop, IPM, rain barrels/gardens, etc.).
- How's the Water? - Water Quality Monitoring – update all about the water quality testing we are doing and the advent of the Unified Water Quality program and Report Card
- Beyond Picking Up Trash - Stewardship Activities to engage and excite residents - Oyster Gardening, Invasive Species Removal, Water Quality Testing, Wetland Planting, Rain Gardens, Bird Counts, Septic Socials
- Making Businesses/Public Spaces Greener – target landscapers, golf courses, garden centers, equestrian centers, schools, state parks – IPM , Native Plants, ....
- The new Sound-wide water quality monitoring program or something creative like “Beyond Beach Clean-ups” – creative ways to increase volunteer engagement.

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