

**Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long-Term Plan and
Generic Environmental Impact Statement
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

November 17, 2003 Meeting Summary

Agenda Items 1: Introductions

The meeting opened as everyone present introduced themselves and their organizations. The next CAC meeting was set for Tuesday, January 20, 2004. The CAC agreed to not meet in December due to busy holiday schedules.

Agenda Items 2: Review of October 20th Meeting Summary

The minutes from the October 20th CAC meeting were approved without discussion.

Agenda Items 3: Update from Suffolk County Department of Health Services

Dominic Ninivaggi reviewed the handout that he distributed to the CAC on major mosquito species in Suffolk County. Review of this handout prompted discussion on how the press reports vector control spraying events. Amie Hamlin is concerned that spraying events are usually described as a response to WNV, regardless of whether WNV has been detected in a bird or mosquito sample. This may be a good public education issue that the CAC can focus on. Bob McAlevy requested that a map of WNV incidences in Suffolk County be made available to the public on a weekly basis throughout the mosquito breeding season. He also asked Ninivaggi if WNV infection has ever been detected in a salt marsh mosquito captured in Suffolk County.

Mara Hogan announced that the contract is almost completely signed. The consultants have all signed off, and the contract is receiving final processing through the County. She is also trying to arrange for someone from Public Health to attend a CAC meeting and give a presentation responding to data requests that have been made by CAC members.

Nannette Essel announced that the final scoping document for the Long-Term Plan and GEIS will be on the agenda of the Legislature Nov 18th. (*The GEIS Scoping document was approved by the Legislature in December.*)

Agenda Item 4: Update on CAC Outreach Program

The Co-Chairs presented the revised CAC Work plan and budget to the Committee. Although no funding was allocated for the Citizen's Monitoring Program, it remains in the narrative in case more funding becomes available in the future. The submitted budget was approved by a consensus without discussion. Amie Hamlin will submit the final workplan and budget to the Office of Ecology.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

A) Conflict of Interest Policy

Bob McAlevy distributed a resolution (*see attached*) concerning a conflict of interest policy for the program. He would like the Vector Control program to have a policy that is similar to the one used by the Peconic Estuary Program. Discussion of this topic was tabled until the next meeting to allow members to review the resolution.

B) Data on Pesticide Poisoning of Birds

Sean Mahar reported that Ward Stone's laboratory that tests for WNV and pesticide poisoning in birds will be cut nearly in half. The Audubon Society is writing a letter to NYSDEC commissioner Erin Crotty asking her to reconsider the cut backs because it will severely limit the State's capability to monitor outbreaks of WNV. Mahar is also writing a letter on behalf of the CAC expressing the same sentiment.

C) Breast Cancer Handout

Two articles submitted by McAlevy will be made available to the CAC at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6. Consultant Presentations

A) Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long-Term Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement Web Page

David Berg from Cameron Engineering presented the design of the program's web page. Suggestions were made by CAC members concerning the link to the CAC web page, FAQ's, how the public would be able to receive feedback from their questions and suggestions, and appropriate agency contacts to be posted. Amie Hamlin suggested the web page advertise the pesticide hotline for medical professional reporting of pesticide poisonings.

B) Open Marsh Water Management at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

With assistance from Ducks Unlimited staff, Dave Tonjes gave a comprehensive presentation of OMWM activities at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. He described the four study areas, pre-project monitoring, and the treatments that will be tested. This winter an application will be submitted to DEC to conduct the OMWM investigations. DEC has expressed before that they would like to see three years of pre-project monitoring. Based on pre-implementation monitoring in other states (e.g., Ct), as well as pre-existing data sets for Wertheim, the County believes that one year of pre-

implementation monitoring will be sufficient. Implementation based on that timeframe will make results most useful during formative stages of the Long-Term Plan. Craig Kessler suggested that the CAC may want to write a letter of support for the project when the DEC permit is being evaluated.

Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long-Term Plan Citizens Advisory Committee

November 17, 2003 Attendance

voting member	affiliation	phone #	email
Rita Biss	Lake Panamoka Civic Association	929-6325	
John Black	GSI	589-6908	
Jessica Ottney	Citizen's Campaign for the Environment	516-390-7150	jottney@citizenscampaign.org
Amie Hamlin	Independent	286-1343	longislandnature@aol.com
Craig Kessler	Ducks Unlimited	751-5850	ckessler@ducks.org
Sean Mahar	Audubon New York	518-869-9731	smahar@audubon.org
Robert McAlevy	RCPA	728-3189	
John Newhall	Eastern Fire Island Civic Association	472-9227	
Debra O'Kane	North Fork Environmental Council	298-8880	
Sheldon Penn	Association of LI Recycling Officials	499-7635	pangeas@optonline.net
Jan Schaefer	Mastic Beach Property Owners Association	281-3627	
Diane Teta	Independent	286-4866	

non-voting member	affiliation	phone #	email
Gerald Ludwig	Mastic Beach Property Owners Association	395-5709	
David Berg	Cameron Engineering		
Nanette Essel	Presiding Officer Maxine Postal	853-6376	nanette.essel@co.suffolk.ny.us
David Tonjes	Cashin Associates	348-7600	dtonjes@ca-pc.com
Cindy Patterson	Ducks Unlimited		
Josh Ver Hague	Ducks Unlimited		
Dominic Ninivaggi	SCDPW	852-4270	dominic.ninivaggi@co.suffolk.ny.us
Mara Hogan	SCDHS-Ecology	852-2077	mara.hogan@co.suffolk.ny.us
Mary Dempsey	SCDPW	852-4270	mary.dempsey@suffolkcountyny.gov

Resolution

Whereas, the subject SCVC/SCHD Program should be free of even the appearance of conflicts of interest, use of inside information for monetary gain and related unethical behavior.

Therefore, the CAC recommends that the procedure used to award Program Grants and Contracts be submitted for review to both the County Law Department and Ethics Committee, with special attention to awards to organizations having representatives on the Program CAC and/or TAC.