

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

February 17, 2004 Meeting Summary - Draft

**Agenda Items 1: Introductions**

The meeting opened as everyone present introduced themselves and their organizations.

**Agenda Items 2: Review of January 20, 2004 Meeting Summary**

Bob McAlevy made some minor additions to the minutes to reflect all the topics discussed at the meeting. A discussion followed in which it was decided that all topics, even those not voted on, have to be included in the minutes. The minutes were then approved as amended. There was one abstention.

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

A Program Status handout was distributed to the CAC. It included the Mosquito Control Agents report, an updated list of Steering Committee members, and an updated project timeline. SCDHS gave a report on the program status. The first item of discussion was the *Mosquito Control Agents Report* by Cashin Associates and Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP. It was suggested that the name of the report be changed to '*Mosquito Control Chemicals and Agents*'.

Questions about biological controls were brought up, and it was suggested that the title change would help make the report's content more clear. In order to consolidate questions and suggestions on this Control List, CAC members will forward their comments to Philip DeBlasi.

Under the category section on the adulticides and larvicides, a question was asked as to the criteria for what is considered Widespread, Scattered, and Rare. It was also recommended that DEET and other non-toxic chemicals such as the base ingredient of skin-so-soft and citronella spray, not necessarily used by government agencies, but possibly used to control mosquitoes, be added to the Mosquito Control Agent list for the literature review. The discussion of additional agents that should be included was tabled until the next meeting in March.

Robert McAlevy requested that a legal review of ditching and subsequent conflicts due to construction on wetlands be performed. He also mentioned storm water runoff issues and the legal aspects of this on the marsh.

When an update about the Wetlands workgroup was made, many members expressed their concern that they were not aware of such a workgroup. They asked to be informed of the purpose of the wetlands workgroup and who the members are and expressed interest in having a CAC member be on this workgroup committee. It was also asked that information about the 20-25 Primary Study Areas be made available for the CAC members.

When the update was made about the upcoming caged fish study discussion, a suggestion was made to include studies of larvae and next generation of fish. Another question was whether this study was funded and inquired on which studies, if any, were going to be funded under the EPF/Bond Act applications. The CAC requested an update on the Wertheim OMWM and had questions on the impact on the marsh.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Consultant's Update**

A report by Dave Tonjes was included in the program status handout. The Program Office will follow up with David Tonjes about a subconsultant presentation at the March CAC meeting, a continuing request. The Program Office will also ask Tonjes to contact Debbie O'Kane and Amie Hamlin on having Dr. Susan Teitelbaum make a presentation in the near future to the CAC.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other Business**

##### **A) Update from the Education Sub-committee for the website**

The website is currently under construction. The CAC requests that a portion of the website be set-aside for use by the CAC. This space would be used to further educate and inform the public about current issues. In addition, CAC membership, meeting schedules, By-laws, etc. can be posted in this web space.

It was also mentioned that a No-Spray sign up form be available on the website. A suggestion was made about the mechanism in which this could work; a user could enter their E-mail address and fill out a form to become a website member. Once registered, members could be notified through announcements.

There could also be a section for possible volunteers to sign up. A young persons page was another idea discussed. It would be geared toward young people to educate them and get them more involved in ways such as science project ideas, educating them about ways to control mosquitoes around the home, etc. A user-friendly page for a visitor to post questions was suggested.

A section of the website could contain information about health effects and possible symptoms to watch for after a spray event. A suggestion was made about having a dead bird reporting page, similar to what is available on the North Carolina State website, where a user could fill out a form to be forwarded to the appropriate agency.

Finally, a news section of the webpage could be constructed and regularly updated to keep visitors to the site informed on the latest news, educational tips, etc. CAC members wanted assistance from a web master in designing and updating their web site.

A name for the website was mentioned, What's bugging you.com but was not a favorable choice. It should be something short, catchy, and easy to spell. The sub-committee will come up with 5 different names for the website for discussion and review for Dave Tonjes. It was suggested that the name of the website was not necessarily up to the CAC.

### **B) Update on Feasibility of SCDHS Wildlife Pathology Laboratory**

William Doyle from Mr. O'Leary's office mentioned Mr. O'Leary's attempt to introduce a budget amendment in the amount of \$50,000.00 concerning bird testing for West Nile Virus in time for the next county Legislature meeting. Legislator O'Leary is interested in creating a pathologist position in the Health Department's Laboratory for bird testing. William Doyle from Legislator O'Leary's office stated that actions have been initiated for a budget amendment that would transfer money to the SCDHS for staffing costs at the lab.

### **C) Discussions about CAC Attendance and Membership**

The question was brought up about whether the By-Laws served the needs of the CAC. Particular points of interest were voting member status and addition of new members to the CAC. The By-Laws were reviewed concerning attendance and the removal of voting privileges to members who have not attended meetings regularly.

According to the By-Laws, Steering Committee approval is needed in order to accept new voting members. The CAC would like to change their By-Laws so that Steering Committee approval of new CAC voting members is not required. Instead, the CAC is proposing to change the By-Laws so that the Steering Committee would be notified of new voting members as a courtesy. In addition, the current CAC By-Laws do not include provisions for adding new members; Phil de Blasi will work with Debra O'Kane on draft language.

### **Agenda Item 6. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next CAC meeting is set for Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled for the following Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members can call the North Fork Environmental Council at 298-8880 for verification.