



# Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

**Minutes: March 21, 2024, 7:30pm**  
**Town Hall, Law Library**  
220 Plandome Rd, Manhasset

## **Attendance:**

**Representatives:** Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Nora Haagenon (Mayor, Baxter Estates), Kevin Braun (Town of North Hempstead), Charlie Interrante (Nassau Co), Carey Ye (Kensington), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Gary Lewandowski (Flower Hill), Steven Weinberg (Mayor, Thomaston), Don Richardson (Plandome), Kristina Lobosco (Plandome Heights), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

**Guests:** Eric Swenson (Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee), Samantha Wilder (Water Quality Coordinator), Katie Hannon (Clerk, Village of Plandome Manor), Grace Punzalan, William Mazckiewicz (Thomaston – superintendent of public works), Paul Merkelson, Chuck Idol, Garrick Wan (Manorhaven DPW), Chris Eagler (NYSDEC<sup>1</sup>), Daniel Loscalzo (MS4 Compliance for LiRo)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm with a quorum in attendance.**

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. *Motions are in italicized underline.*

**Presentation:** Eric Swenson, Executive Director of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, gave a presentation titled, “Overview of NYSDEC’s new MS4<sup>2</sup> Stormwater Permit (GP-0-24-001).”<sup>3</sup> Some highlights of the presentation are below and pdf slides of the presentation are attached.

- The new permit is very prescriptive, whereas previous permits gave great latitude to MS4s, since one size doesn’t fit all.
- It is important to note that MS4s can be audited by EPA or DEC.
- 10 new plans and programs required
- 82 deadlines over the next 5 years
- There is no guidance from DEC on what the training consists of (except for erosion and sediment control). Could be as little as a one-page handout or YouTube videos to a 4-hour course. Swenson stressed that each municipality should make sure to document everything. Staff cannot do monitoring, etc. without training first.
- Mapping has 3 phases and within 6 months a large amount of information has to be mapped. There are additional mapping requirements for impaired waters.
- Within 2 years an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program has to be developed and implemented.
- The new permit requires documenting stormwater best management practices (BMPs) back to 2003. To this, NYSDEC said, “Do the best you can.”
- Each MS4 needs to develop a municipal facilities program and a municipal operations program within 3 years.

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<sup>1</sup> New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

<sup>2</sup> Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

<sup>3</sup> Presentation slides are in a separate file titled “2024 – 2029 MS4 Permit PowerPoint”

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- Twice per year we must provide educational messages specific to pathogens for target audiences – this is something the protection committees plan to assist with.
- We don't currently have a pathogen TMDL, but when it comes out, we may be subject to Part IX. Eric guesses that won't need to be done until after this permit expires in 2029.

Post-presentation discussion:

- The Protection Committee (PC) directors met on Monday and went over the list of deadlines and what the PCs can help our members with.
  - Decided to put together a google drive that the PC directors will compile information into for all of our municipal members. Will likely mainly be focused on MCMs<sup>4</sup> 1 & 2. There is an MS4 network across the state of similar groups, we'll glean information from them, too.
  - Talked about the possibility of each PC chipping in to hire someone to prepare one or more web-based trainings and make it available to all the municipal members.
  - May also seek a grant to redo the public perception survey on septic done 10 years ago. The directors identified that the major source of pathogens is from cesspools and that this should be the target for pathogen education.
- On mapping:
  - A few years ago the Town of North Hempstead (under a grant award) hired Sydney Bowne (now LiRo) to do GIS mapping that covered some of the new requirements (most of the MBPC members signed onto this project).
  - Administratively, what way is better: Try to keep everything all in one place.
  - Nassau County will try to help as much as they can, but they're currently limited. If the County is able to compile all the information, the question was raised as to whether it was better for each village go to the County separately or for the Town to supply the data for all the municipalities, since they had the grant. After the meeting, Deonarine reached out to the Town who indicated it was up to each individual municipality to share their data.
  - It's important to note that, for most small municipalities, the municipal boundaries are the sewershed.
- Nassau County hired a consultant to redo their Stormwater Management Plan.
- Town of Oyster Bay formed a committee that is meeting every two weeks to coordinate which town department is handling which aspect of the permit.
- Deonarine will send out the presentation slides and also the MS4 deadlines pdf.

**Discussion & Motion points:**

1. Nora Haagenson made a motion to sign-on to the IEC's 2024 Long Island Sound Pathogen Monitoring Network Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Jennifer Wilson-Pines seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
  - a. Discussion: Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) monitors the Western Long Island Sound, including three stations in Manhasset Bay, as well as monitoring for dissolved oxygen (called the unified water study). And they are also currently partners on a Long Island Sound Study grant to put together a pathogen monitoring

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<sup>4</sup> From the MS4 permit: Minimum Control Measures. These two MCMs have to do with public education and involvement.

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network, part of which is to do pathogen trackdown to identify where pathogens (bacteria) are coming from in a particular area. There are bacteria issues all across Manhasset Bay, but public attention is currently on Manorhaven Beach, so Deonarine reached out to Evelyn Powers and Samantha Wilder of IEC about doing a pathogen trackdown program in that area this summer. Wilder has been working with the Committee for a number of years now, but she is also with IEC. Wilder then went over where the sampling locations would be and what we found on a reconnaissance visit to Sheets Creek (there seems to be a strong influence from birds in the area). Deonarine and Wilder explained that there would be minimal, if any, additional costs to the Committee, since the work is covered under a grant. Wilder would do the sampling, with Deonarine filling in as needed.

- b. The question was asked as to what level we have to get bacteria counts to in order to open the beach. Deonarine explained that Save the Sound has said that there are open beaches in Long Island Sound that have worse bacteria problems and that the main reason the beach is not open to swimming is likely due to the high cost of hiring open-water certified life guards.
2. Nora Haagenson made a motion to finalize the 2024 Committee dues at \$53,400.00, broken down as \$24,000 from Nassau County; \$6,000 from the Town of North Hempstead, and \$1,800 from each Village. Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
3. Carey Ye made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 18, 2024. Kevin Braun seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
4. Steven Weinberg made a motion to retroactively send a letter of support for Save the Sound's grant proposal to the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative Stewardship Fund to add qPCR DNA source tracking<sup>5</sup> to their laboratory. Gary Lewandowski seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
5. Don Richardson made a motion to purchase supplies for the 2024 summer water quality sampling season at a cost not to exceed \$650. Nora Haagenson seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.
6. Update from Manhasset High School volunteer Grace Punzalan about her program: High schoolers are interested in volunteering and activism. She is forming a coalition of high school students and organizing a speaker event with other schools. She is still getting points of contact for various schools (Jennifer Wilson-Pines offered to help with Schriber High School and Carey Ye offered to help with Great Neck High School). Within the next month, she is planning to have a short event at Herricks HS. As an idea for a project, Jennifer Wilson-Pines said that there was once a group who did a monthly clean-up and turned into a science project. It was also suggested that the high schoolers could volunteer to do the educational outreach in the community. Grace has agreed to help with social media for the Committee.

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<sup>5</sup> This is a method used to determine the source of bacteria (e.g., human, avian, etc)

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7. Eagle Scout educational campaign: Carey Ye gave a brief overview of her son, Isaac's, Eagle Scout Project. He will be doing an educational sign campaign about the issues with bird feeding at four parks. His project may also include an educational seminar and/or a short video. Deonarine and Chris Eagler (NYSDEC) have been assisting Isaac.
8. The Committee will not hold an April meeting. The next Committee meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup>.
9. There will be a coastal clean-up at Bay Walk Park in Port Washington on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Unfortunately, it will be a high tide, but Deonarine decided against a Mother's Day weekend clean-up. Could anyone cover the Port Washington Library's Earth Day event? The event is Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Sunset Park – 2-4pm.

### **Updates, Reminders, & Municipal Updates:**

- Kevin Braun is working to set-up a meeting with the Supervisor and her Deputy with members of the Committee to educate them about the Committee
- The Shellfish Seeding Grant is moving forward and will start this year. Deonarine is working with Councilmember Dalimonte's office and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk to choose seeding stations. The idea is that the seeding will be done under CCE's existing permit.
- WQIP<sup>6</sup> -- we need to compile lists of anything bay-related that's important to us and our partners: what projects everyone's doing (or wants to do) and especially what challenges we face. Because if it's not documented, it's not going to get funded. Deonarine and Braun received the draft Watershed Characterization Report Chapter last week and will review it before sending to the Committee for review.
- Nassau S.E.P.T.I.C. program has funding to carry through until 2027. 125 of these systems were put in on the north shore with 100 in process.
- The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District will be having a medical take back on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am to 1:30pm. It is open to all Town residents.
- There will be a Baxter's Pond clean-up on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm.
- There is a small pond, owned by the County that feeds into Leeds Pond at its southern end. The Village of Plandome has been notified that the culvert will be cleaned out.
- LISS CAC<sup>7</sup>, Water quality report RFP<sup>8</sup> status; Seabin – no update, though the Seabin will be up and operational this year.

### **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- Next Meeting: May 9<sup>th</sup>
- May 13th: Long Island Sound Study Futures Fund grant application closes
- Upcoming meetings: May 9, June 13
- Upcoming events: Spring 2024 beach clean-up at Baywalk Park – May 18<sup>th</sup>

*Kevin Braun made a motion to adjourn at 9:08pm.*

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<sup>6</sup> Water Quality Improvement Plan; funded by grant from NYS Department of State (DOS) under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund

<sup>7</sup> Long Island Sound Study's Citizens Advisory Committee, MBPC is a member

<sup>8</sup> Request for Proposals

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