



**Suffolk County Department of Public Works
CP 8189 Sewer Capacity Study
Town of Brookhaven Coordination Meeting (10/21/11)**

To: Boris Rukovets, P.E., Special Projects Supervisor, Suffolk County Department of Public Works

From: Mary Anne Taylor, P.E.

Date: May 7, 2012

Subject: Sewer Capacity Study – Mastic Shirley Stakeholder Meeting Summary

On May 3, 2012, Legislator Kate Browning convened an informational meeting with Montauk Highway property owners, civic leaders and concerned residents from Mastic Shirley on May 3, 2012 at the Mastic Firehouse. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the County’s project to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a sanitary sewer system for the Montauk Highway Corridor. Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW) hand delivered meeting notices to all parcels located in the study area on May 1st and 2nd.

Legislative Aide Joshua Slaughter welcomed the stakeholders to the meeting on behalf of the Legislator, and introduced Boris Rukovets, Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW) Special Projects Supervisor, the County’s Project Manager for all of their Sewer District Capacity Studies. Boris Rukovets explained that at the request of local communities, the County was evaluating the feasibility of providing sanitary sewerage infrastructure in a number of areas throughout the County. These areas had been identified by the Suffolk County Sewer District/Wastewater Treatment Task Force as having a potential “critical need” for sewers based on economic, social and/or water quality benefits. The study will result in a feasibility report identifying the benefits and costs of sewerage and recommendations on whether sewerage is feasible for each of the aforementioned communities, including Mastic Shirley. He introduced Mary Anne Taylor from CDM Smith, the consultant team project manager, and Nicholas Bono and Frank Russo, engineers with H2M, part of the consultant team, to provide additional detail on the study.

Mary Anne Taylor presented a summary of the project objectives, the project scope and schedule. She introduced the seven study areas and the project website (<http://suffolksewerstudy.cdmims.com>) where project information, documents, and upcoming activities will be posted periodically, and where comments and questions to the County or project team can be directed.

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Nick Bono described the selection of low pressure sewers as the most appropriate and most cost-effective collection system option for the Mastic Shirley area. He described the components of the system, including the small pump station that would be sited on each property. Use of the low pressure sewers in this area would reduce the construction-related impacts associated with the more conventional gravity sewer systems, and would also reduce the amount of plumbing changes required of each property connecting to the district. Frank Russo mentioned that directional drilling could also be implemented to further reduce construction related impacts in the area. Nick Bono estimated the capital cost of each pump station is estimated to be on the order of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per property. Given the study area's location within the contributing area to significant surface water features, Mary Anne Taylor described the team's decision to recommend the treatment technology that was capable of reducing effluent nitrogen levels to the lowest possible levels – the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) process, capable of reducing effluent nitrogen to the 3 to 4 mg/L range has been recommended. Frank Russo explained that MBRs currently represent the best available technology. The proposed location of the new wastewater treatment plant is at the Town's Calabro Airport, where adequate room exists to site a facility and the sub-surface leaching pools that would discharge the treated effluent to the groundwater. Photographs of an existing SCDPW 400,000 gallon per day (gpd) sewage treatment plant (STP) located in a residential development in Miller Place were presented to provide a perspective as to how an STP can be located within a residential community without being intrusive. It was acknowledged that sewerage of the Montauk Highway corridor was only the first phase in the County's program. SCDPW and Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), in conjunction with the Town of Brookhaven, have explored sewerage additional residential areas. All agreed that sewerage of additional residential areas within the Forge River watershed would be necessary to achieve any water quality improvement there; this was consistent with both the SCDHS work and the Town of Brookhaven's Forge River Watershed Management Plan.

Mary Anne Taylor briefly summarized the on-going State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) preparation is currently underway and available computer modeling tools are being used to evaluate the two issues of most concern identified during the scoping process; impacts on ground and surface water resources.

Finally, Frank Russo outlined the steps associated with establishment of a County sewer district and sewage infrastructure implementation. If funding is identified, it would take approximately seven years before wastewater treatment would be available.

A number of questions and concerns were identified during the evening:

Project Costs

Several stakeholders expressed concern with the potential cost of the sewage infrastructure. Legislator Browning and Ben Wright both reassured those present that without funding, the project would not move forward, and that the sewer district could only be created by referendum. Legislator Browning described the need to move forward with the planning and design, so that when funding

became available, the project would be advanced far enough to take advantage of it. If property owners within the proposed sewer district boundaries do not feel that the cost of sewerage is affordable even with the funding, they can vote it down and it would not happen. However, if a sewer district is established, all property owners within the district would be obligated to connect to the system.

It is possible that the individual pump stations required for each property could be eligible for funding, depending upon the grant. Each property owner would also need to have a maintenance contract in place to maintain the pump stations. Restaurant owners would continue to need to maintain grease traps; the grease should not be discharged to the sewer system.

It was emphasized that Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) low interest loan funding could only be obtained if a significant environmental benefit would result from the project; this would require sewerage at least part of the more densely developed residential area within the Forge River watershed. Several stakeholders expressed consternation about the limited extent of the first Phase of the project, particularly because the extent of the second Phase was not yet delineated. Ben Wright explained that while potential Phase II boundaries are still being developed, the request for funding for this project which was recently submitted to the EFC included both Phase I and Phase II to ensure that it receives a stronger consideration for funding.

Sewage Treatment Plants

Several residents expressed concern that residents north of Sunrise Highway would not benefit from the STP, but that they could be affected by the STP presence within their neighborhood. Ben Wright said that the existing Tallmadge Woods STP was located in the midst of an existing residential community and that SCDPW is committed to responding quickly to any complaints of odors. He offered that SCDPW would conduct a tour of the Tallmadge Woods STP to provide a first-hand experience of a similar STP, to allay any fears. Legislator Browning also explained that the sewerage in the Phase I area so allow establishment of local restaurants and revitalization of the area would indeed improve the quality of life for all. In addition, an increased tax base would help with the school district taxes; ultimately as future phases of the sewerage program progress, water quality improvement would also benefit all.

Several stakeholders inquired regarding the potential to utilize alternative on-site systems in lieu of a conventional centralized facility. It was agreed that these systems could be considered for future phases, although Frank Russo cautioned the group that the approved alternative systems were also expensive to install.

The Legislator thanked all of the stakeholders who attended the meeting and assured them that she would continue to provide updates on the program as they become available.

Please advise M. Taylor of any oversights or errors to these minutes.

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cc: G. Anderson
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