

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

- - - - -x

PUBLIC HEARING FOR  
THE JAMAICA BAY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN  
NYC DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- - - - -x

Ryan Visitors' Center  
Brooklyn, New York  
  
January 11, 2006  
6:36 p.m.

Reported by: Ilaria Papini

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S :

3

4 Speakers for the DEP:

ANGELA LICATA - DEP Deputy Commissioner

5

JOHN McLAUGHLIN - DEP Director of Ecological  
Services

6

7 BRAD SEWELL - NRDC

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MS. LICATA: Good evening, my name is Angela Licata, and I'm the Deputy Commissioner for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. We're thrilled to have everyone here tonight. We're thrilled to be here for this very important undertaking, a Watershed Protection Plan for Jamaica Bay. And it's really nice to see that we have such an incredible turnout tonight.

And I think one of the things that I want to stress is that in this effort, this undertaking for developing strategies and ideas and solutions for ultimately having Jamaica Bay continue to be the bright jewel that it is for New York City, it's something that really impressed me, the collaborative effort with the community and with the people that live, work and play around the Bay.

With no further ado, I would like to turn this over now to our presenters

1  
2 tonight who are going to walk you  
3 through the plan process. The main  
4 point of tonight's meeting is really to  
5 hear from you, to get your ideas and to  
6 invite you to be part of this wonderful  
7 planning process.

8 Just one item I was asked to remind  
9 everyone is that the Jamaica Bay Task  
10 Force has invited us here tonight,  
11 they're hosting their monthly meeting,  
12 their quarterly meeting tonight and so  
13 they've asked us to just be mindful of  
14 the time and to have speakers limit  
15 their time so that they can move onto  
16 other orders of business.

17 So John McLaughlin, the Director of  
18 New York City DEP Ecological Services  
19 Unit, will begin tonight's presentation.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Angela.

22 Can you hear me?

23 I hope by now you've at least seen a  
24 copy of the local law. We have copies  
25 here. If you don't have a copy there's

1

2

some around the room you can look at.

3

4

5

6

Let's do a quick summary, we're going to keep it fairly brief, as Angela mentioned; this is your night, we want to hear from you.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Basically local law provides the initial pathway towards restoring the Bay and maintaining ecological integrity and that in summary, just wants to connect government agencies and the public to coming to some consensus on how to protect the Bay. That Local Law requires us, the DEP, to develop a comprehensive watershed protection plan in consultation with the Advisory Committee to help the Bay.

18

19

As we all know, some of the priority problems of the Bay are water quality.

20

21

SPEAKER: It's very hard to hear you back here, can you turn up the volume?

22

23

24

25

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I'm sorry.

The priority problems with the Bay are water quality and habitat loss; loss of wetlands, which, as we all know, is

1  
2 the main focus of why we're here; and  
3 problems with agencies coordinating well  
4 with one another; public access, access  
5 of the Bay, the Belt Parkway is acting  
6 as a very strong barrier to reach the  
7 Bay; and there's also public education  
8 on the Bay that needed to be improved.

9 Just going through some potential  
10 solutions to this is not an exhaustive  
11 list and by no means all-inclusive; I'm  
12 sure you have some other suggestions as  
13 well. We'll be more than happy to hear  
14 them.

15 Obviously, wetlands restoration is  
16 high on that list, but restoring the  
17 wetlands is not the only solution. We  
18 need to address problems that affect the  
19 watershed itself and affect water  
20 quality. We need shoreline habitat  
21 improvements as well as wetland  
22 habitats; land acquisition in select  
23 areas; do invasive species control and  
24 that's primarily a function within the  
25 Bay itself and not so much the public

1  
2 watershed; stormwater management is key;  
3 looking at innovative ways to perhaps  
4 peel off some stormwater deep into the  
5 watershed before it reaches the Bay;  
6 there are problems with that we need to  
7 assess and we're looking into that.

8 Obviously, the ongoing process of  
9 upgrading sewage treatment plants;  
10 that's gone a long way to improve the  
11 Bay, something you already know. The  
12 Department is kicking off a very large  
13 CSO remediation program that's going on  
14 in the Bay right now, that should be on  
15 line in '09, somebody else can correct  
16 me on that.

17 We're looking at ways to increase  
18 the circulation within the Bay, I think  
19 that's key. That's been severely  
20 restricted as the Rockaway Peninsula has  
21 been allowed to creep much further out  
22 than it certainly has been. We've  
23 recently cut off channels to the Bay, we  
24 need to look at the different ways we  
25 can to help improve that.

1

2

3

4

5

6

As we mentioned, greater agency intervention and coordination between the federal, state and local entities as well as public and private environmental groups.

7

8

9

10

11

And public education, we need to inform people. If you live on the Bay, you know, but deep in the watershed others may not be as astute on the problems of the Bay.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Some other protection measures that we're currently doing is a comprehensive water quality plan, looking at ways to reduce nitrogen in the Bay. Those include upgrades to several sewage treatment plants. I believe the 26th Ward plant has a B&R facility, I think it is a basic B&R facility, but that does remove a substantial amount of nitrogen from the water column.

22

23

24

25

As I mentioned, they're planning a CSO program, we're also doing that citywide, that's not just for Jamaica Bay.



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

We have an ongoing floatables program, the catch basins within many of the watersheds have hoods, preventing floatables from getting into the Bay; and the key feature is we're currently closing the landfills, Penn and Fountain along Jamaica Bay. They're fully along in the closure process the land is down in both landfills and we'll begin planting, hopefully, this coming spring.

Then there are a whole bunch of other agencies doing work within the Bay; particularly, the Army Corps; The National Park Service, which is the property owner; Department of City Planning; City Parks; the Jamaica Bay Task Force; local elected officials who petition for money to help the Bay and I believe some of the work being done next spring by the Army Corps in D.C. were the results of some local elected officials finding some additional money; and then there are other environmental groups helping the Bay as well.

1

2

MS. BARON: Who are the others?

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. McLAUGHLIN: You know, well, environmental groups such as Ecowatchers, Jamaica Bay Task Force other private environmental groups who have been doing some other public outreach, not necessarily restoration, but bringing awareness of the problems of the Bay.

Then you have the regulatory authorities: SDP; the Department of City Planning; the New York City Department of Health; the New York State Department of State; DEC; The Army Corps of Engineers; the EPA; The Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The coordination between those groups needs to be improved. There's enough regulatory oversight here, if we can just coordinate all those efforts in a very efficient manner. And that's about it.

I would like to introduce the next speaker, Brad Sewell from NRDC.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. SEWELL: Good evening. As John just said I'm Brad Sewell from the Natural Resources Defense Counsel, and I'm up here really representing the Advisory Committee of the Jamaica Bay watershed plan. There are seven of us, and we're all appreciative of the opportunity to talk with you this evening and get your input now and on an ongoing basis as we move forward.

Let me start by thanking everyone for coming out. I know there is an assortment of interests here including some elected officials that I specifically want to recognize representative from James Gennaro's office who's here; and I say this because Councilman Gennaro was really the leader in the Council on getting this law passed, and I wanted to express thanks to Councilman Gennaro on behalf of myself and NRDC and the advisory committee for that.

The four things that I want to talk

1  
2 about just briefly outlined so we can  
3 get right away is who we are, what this  
4 Advisory Committee is supposed to do  
5 under Local Law 71, what's our work plan  
6 and then how you all can get involved in  
7 the process.

8 So first, who's on the committee and  
9 we've tried to get everyone sitting  
10 generally in the front row here, if the  
11 people could just stand up and introduce  
12 themselves.

13 Chris Zeppie?

14 MR. ZEPPIE: I'm Christopher Zeppie,  
15 I'm the Director of Environmental Policy  
16 and Planning for the Port Authority of  
17 New York and New Jersey.

18 MR. ADAMO: Doug Adamo, Chief of  
19 Natural Resources at the National Park  
20 Service Gateway National Recreation  
21 Area.

22 MS. O'CONNELL: Christine  
23 O'Connell, I'm here representing  
24 Dr. Larry Swanson from the Marine  
25 Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook

1

2

University.

3

4

5

MR. MUNDY: I'm Dan Mundy from  
Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, appointed by  
the City Council.

6

7

MR. SEWELL: I know I saw Lenny come  
in.

8

9

10

MR. HOUSTON: I'm Len Houston, I'm  
chief of the Environmental Branch for  
the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

11

SPEAKER: Who is Manny Caughman?

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

MR. SEWELL: Manny Caughman is the  
only one of us who couldn't make it this  
evening, and he apologizes and we  
apologize. He's actually out of the  
country and he will be at the next  
public meeting, and he is our seventh  
member.

19

20

21

MS. BARON: Can you tell those of us  
who are community activists and don't  
know his name where he came from?

22

23

24

25

MR. SEWELL: He works in  
representative Joe Scarborough's office.  
He is also with Community Board 12.  
He's a community activist and has been

1

2

involved in Jamaica Bay issues in the

3

past and on the Advisory Committee.

4

MS. BARON: None of us know who he

5

is.

6

MR. SEWELL: Hopefully you'll get an

7

opportunity to work with him.

8

MS. STEIN: He was part of the

9

Brooklyn Queens Aquifer project; he

10

works closely with the City Council on

11

that.

12

MR. SEWELL: In terms of what we are

13

going to do, Local Law 71 created this

14

committee. So pursuant to that law

15

we're to provide advice to DEP on an

16

ongoing basis and then also come up with

17

a set of recommendations to present to

18

DEP and the Council at the end of the

19

process that we go through. It will

20

then be part of the DEP's process to

21

develop the plan, and the plan itself

22

needs to include a response to our

23

recommendations. And then the term for

24

our duties, so to speak, ends three

25

months after the plan's completion.

1  
2           Again, under the Law itself the  
3           specific things that we're supposed to  
4           target for our recommendations are the  
5           goals for this plan; the boundaries for  
6           the watershed sewershed is to be  
7           considered in developing the plan; and  
8           then the measures themselves to include  
9           in the plan; the Local Law lists a  
10          series of measures in fairly broad terms  
11          to be specifically considered and they  
12          include, as the slide shows, best  
13          management practices concerning  
14          stormwater management up in the  
15          watershed; measures to address threats  
16          to aquatic habitat, including restoring  
17          natural features of water flows; land  
18          acquisition, planning and development  
19          practices that would encourage or  
20          discourage certain land uses; and then a  
21          protocol for agency coordination; public  
22          education; enhanced enforcement and any  
23          additional measures that the committee  
24          itself develops that aren't included on  
25          Local Law 71 list.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

And then we move on to assessing the feasibility in all terms of these measures and that would be included in our recommendations. And we would also include recommendations as to what the schedule should be for achieving the goals that are set forth in the plan, including interim milestones.

And then finally, methodology of some sort to monitor progress in hitting those milestones, including whatever the final goals are.

How we view our role is to be cooperative with DEP and have a give and take, but also be independent from DEP.

I think we see a particular niche for us in promoting new approaches that are somewhat outside of the approaches that are most amenable to how business was conducted in the past, including I think really looking at things up in the watershed in terms of reduction, source reduction, so reduction of pollutant inputs to the system and then



1

2

developing controls and land acquisition

3

and restoration-focused features.

4

5

Obviously, as you can see from our  
makeup, we want to represent the views

6

of multiple agencies involved in this

7

process, because there are multiple

8

ongoing government programs that could

9

play a role in this process and also

10

members of the public; and I really want

11

to stress that last one.

12

13

We want to serve as a resource for  
the public, because clearly we're just

14

seven people with obviously complicated

15

agendas for each of us, and we want to

16

be able to bring a lot more than simply

17

the skills, capabilities and knowledge

18

that the seven individuals have, that

19

the seven entities have, but really

20

expand it greatly to serve as really a

21

means by which the public can provide

22

extensive input into the development of

23

this plan.

24

Important dates. We're having

25

meetings now and later in the spring

1  
2 we'll have more meetings. The Law  
3 itself requires that our recommendations  
4 be submitted July 1 and DEP has dates  
5 after that by which they complete the  
6 plan and then do regular reports.

7 Our Advisory Committee's work plan  
8 is in the next couple of months to do  
9 these meetings, encourage input, to  
10 develop a preliminary draft of  
11 recommendations and then have some  
12 workshops in which we fill the holes in  
13 those preliminary recommendations; and  
14 then proceed in to doing a draft set of  
15 recommendations and then a final set of  
16 recommendations in order to have it  
17 ready by July 1.

18 And then in terms of how to get you  
19 all involved as much as possible;  
20 tonight is an opportunity; on an ongoing  
21 basis there will be opportunities to  
22 communicate through the websites,  
23 electronic mail or regular mail,  
24 personal conversations at meetings, and  
25 like I said, we really encourage people

1  
2 from this point forward certainly to  
3 give us as much input and help as  
4 possible, again, because we really need  
5 it, you know, it's a complicated,  
6 phenomenally complicated task that we're  
7 trying to do.

8 Thanks.

9 MS. LICATA: We are going to call  
10 people to speak off the list as they  
11 have signed up tonight. So when we call  
12 your name, if you want to come up and  
13 take the microphone, that will probably  
14 be the best way for us to make sure that  
15 your comments are transcribed  
16 accurately.

17 MR. MUNDY: Yes, and as you were  
18 reminded before, we just ask that you  
19 keep your comments within the time  
20 frame. We have about twelve people  
21 signed up so we'll be able to give two  
22 or three minutes each; we'll try not to  
23 limit anybody but three minutes is the  
24 maximum amount of time and we'll be  
25 timing it; and if you haven't finished

1  
2 maybe near the end I'll have to remind  
3 you to wind up, we're running out of  
4 time.

5 The first speaker I'm going to take  
6 off the sheet is Bernie Blum.

7 Bernie, please.

8 MR. BLUM: Thanks, Dan. I hope I  
9 don't go for three minutes.

10 Friends of Rockaway since the '80s,  
11 a pioneer group, were out to save over  
12 50 acres of natural areas in Jamaica Bay  
13 including Dubos Point, Brand Point, and  
14 a number of other areas, Terrapin Point.

15 Now, that is a record that is I  
16 think hard to duplicate as far as  
17 conservation goes. I've come here  
18 tonight just to remind the Advisory  
19 Committee and the DEP about several  
20 issues. I just jotted them down.

21 First, we need an impact study for  
22 the Lot Cleaning Division, a clean  
23 impact study for the Queens Division of  
24 Sanitation and I wrote you, Ms. Licata,  
25 and I wrote a number of agencies. And

1  
2 I'm a student of the lack of  
3 coordination of agencies, because no  
4 agency would ask the Sanitation  
5 Department to complete an impact  
6 statement for the strip mining of  
7 topsoil, which is more urgent the actual  
8 cleaning which the program describes in  
9 keeping with the mosquito/weed program,  
10 which uses federal funds for strip  
11 mining the topsoil. So we need a  
12 complete impact statement from the  
13 Sanitation Department and they're the  
14 lead agency, they don't have one yet.

15 And also because of all the strip  
16 mining in Rockaway on public and private  
17 lands, there's very little open land  
18 left other than the eastern end. At the  
19 eastern end it's got quite an acreage,  
20 it's very floodable and there should be  
21 a focus of acquisition for watershed  
22 protection of Jamaica Bay.

23 Also with respect to retention  
24 basins on Jamaica Bay, (inaudible) that  
25 has a 2.46 billion gallons a day flow,

1  
2 and there's a mathematician here who  
3 confirmed that for me; and that's an  
4 awful lot of flow in the eastern end of  
5 Jamaica Bay. There needs to be a  
6 retention basin there, which is part of  
7 the original plan and was dropped.

8           There was an article in today's  
9 newspaper, The New York Post, which  
10 indicated that the City has finally  
11 agreed to reduce the amount of nitrogen  
12 coming into Jamaica Bay and into Long  
13 Island Sound. The question is how much  
14 reduction will take place so that the  
15 chlorophyll a and (inaudible) in Jamaica  
16 Bay will be sufficiently reduced and DEP  
17 is here to acknowledge the fact that  
18 there needs to be a certain poundage of  
19 nitrogen in the Bay that will  
20 significantly reduce the problems the  
21 Bay is suffering from.

22           There was a recent study which  
23 indicated that Little Bay is suitable  
24 for dredge soil use in shallowing it up  
25 for mitigation. I feel that Jamaica Bay

1  
2 should be totally off-limits for the use  
3 of dredge soil, whether it's toxic or  
4 not, because (CLAPPING) of DEP and the  
5 Army Corps include the fact that Jamaica  
6 Bay is a suitable site or would be if  
7 proven so. So, I think that,  
8 Mr. Sewell, you should really look into  
9 whether Little Bay really needs toxic  
10 dredge or any kind of dredge soil.  
11 Because the Army Corps study was very  
12 tricky because, it couldn't say actually  
13 that the dredge soil would even be used.  
14 It was just a study. But the next step  
15 is dredge soil.

16 MR. SEWELL: Okay.

17 MR. BLUM: Thank you very much. I  
18 know I jumped around a little bit.

19 MR. MUNDY: The next one on this  
20 sheet is Judy Baron.

21 Ms. Baron, please?

22 MS. BARON: Thank you, Dan. I'm  
23 environmental chair of the Manhattan  
24 Beach Community Group and I've been a  
25 part of the Jamaica Bay Task Force I

1  
2 think for the last 10 or 15 years. I'm  
3 tired of being members of the Jamaica  
4 Bay Task Force.

5 I want to make two comments: The  
6 first one is that those of us that serve  
7 on the current Jamaica Bay Task Force  
8 were not informed properly about Local  
9 Law 71. We weren't informed about the  
10 City Council hearings. We weren't told  
11 that there was a possibility that some  
12 of us perhaps might have been put on the  
13 Advisory Committee, and I think it's  
14 unfortunate that the Jamaica Bay Task  
15 Force didn't bother to tell those of us  
16 that have been doing this for years that  
17 this indeed was the case.

18 The second comment I want to make --  
19 I'm going to leave the technical stuff  
20 to others. The second comment I want to  
21 make is that for years I've been hearing  
22 and we've all been hearing that the  
23 harbor needs to be dredged and everybody  
24 knows that the harbor needs to be  
25 dredged.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

We also know that in the Army Corps Engineer Draft statements and in all the environmental impact statements that we've been hearing over the years is that there are, in fact, some areas of toxic waste in the harbor. Knowing that and knowing that there are borrow pits within Jamaica Bay, off Gravesend Bay off the coast of Staten Island, Coney Island, the citizens of this area have made it very emphatic that we do not want toxic waste in Jamaica Bay or any of the borrow that are in the area.

We keep hearing a change in semantics. I wrote down a couple of them, I had some help in the audience. We hear restoration. We hear recontouring. We hear improving water flow. We hear restoring the Bay to its natural historic levels. The bottom line is that we know that the Army Corps of Engineers and probably the Port Authority need to dredge the harbor. No question about that. We need to have

1  
2 commerce in the city and we need to have  
3 it so that these large container ships  
4 can come in.

5 The question is what are you going  
6 to do with the dredge material? There  
7 are other ways to handle it; it's  
8 cheaper, much cheaper to take it and  
9 dump it. But you can't prove -- anybody  
10 can prove -- that you could cover those  
11 borrow pits with clean anything and that  
12 it won't disappear because of a storm or  
13 other natural causes.

14 That's my comment. I think  
15 everybody knows about it and I just  
16 think that you need to know that we  
17 don't want this to be another cover-up  
18 for dumping. You need to do this  
19 properly.

20 MR. MUNDY: Thank you, Judy, very  
21 much.

22 Next on our list is Marty, Marty  
23 Schreib.

24 MR. SCHREIB: Thank you for this  
25 opportunity to speak. My name is Martin

1  
2 Schreib. I'm the founding director of  
3 the Aquatic Research and Environmental  
4 Assessment Center of Brooklyn College  
5 and a distinguished Professor of Biology  
6 there.

7 I've been working in Jamaica Bay  
8 for over 20 years on various aspects of  
9 research, specifically biology, we  
10 worked on the salt marsh restoration;  
11 and I served on a blue-ribbon panel. I  
12 was part of the Jaybird studies of 20  
13 scientists working out of (inaudible)  
14 doing the most comprehensive  
15 interdisciplinary study of Jamaica Bay.

16 There are lots of things I could say  
17 about this plan, most of them are  
18 negative: From the constitution of the  
19 panel, the idea of agendas, people  
20 coming with agendas; that's not the way  
21 to solve problems. The most important  
22 point I want to make, I think, from my  
23 perspective is, we have lots of  
24 scientific information but we need a  
25 whole lot more. The blue-ribbon panel

1  
2 made recommendations, studied the salt  
3 marsh loss at issue, they made  
4 recommendations. The bottom line was  
5 that we did not have the causes for the  
6 salt marsh and we cannot restore it  
7 until we find out what the issues are.

8 The Jaybird study, thousands of  
9 dollars, hundreds of thousands of  
10 dollars were spent on it by the Army  
11 Corps of Engineers, by DEC; three  
12 volumes, a CD and yet the information  
13 has been ignored. And there are two  
14 points I want to make very clear because  
15 if the basis of what you're trying to do  
16 is restoring, it's wrong.

17 The flushing rate of Jamaica Bay is  
18 not 35 days. This myth is perpetuated  
19 on and on, this goes back to New York  
20 Academy of Science report back into the  
21 '60s, it was not founded, it was not  
22 substantiated, there was no peer review.  
23 The Jaybird study showed very clearly on  
24 work done by Lamont-Doherty at Columbia  
25 University, three very extensive dye

1  
2 studies, that the Flushing rate of  
3 Jamaica Bay is seven or eight days. You  
4 cannot decrease the flushing rate  
5 anymore than that; and filling the  
6 borrow pits, for whatever reason that  
7 has, is just going to increase the  
8 flushing rate and perhaps you're going  
9 to look at the fact that the salt marsh  
10 loss is really due to the extensive  
11 flushing rate and the loss of  
12 sedimentation from those salt marsh  
13 islands.

14 The next issue I want to point out  
15 is the idea of anoxia. We have Mark  
16 (inaudible) here who has carried at  
17 water test samples for National Park  
18 Service for I don't know how many years,  
19 on a regular basis, daily basis. If you  
20 look at the anoxia levels, they are  
21 relatively non-existent except if you  
22 have long periods of no rain.

23 These are issues that we're dealing  
24 with. This whole premise of restoring,  
25 restore the Bay and restructuring the

1  
2 Bay is based on these two issues among  
3 other things. They're wrong.

4 MR. MUNDY: Thank you, Marty. I'm  
5 sure you could have gone on a lot longer  
6 here, but we have other people. We're  
7 trying to keep everybody in line.

8 Next on our list is Jeanne Dupont.

9 MS. DUPONT: Hi, I would just like  
10 to say my name is Jeanne Dupont. I'm  
11 part of (inaudible) Beach Community  
12 Association. It's a newly formed  
13 organization that has residents along  
14 Beach 25th Street and far Rockaway,  
15 along the oceanfront.

16 One of the reasons we did come here  
17 today is because of the fact that we,  
18 along the ocean, along Rockaway Beaches,  
19 are suffering tremendously from the  
20 development and a lot of the  
21 construction that's going on. It's  
22 affecting our beaches, it's affecting  
23 our sewage, it's affecting everything  
24 that's going on. We've completely been  
25 ignored by many of the organizations

1  
2 that we've gone to, and I'm hoping that  
3 the Jamaica Bay Task Force will be able  
4 to help us, to work with us on the  
5 oceanside.

6 I had spoken to Assemblywoman Titus.  
7 She had informed me that the Jamaica Bay  
8 Task Force is supposed to be on the  
9 oceanfront or cover some of our area and  
10 I'm hoping that it will.

11 SPEAKER: Can you speak into the  
12 mic?

13 MS. DUPONT: Sure.

14 So I'm hoping that the Jamaica Bay  
15 Task Force will be able to work with us.

16 Again, our organization is willing  
17 to work with anybody that is willing to  
18 come to our assistance to working with  
19 development park land.

20 Right now I'm working with Leroy  
21 Temple, I'm trying to establish some of  
22 the space that is right now vacant, that  
23 is not being used for any other purposes  
24 except dumping grounds for construction  
25 and other developers who are working

1  
2           presently to try to change some of those  
3           things and to try and work with this  
4           community to establish programs,  
5           educational programs to bring these kids  
6           to the water to see some of the  
7           resources that are on our beaches on  
8           Beach 25th Street.

9           We have power dredging the goes on  
10          every day off of Beach 30th Street and I  
11          speak to the DEP regularly about trying  
12          to try to find a way for people to stop  
13          some of the stuff that's coming in.  
14          These boats are practically on our  
15          beach. And I know that it affects the  
16          water and I know it affects the  
17          resources that are there with the  
18          wildlife.

19          So I would just like to throw that  
20          out and see if anybody's interested in  
21          working with us, we will have a Web site  
22          or e-mail address of (inaudible) Beach  
23          at Yahoo.com; and again, I'll try to  
24          work regularly and meet with or talk  
25          with some of the people from the Task



1

2

Force would be great.

3

Thank you.

4

MR. MUNDY: Thank you. And she

5

finished before three minutes.

6

Our next on the list is Peter

7

Granickas.

8

MR. GRANICKAS: I'll pass.

9

MR. MUNDY: You'll pass?

10

Okay. Thanks, Peter.

11

Next is Robert Altern.

12

MR. ALTERN: The original legislation

13

at the City Council had gaps. I think

14

it's important that the Advisory

15

Committee and the Department of

16

Environmental Protection in their

17

reports highlight those gaps and repair

18

them to the extent possible.

19

Substantively, for example, in the

20

era of Katrina, it's amazing to me that

21

the legislation ignored the problem of

22

sea level rise and extreme weather

23

events. It seems to me that at the very

24

least there should be recommendations

25

for further such studies or for hearings

1  
2 that relate to those issues. They are  
3 particularly important for the Jamaica  
4 Bay and Rockaway area.

5 Similarly, it's odd that the  
6 legislation doesn't specifically talk  
7 about wetland loss, although clearly,  
8 given the composition of the advisory  
9 committee that's going to be well taken  
10 care of.

11 It also doesn't recognize that there  
12 have been recent past studies by the  
13 Department of Environmental Protection  
14 particularly the use of (inaudible)  
15 project and the long-term control plan  
16 which is its successor and some of us  
17 are wondering where that program is now.

18 In terms of process there are some  
19 gaps that I think ought to be repaired.  
20 One is that a final product ought to be  
21 a generic environmental impact statement  
22 for the Bay.

23 The second problem is the idea of  
24 completion. The completion of this study  
25 should be adoption of the plan by the

1  
2 City Council under Section 197 A. The  
3 legislation comes from the Council and  
4 197 A is the process for comprehensive  
5 planning in this town.

6 Similarly, I'm concerned about the  
7 provision that the Advisory Committee  
8 goes out of existence three months after  
9 the completion of the study. What's  
10 needed is a continuing commitment to  
11 oversee the implementation of the plan.

12 So there are problems, gaps in the  
13 content that's called for. There are  
14 gaps in the process that's called for.  
15 Both kinds of gaps can be repaired in  
16 the reports.

17 MR. MUNDY: Thank you, Bob.

18 Next on our list is a person that  
19 probably doesn't need the volume turned  
20 up, Steve Wohl.

21 MR. WOHL: The first two items not  
22 introduced by me but by some others seem  
23 to have some wisdom. I think  
24 consideration, serious consideration  
25 ought to be given to the idea of

1  
2 transport of the effluent from these  
3 sewage plants across Jamaica Bay to open  
4 ocean, somewhere far out and not a  
5 manana, manana thing, but to get started  
6 on that: No dumping into Jamaica Bay of  
7 any effluent, forget about just catching  
8 the solids.

9           Secondly, I'd like a serious effort  
10 made to close down, to eradicate, to  
11 take away the entirely improper  
12 operation of potty collections dead in  
13 the middle of Jamaica Bay across the  
14 street from the Visitors' Center at the  
15 Wildlife Refuge. Close it down and not  
16 just fine after fine after fine to the  
17 Mafiosi who are running that operation;  
18 away, finished.

19           And that southern end of the  
20 freshwater pond, put into the hands of  
21 Gateway for a complete perimeter of the  
22 freshwater lake in public hands.

23           There is a certain very small bird,  
24 not very small, but about the third of  
25 the size of a pigeon, darkish bird. I'm

1  
2 not enough of an ornithologist or  
3 something to identify it more closely,  
4 particularly sweet song. Hundreds and  
5 hundreds common forever and forever in  
6 the Rockaways. This past year I saw and  
7 heard one.

8 In 2002 entire forests were  
9 bulldozed down by goon bulldozers and  
10 attendant machinery without any  
11 clearance, without any finalization of  
12 the eventual fate of that 308 acres of  
13 public land, all of which has run off  
14 going into Jamaica Bay.

15 I note here that, no doubt you've  
16 all picked up, the minimization of  
17 impervious surfaces. The way to  
18 entirely minimize impervious surfaces on  
19 the 308 acres which don't have to be  
20 acquired, there the people's property  
21 8.1 million owners, is not to surrender  
22 that property; especially not to  
23 surrender that property for not a dime,  
24 not \$.10 to the City of New York; not  
25 \$.10; \$200 million in infrastructure

1  
2 support on top of the gift of the land  
3 to friends of Guiliani and Bloomberg;  
4 not one representative from the 50  
5 community boards apart from Community  
6 Board 14 who have their fingers, their  
7 personal fingers in the pie, not one  
8 representative was at any of the public  
9 hearings that had to do with what we're  
10 going to do with the 308 acres of our  
11 land. And the acquisition specified  
12 that if there was going to be any  
13 housing on that land back in the '60s it  
14 was going to be low-income housing, not  
15 a gift to privateers. Stop that  
16 embezzlement. Stop that theft.

17 I want to make one last comment. I  
18 want to thank everyone who came here on  
19 a very foggy night in the middle of  
20 winter for being here, and I think we  
21 should pay attention, as the woman over  
22 here said Judy from Brooklyn and others,  
23 we want to know who constitutes these  
24 advisory committees, what their agenda  
25 is.

1

2

Stay with it.

3

MR. MUNDY: Next on the list, Ida;

4

Ida Sanoff, please.

5

MS. SANOFF: Natural Resources

6

Protective Association founded over

7

thirty years ago in Staten Island. We

8

have members throughout the greater New

9

York metro area.

10

We sent a letter to Mayor Bloomberg

11

on November 8th protesting the makeup of

12

this panel. We felt that we were not

13

given any advance notice from Jamaica

14

Bay Task Force as to the panel being

15

formed, as to the qualifications of the

16

people being placed on the panel.

17

We find it amazing that for an

18

ecosystem as complex as Jamaica Bay,

19

there was not one life scientist on this

20

panel. The panel members, Dr. Swanson I

21

believe is a geologist, and one of his

22

fields of interest is Waste Management.

23

To get right to the point, if you

24

want to (inaudible) habitat that work

25

has already been set out for you in

1  
2 Buffer the Bay and Buffer the Bay  
3 Revisited, put out by the Trust for  
4 Public Land; that can make your life a  
5 lot easier.

6 You want to improve sewage  
7 treatment plants, fine. But there are  
8 three very, very dirty words in this  
9 Local Law and those three words are  
10 improve water flow.

11 If you want to unblock tidal  
12 channels, fine; but we really feel that  
13 there's a hidden agenda here and that is  
14 to fill borrow pits.

15 There are a number of people here  
16 from the Citizens' Advisory Committee  
17 for the remediation of the landfills; we  
18 were at the meeting last night. We  
19 heard someone from the DEP, Division of  
20 Water talk about filling borrow pits to  
21 improve water flow. When I asked if  
22 they were going to fill it with clean  
23 sand, since that's what was removed  
24 originally, they said well, we'll cover  
25 it with a little clean sand.



1

2

We still have not received a response to our letter to the Mayor as to what is going to be done regarding the absence of a life scientist on this panel. We feel that is essential.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

We have also submitted a letter dated December 10th to Mr. Houston of the Army Corps, Mr. Zahn, of PPC, specifically asking if there are any plans to fill in 2006, 2007. We have not yet received a response.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

I do have documentation going back to the '90s from Empire State Development Corporation, Army Corps of Engineers, et cetera, stating plans to get rid of noxious dredge material in Jamaica Bay. Again, what was removed from here was clean, pristine sand. It was borrowed. That's why they call it a borrow pit.

22

23

24

25

If you're going to put back anything less, well than you're not borrowing, you're pulling a swift one. And we've been fighting this fight of these borrow

1  
2 pits for 30 years; and if there's one  
3 thing we know how to do, it's fight.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. MUNDY: Next on our list is John  
6 Gale.

7 John?

8 MR. GALE: Hello, I'm John Gale. I  
9 live at Starret City and I'm a member of  
10 CAC with Ida. I was at the meeting last  
11 night. And I'm not pushing for the same  
12 agenda of filling the borrow pits or  
13 not.

14 I came here just to advocate the  
15 development of the landfill into a park  
16 that the public could use. And it would  
17 really be a great access for the public  
18 in East New York to go to a park like  
19 that nearby. It would really be  
20 advantageous to Gateway to have a great  
21 public park like that connected to it  
22 and so far it's been improving very  
23 well. It used to be just like a garbage  
24 dump that kind of looked like a  
25 landfill, and now it's really starting

1  
2 to shape up to really look like a park.  
3 We just want to make sure that everybody  
4 else will also push to make it a public  
5 access in the final effort.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. MUNDY: Thanks, John.

8 Next is Mickey Cohen.

9 MR. COHEN: Thank you, Dan.

10 I'm on the Board of the Bayswater  
11 Civic Association, and I am representing  
12 the Bayswater community of some 2,000  
13 families here tonight.

14 Bayswater is a community living  
15 directly on Jamaica Bay, at the east end  
16 of Jamaica Bay. And we have in our  
17 community a roadway called Northern  
18 Drive. Perhaps you're familiar with it.  
19 If Bayswater is a crown, Northern Drive  
20 really is the jewel in that crown.

21 This is an avenue or esplanade that  
22 looks out over the bay, lovely salt  
23 marsh growing out there. People in the  
24 Bayswater community are absolutely in  
25 love with this particular segment of

1  
2 Bayswater. However, over the years it's  
3 been degraded. It's degraded to an  
4 extent that's hard for me to describe to  
5 you.

6 Dumpers have found this to be an  
7 exceptional place by the light of the  
8 moon to come in and dump truck loads of  
9 concrete debris, old sidewalks are  
10 dumped out there; gardeners dump trees.  
11 People who work in forestry have a  
12 wonderful place to leave their old  
13 branches and such things like that.

14 And so, as I've been living there  
15 for 46 years and walking along Northern  
16 Drive, I have watched it degrade and  
17 degrade and degrade.

18 Two years ago a wonderful thing  
19 happened to us: Our community was  
20 threatened with further degrading by the  
21 Florida Power and Light Company, which  
22 is the builders of two power plants.  
23 However, they recognized the fact that  
24 they were a great inconvenience to our  
25 community during that project, and they

1  
2 awarded Bayswater community with many  
3 thousands of dollars in the way of what  
4 you'd call retribution or give back.  
5 And the board of the Bayswater Civic  
6 Association agreed unanimously -- first  
7 time that ever happened, I'll tell you  
8 that -- they agreed that they would use  
9 these funds for the refurbishment of  
10 Northern Drive to build it up and to  
11 refurbish it and to restore it to the  
12 way some of us recall that it had been  
13 originally.

14 So we sought help from various city  
15 and state agencies. New York State  
16 Department of Environmental Conservation  
17 has been very, very helpful to us in  
18 planning out the restoration of Northern  
19 Drive. And now several years later for  
20 the first time -- for the second time  
21 all these years another wonderful thing  
22 has happened to us in Bayswater. We  
23 received news that this panel is  
24 available to us, one of their edicts is  
25 to acquire lands where necessary and my

1  
2 appeal tonight is that they acquire  
3 those lands that are not yet in the  
4 public domain and to have those turned  
5 over to the Parks Department, City Parks  
6 of New York.

7 The park lands on Northern Drive  
8 will be developed by the Association;  
9 however, we're asking for these  
10 additional privately owned parcels to be  
11 added to the parcels we can work with  
12 and that will enable us to connect  
13 Bayswater to City Park to the south;  
14 Bayswater to State Park to the north and  
15 we will have this marvelous string of  
16 green. So we're asking for your  
17 assistance here, panel.

18 I appreciate that.

19 MR. MUNDY: Thank you very much,  
20 Mickey.

21 Jim, Jim Haley?

22 MR. HALEY: Hello. My name is Jim  
23 Haley. I'm from Broad Channel, 19th  
24 Road on the west side.

25 We have a big problem. In the past

1  
2 15 years, a species of crabs has entered  
3 the Bay. No one seems to know about it.  
4 The crab is an Asian Sand Crab. Within  
5 15 years that I've observed this crab,  
6 it digs into the marshland and has  
7 burrows of 15 to 20 crabs together.

8           When it comes out of the burrow,  
9 the tide comes up, the water washes  
10 through the burrow and undermines the  
11 integrity of the marshland. This is a  
12 picture of the crab. I've also brought  
13 in live ones to show you that I'm not  
14 fooling around. It's a big problem.

15           Now, the habitat of this crab is in  
16 the Pacific Ocean. Also, the west coast  
17 of the United States is invaded by this  
18 crab, too. The way it gets here is  
19 probably from ballast bilge in cargo  
20 ships. It floats around in the water  
21 for up to 60 days as a juvenile and it  
22 can travel much, much distance within  
23 that time.

24           It his expanded itself tenfold, it's  
25 not stopping. It has no predators here.

1  
2 I've even tried to use the crab black  
3 fishing and the black fish will not eat  
4 it. Something has to be done about it.  
5 People have to be aware of it. We have  
6 to do something. We can't just let --

7         You see what happened with the green  
8 crabs; green crab is not a native  
9 species. It came from the Dutch in the  
10 holds of the ships and now there are  
11 tons of them. The same thing is  
12 happening with this crab. This crab  
13 happens to like the marshes. Not like  
14 the green crab, the green crab will stay  
15 on the bottom or on the rocks.

16         I just want to make people aware of  
17 this problem.

18         And there's another problem. We  
19 have pollution going on our shores by  
20 religious people, people from the Middle  
21 East. They take fruit, they take  
22 incense, coconuts; walk on any beach and  
23 you'll see lines of coconuts, flags.  
24 These are being thrown into the water.  
25 Where does it stay? It stays in the



1  
2 water with the tide, comes back up onto  
3 the marshlands onto the beaches.

4 Here's a picture of North Channel  
5 Bridge, the south side. Those are flags  
6 embedded in the rocks. You could go  
7 there now, take a look. It's all over.  
8 All over, tons of coconuts.

9 As you know, fruit, flowers,  
10 coconuts go into the water, they cause  
11 algae. Algae depletes the oxygen in the  
12 Bay. It's one of the biggest problems  
13 with riptide.

14 And one other thing before someone  
15 tries to take me out of here, I'd like  
16 to know -- I already spoke to  
17 Mr. McLaughlin about skim boats for  
18 Jamaica Bay to clean up the tide line.  
19 He's given me a roundabout answer. I  
20 asked him to prove to me that there is a  
21 skim boat cleaning up the tide line in  
22 Jamaica Bay. If he can, I'd be more  
23 than happy to shake his hand and  
24 apologize and say I'm wrong.

25 But no, I haven't seen it in 15

1  
2 years and I fish on the water from March  
3 until the middle of December. Jamaica  
4 Bay is my backyard. I want it clean and  
5 I want there for my children.

6 MR. MUNDY: Thank you.

7 Dave, Dave Lutz.

8 MR. LUTZ: Dave Lutz, President of  
9 Gateway. I have two short points to  
10 make.

11 One is on access to the Bay.  
12 There's been a lot of talk about the  
13 general environment of the Bay, but the  
14 point of access to the Bay is another  
15 problem that we have.

16 I would like the panel to take a  
17 look at the Department of Parks Greenway  
18 Study for access to the Bay. It calls  
19 for a greenway around the Bay with  
20 fingers into the community from under  
21 the various bridges under the Belt  
22 Parkway, and that can improved access to  
23 the Bay in a very good way. And I think  
24 that maybe ought to be a high priority  
25 of the panel, because the Department of

1  
2           Transportation is presently working on  
3           bridge improvements along Shore Parkway  
4           and the access to the Bay, the fingers  
5           into the Shore Parkway bypass can be  
6           added as part of that project and from  
7           what I understand at the moment the  
8           Department of Transportation has been  
9           somewhat resistant. So if it comes from  
10          other agencies it might improve the  
11          possibility of that happening.

12                 The second is I know that people of  
13          the panel know the Friends of Gateway's  
14          work at the Gateway Greenhouse Education  
15          Center. We're growing habitat plants  
16          for use all around the Bay and I'm glad  
17          to let the people in this room know, as  
18          the various projects move forward that  
19          include native habitat, we have a source  
20          of habitat plants right here in Floyd  
21          Bennett Field. We had 8,000 school  
22          children from the beginning of this  
23          program come here and work to grow those  
24          habitat plants, and we offer them out to  
25          the community.

1

2

Thank you.

3

MR. MUNDY: Thanks, Dave.

4

Don, Don Riepe?

5

MR. RIEPE: Good evening. Can

6

everyone hear in the back?

7

I'm Don Riepe. I am the Director of

8

the Northeast Chapter of the American

9

Littoral Society and several years ago,

10

I was designated as the Jamaica Bay

11

guardian.

12

Basically what I do is go out and

13

patrol the Bay several times a week

14

during most of the year. I work with

15

most of these people on the panel here,

16

the Advisory Panel, and I'd say I think

17

they are excellent choices. These

18

people have worked hard over the years

19

in various aspects of Jamaica Bay on the

20

task force.

21

Dan Mundy is probably one of the

22

reasons why we're here tonight, because

23

he and the Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers are

24

the people that really found and pointed

25

out the issue of these eroding marshes.

1

2

And John McLaughlin to my right

3

here has a wonderful plan for the

4

Fountain and Pennsylvania Avenue

5

landfills. They're going to clean up a

6

lot of the native species of plants

7

there. So we have good people on the

8

panel.

9

Len Houston, everyone knows, Corps

10

of Engineers. He's been beaten up over

11

the years by everyone here. But the

12

Corps of Engineers has been very

13

proactive in late years in doing good

14

deeds around the Bay.

15

And of course, we have the National

16

Park Service represented. They're the

17

custodians and stewards of most of

18

Jamaica Bay.

19

I think we have a good panel to

20

begin with.

21

We have a daunting task. As I

22

patrol around Jamaica Bay, I can tell

23

you that things are happening fast. The

24

Bay is eroding at a pretty serious rate.

25

Some of the computer predictions, the

1  
2 models predict that in 20 years we'll  
3 lose most of the marshes in the western  
4 sections of the Bay; and in my  
5 patrolling the eastern sections of the  
6 Bay, I can tell you that a lot of those  
7 marshes are starting to decline as well.

8           So we have to take serious action.  
9 We have to move forward and I think this  
10 is a great first step. I'd like to also  
11 say that we, for the past few years, the  
12 Littoral Society, has been working,  
13 actually for 20 years, doing little jobs  
14 around the Bay. Cleaning up various  
15 islands and shorelines of the Bay. We  
16 can thank Barbara Cullen who's here  
17 tonight who coordinates this activity  
18 every year for New York State.

19           So it's not only the big projects;  
20 and hopefully, the big project next year  
21 will take place; 70 to 90 acres, I  
22 believe, that they expect to restore.  
23 But it's the small projects. Last spring  
24 we restored two acres of salt marsh in  
25 (inaudible) marsh, and that was merely

1  
2 by taking off several tons of debris and  
3 allowing the marsh to breathe again and  
4 grow again.

5 So there's a lot that we can do as  
6 individuals. I would invite you, when  
7 I'm out there in my patrol boat, to come  
8 along with me and I have an intimate  
9 knowledge of the Bay and I'd be happy to  
10 show you around.

11 Thanks.

12 MR. MUNDY: Thanks, Don.

13 The last speaker that I have on the  
14 sign-in sheet is Paul Mankiewicz.

15 Paul?

16 MR. MANKIEWICZ: I've been working  
17 on the Bay since I started graduate  
18 school which was a very long time ago,  
19 around 1970, early '70s altogether with  
20 the first study of the native plants in  
21 the National Park here. What I learned  
22 in graduate school was that this was one  
23 of the most important, not just local  
24 resources, regional resources but one of  
25 the most important resources on the

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

earth.

We have literally hundreds of species of the neo-tropical birds stopping here to feed on their way south from the north. It means that part of our responsibility is to actually keep this as best as we can to support all those species and to support all of us, too.

The Bay when Henry Hudson came this way or shortly thereafter, was on average, just a few feet deep and behaved probably like the Chesapeake, where every day all the oysters would filter just about the entire Bay maybe a couple of times.

The Bay's very different now, we dug it out to make Kennedy Airport, to make Floyd Bennett Field we're sitting on, and the entire edge, the absolute entire edge of this Bay is manmade. And I can't say we did the best job possible making it. There are some low points and some high points. The point is that



1  
2           it's still one of the richest estuaries  
3           on earth.

4                    What we have to do next and it's a  
5           very simple thing, I come from  
6           developmental biology and a biophysics  
7           kind of background, and really the  
8           problem is very simple. The amount of  
9           inputs, what comes out of the four  
10          waste-water treatment plants and off the  
11          whole watershed has got to be about the  
12          same as what the organisms can pull out.  
13          The size of the sponge has to be about  
14          the same size of the amount of water, if  
15          we want to clean up the mess. It can't  
16          be otherwise, it's just physics.

17                   So I don't know that there is --  
18          there is or there isn't a federal plot  
19          to bring the worst stuff in the world  
20          over here, but what we have to make sure  
21          we can do over time is (inaudible) and  
22          the other plants, the nitrogen that  
23          comes in has to be about the same as the  
24          nitrogen that we can take out with the  
25          marshes that Don Riepe was talking about

1  
2 rebuilding, maybe hundreds of hopefully  
3 up to a thousand acres of marsh out in  
4 the marsh islands. It's got to be the  
5 same.

6           What we should all -- the task that  
7 we should be held to is to make sure the  
8 filtration capacity of the Bay is  
9 restored to match the damage that we do;  
10 in other words, the damage will  
11 disappear because the Bay -- because  
12 it's becoming more shallow, because of  
13 restoring some of the creatures that  
14 were here long ago.

15           A single oyster, amazingly, can  
16 filter about 20 gallons of water in a  
17 day. It's almost beyond belief, but a  
18 square foot of mussels, and you can walk  
19 along any part of this Bay, Far Rockaway  
20 or anywhere else, and you see in many  
21 places where there's a solid square foot  
22 of mussels, you can see mussels; they  
23 filter about 2,000 gallons of water a  
24 day.

25           An acre of marsh can pull out in

1  
2 some places between about 40 pounds of  
3 nitrate nitrogen per year and about 200  
4 pounds of nitrate nitrogen per year. It  
5 would take a lot of acres to keep up  
6 with the 5 or 6,000 pounds of the  
7 nitrate that we throw out each day.

8 But if we make the Bay shallower,  
9 increase the size of the islands once  
10 more, restore the oysters -- the oysters  
11 have to come back. Without oysters,  
12 without mussels, without the marshes,  
13 the system can filter itself.

14 It's a simple thing. The heart is  
15 the right size to match the lungs, to  
16 match the muscle requirements; the same  
17 thing has got to be true for the Bay.  
18 How do we do it? I can't say where the  
19 stuff comes from, but the Bay should be  
20 back to the way it worked long ago and I  
21 think we're getting closer.

22 It's a beautiful program that John  
23 has devised here, it's going to be  
24 literally catching millions of gallons  
25 of stormwater a day. We can do the same

1  
2 kind of thing. Instead of parking lots  
3 by the Home Depot, there ought to be  
4 green spaces for catching (inaudible)  
5 and getting it into the ground and  
6 literally under every acre of land,  
7 about 1,000 pounds of nitrate nitrogen  
8 is removed instead of going into the  
9 Bay. The filters are there, we just  
10 have to make sure we bring them back.  
11 And follow nature and learn a great deal  
12 about how the Bay can rebuild itself  
13 again.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. MUNDY: Thanks, Paul.

16 A VOICE: There shouldn't be a Home  
17 Depot at all.

18 MR. MUNDY: I apologize to Marie  
19 Artesi for overlooking her name. Please  
20 come up now and I believe we have one  
21 more speaker after Marie.

22 MS. ARTESI: My name is Marie  
23 Artesi. And I'm retired city  
24 administrator and therefore very much  
25 concerned in issues that affect the

1  
2 public. And I really want to thank the  
3 activists in the audience today who  
4 really enlightened me and a lot of other  
5 people as to what's going on here and  
6 how our environment is being  
7 jeopardized.

8 One of the things I missed in this  
9 presentation, and which is always a  
10 concern of someone who has worked with  
11 budgets, et cetera, timelines, is that I  
12 don't know what the timeline is and I  
13 don't know if anybody knows, in terms of  
14 after the study is done in July what is  
15 the process in terms of approaching the  
16 City, approaching the federal  
17 government, approaching the State in  
18 terms of getting money together to  
19 implement the plan?

20 I've seen so many plans and studies  
21 being done but never any money to carry  
22 it out and never a process to carry it  
23 out. So I really didn't get that from  
24 this meeting and this presentation and I  
25 would like to know, as I'm sure many of

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

you would like to know.

Thank you very much.

MR. MUNDY: Thank you, Marie.

Now the last speaker is the chief of staff from Assemblywoman -- Joann Shapiro from Assemblywoman Audrey Pfeffer's office.

MS. SHAPIRO: Good evening. I just want to say that Local Law 71 is a tremendous step towards the protection and restoration of our greatest natural resource, the Jamaica Bay. This panel has taken tremendous steps by putting together this evening's public meeting and tomorrow evening's public meeting. We hope you continue in that vein and the communities that surround the Bay and users of the Bay are included in the process along the way. But I am joining you, since Audrey has been elected in 1987, borrow pits are not going to be filled in our Bay. They've come on and off the table, this cannot be something that is even considered, looked at or in

1  
2 any way something that you think is  
3 going to happen in our Bay because we're  
4 just not going to allow it. We will  
5 continue to fight. It is not an  
6 acceptable use in our Bay.

7 So again, I thank the Council and  
8 the Advisory and Eugenia, thank you very  
9 much because we really needed to have  
10 this as a public forum.

11 MS. LICATA: Is there anybody else  
12 who would like to speak tonight whose  
13 name we haven't called?

14 MS. WAGNER: Margaret Wagner, from  
15 (inaudible). I just have one comment  
16 for the committee. The six o'clock  
17 meeting for the next couple of public  
18 meetings, it's a bit rough to get to.  
19 Maybe the meetings could be a little bit  
20 later. Thank you.

21 MS. LICATA: I'd like to thank  
22 everyone once again for joining us and  
23 providing us with your heartfelt  
24 comments. I can see that we have a lot  
25 of interest and a lot of diverse

1  
2 concerns and we will take all of them  
3 into consideration.

4 I, myself, on behalf of my  
5 colleagues that are here tonight, many  
6 of us from New York City DEP are here on  
7 behalf Commissioner Emily Lloyd who I  
8 must stress and I failed to mention  
9 earlier is really committed to this  
10 effort. She's personally interested in  
11 the effort. She's been calling and  
12 holding many meetings with us and she  
13 will be continued to be briefed along  
14 the way and I would also like to mention  
15 the Advisory Committee, our colleagues  
16 and partners in doing this  
17 notwithstanding their independence and  
18 their ability to sort of be objective  
19 throughout the process.

20 I just want to thank you once again  
21 for attending tonight's session.

22 MR. SEWELL: I just want to also  
23 thank you on behalf of the Advisory  
24 Committee for coming out and  
25 participating. We look forward to



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23

seeing you all on an ongoing basis.

-o0o-

(Whereupon, the public hearing was  
closed at 7:45 p.m.)

Lex Reporting Service  
800-608-6085