



Committee on Environment, Health & Energy

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

1:00 PM

Committee Chair: Nancy Barr

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Nancy Barr called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Nancy Barr | Chair | Present | |
| Catherine Borgia | D9 Legislator | Absent | |
| Kitley Covill | D2 Legislator | Present | |
| Catherine Parker | D7 Legislator (Majority Leader) | Absent | |
| MaryJane Shimsky | D12 Legislator (Majority Whip) | Present | |
| John G. Testa | D1 Legislator (Minority Leader) | Absent | |
| Benjamin Boykin | D5 Legislator (Chairman) | Present | |

John Nonna, County Attorney; Melissa Rotini, Senior Assistant to the County Attorney

Scott Green First Environment; Tod Delaney, First Environment; Robert Funicello, DPWT; John Benvenga, WSP; Ellen Weininger, Grassroots Environmental Education; Susan Spear, CE

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 1:00 PM

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Covill the minutes were approved 4 - 0.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion on PFAS (Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination and other environmental issues at the Westchester County Airport.

Chair Barr opened the meeting and introduced the guest brought in to speak about PFAS. John Nonna, County Attorney began the discussion with a brief summation of the history of PFAS. The PFAS issue started coming to light in 2015, it is a relatively new problem that was created over a long period of time. PFAS are chemicals in fire-fighting foam used at the airport but it can also be found in Teflon, cosmetics, it is also used in various household goods. It is around the environment not just at airport. The issue with the fire-fighting foam is the Department of Defense required that a certain type of foam be used to fight fires. PFAS and PFAO has contaminated water supplies around airports. The national guard at various airports in the country used this foam containing PFAS in their fire-fighting testing and drills. They would pour out jet fuel, light it on fire and put it out with the foam and water, the combination would then seep into the ground and contaminate the ground water.

In 2015 site testing was done by the Department of Health and a couple of properties on King Street tested positive for PFAO. In 2017, 14 wells were tested and only 1 well was found to be contaminated with PFAS on King street. Connecticut did some testing on King street and 3 homes came back testing positive and only 1 of those 3 homes were over 70 parts per trillion (which is the EPA guidance value). In August & September 2018, 52 wells were tested and found that all of the wells had some form of PFAS contamination, 26 of those wells had over 70 percent parts per trillion.

There has been some concern about Rye Lake and the Reservoirs and the only information currently available is from the NYC DEP. The comments are "DEP is not concerned that PFAS currently pose any credible threat to the quality of the City drinking water that is drawn from the Kensico River reservoir" The DEP is continuing to test the water supply. As of 2017 the only report received from DEP shows not detection of PFAS.

John Benvenga, WSP gave a brief explanation of what PFAS stands for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS and GenX chemicals. Since the 1940s, PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both are very persistent in the environment and in the human body. Exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects. It is used in most products that require its main function to repel water such as fire-fighting foam, teflon cookware, and various household products. PAFS is considered an emerging contaminate. The 70 parts per trillion guidance in a guideline by the EPA based on the two main PFAS chemicals out of the 21 variations of PFAS. The two, are the only ones that are regulated. The 70 parts per trillion is a combined concentration of both PFOA, PFOS and is the lifetime exposure level, meaning if you were exposed to the chemicals over the course of your life time, the chances of you developing and adverse health rise is increased.

WSP did some testing required by the DEP and found PFAS in the ground water at the airport and it pointed to the suspected source based on the location of the burn pit where the foam was used and where the International Guard would do their training. The highest concentration is in that area and has moved over time since the training ceased in the 80's but there is still some component of the chemicals in the ground that has spread. After the results were reported the DEP came back and requested a big investigation and that's where First Environment stepped in.

Chair Barr asked for more clarification of the range in the parts per trillion.

Mr. Benvenga explained of the 21 compounds in the list analyzed which is the combined concentration of every compound detected not just the two PFOA, PFOS.

The lowest was 25 parts per trillion and the highest was 57 parts per trillion. The lowest numbers were found in the southern half of the airport and the highest number was found in the vicinity of the burn pit. Of the two compounds that are regulated under the 70 parts per trillion the highest was 13,700 adjacent to the burn pit. The wells in the lower part of the airport did not exceed the guidance value.

Scott Green, First Environment explained their role in the investigation. They were commissioned to re-look at the sites tested by WSP and identify the data gaps that may exist and fill those data gaps with the idea of writing a work plan that may be submitted the NYS DEP that would allow a more comprehensive view of the sub surface and migration path of PFAS with the focus of Rye Lake.

What First Environment is proposing to fill in the data gaps is to better understand ground water quality with semiannual monitoring. First Environment would propose installing Bedrock wells.

Legislator Boykin asked if there was any PFAS found in Rye Lake.

Mr. Nonna responded that it is not the County's responsibility to test Rye Lake but the NYC DEP did and they did not find PFAS in Rye Lake.

Legislator Boykin asked when the next round of testing would be released.

Mr. Levine responded that the testing will be conducted in March and the results will be released in mid to late April.

Legislator Boykin asked that another meeting be conducted after the reports are released.

Chair Barr added First Environment will also be conducting some sampling.

Mr. Delaney confirmed the statement and added they are awaiting the authorization to put in some more wells and they will do some additional sampling of the streams exiting the airport, storm water streams. And once that is done First would like to coordinate their efforts with WSP so they do their sampling round they can also sample the new wells installed. First Environment wants to have both shallow and deep well installed in all the wells bordering the Rye Lake. After the wells re installed FE will try to find some remediation on ways to prevent PFAS from getting into Rye Lake or any other body of water or stop its migration.

Legislator Shimsky asked if there are any interim steps that we should be taking while were doing the testing and in litigation to reduce the migration of PFAS.

Mr. Funicello responded the interim steps would be the wells that are being installed, which would give FE a better picture of where the water is whether it is in the deeper level of the ground water or the shallow level. We need to have a clear picture of where the water is so we can put in the most economical system to capture it so it doesn't get into Rye Lake.

Chair Barr closed the meeting and expressed her interest in having the guest back in in Late April to discuss the results of the sampling and testing.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Shimsky seconded by Legislator Covill the Committee adjourned at 2:22 PM.



Committee on Environment, Health & Energy

~MINUTES~

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Committee Chair: Nancy Barr

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Janet Harckham - CCF, Anne Jaffe- Homes - FCWC, Ellen Weininger - GEE, Meter McCartt - Westchester County

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion on Westchester County's initiatives to improve sustainability and the environment.

Invited guest

Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability

Chair Barr opened the meeting and McCartt, Director of Energy and Sustainability for Westchester County to explain the current initiatives of Westchester County as it relates to energy. Mr. McCartt started by going through the accomplishments of 2018. The Department of Environmental Protection determined that Westchester County has passed all water quality standards and has great water. Westchester County has identified 10 solar energy sites for county facilities that have the highest possibility of be a site. The 10 sites are Yonkers Bus Terminal, Corrections Parking Facility in Valhalla, the Valhalla Bus Garage, Elmsford 375 Executive Blvd., Elmsford Record Center, the Court House Annex in White, 450 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The county is looking into full electric buses to add to its fleet.

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Currently, Westchester is identified charging station sites around Westchester County, there are some at Metro North Railroad Stations, Westchester Medical Center, Mohegan Lake Golf Course, Dun Woodie, Maple more, Saxon Woods, and two stations at the County Center Parking Lot. 85% of the costs of the charging stations are paid through grant money, Westchester County pays for installation but there are in house technicians employed by Westchester County who work on the installations.

Legislator Parker asked about Playland being looked at as a viable location for a charging station stating that the parking lot is used all year round. Mr. McCartt responded that current sites were part of the initial review by the engineers and he will into Playland being a site.

Chair Barr asked if any of the stations are in the ground. Mr. McCartt stated at the Medical Center. Chair Barr asked when he remaining stations will be up and running and Mr. McCartt said in the next coming weeks.

Chair Barr asked if there is a time frame about solar panel installations. Mr. McCartt responded that the preliminary discussion began last week and New York Power Authority is the consultation agency and they are working on getting a time line together.

Mr. McCartt also added there has been discussion on installing 34 charging stations at the Michaelian Office Building parking lot for County cars. Currently, there are 2 wall mounts for single charge units again, for County cars only.

The County is working with Calstart on their Charge to work program to bring 20 free charging stations to County employees. Legislator Parker asked what level charging will be offered and Mr. McCartt replied, level 2 charging.

The County has started a Climate Crisis Taskforce (CCTF) its mission statement is to seek to reduce, and where possible, avoid potentially catastrophic effects of climate disruption in Westchester County for its residents. This will include a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing resiliency and adaptation practices in an equitable and interconnected manner for a sustainable and regenerative future. Westchester County aims to use this initiative to become carbon neutral and develop resilient communities.

Their charge is to assess and update the County's 2008 Climate Action Plan. The CCTF will analyze Westchester County's GHG emissions and our vulnerability to and state of preparedness for climate disruption.

- Identify opportunities for priority actions that may be taken in the short-term to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions at little to no additional cost;
- Facilitate a comprehensive update of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory in a repeatable, transparent manner for both county and municipal governments as well as the broader Westchester community;
- Prepare a comprehensive climate action plan taking into account all relevant issues facing County residents which may include:
 - o Concrete, implementable measures to draw down emissions of all greenhouse gases;
 - o County resiliency practices for all sectors and communities;
 - o County adaptation practices for all sectors and communities;
 - o A road map for future de-carbonization of Westchester County.

The CCTF is also looking for volunteers to be representative of the County and to have representatives from both Northern and Southern County.

Legislators requested a list of the municipalities who are not represented on the Climate Crisis taskforce. Mr. McCartt and Ms. Harckham asked that Legislators also recommend individual professional to join the task force.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Parker seconded by Legislator Covill the Committee adjourned at 2:09 PM.

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