



Committee on Environment, Health & Energy

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

11:01 AM

Committee Chair: Nancy Barr

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

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

Joint meeting with Public Works.

With a quorum present, Chair Nancy Barr called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests Paul Gallay and Jen Benson of *Riverkeeper* and Kat Fiedler of *Save the Sound* engaged members in a presentation and discussion about the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Coast Storm Risk Management Interim Report. In addition, Thomas McEnerney representing the *Storm Surge Working Group (SSWG)*, joined in the conversation with another perspective, based on research that was done by SSWG. In his opening remarks, Mr. Gallay stressed the urgency of scale that storm surge represents. He stated that both Columbia University and the City of New York support the assertion that sea level rise could increase anywhere from 21" - 30" by the year 2150. He suggested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was not asking the right questions. When questioned by Legislator Shimsky, he noted that it would appear that the scope of work was limited by the parameters set by Congress when they were charged with doing the study. Jen Benson then made a presentation using PowerPoint (attached herein). It was noted that there are five (5) options proposed by the USACE including land-based and in-water measures, Riverkeepers expressed concern that the USACE hasn't factored in both sea level AND storm surge. Ms. Benson stated that the communities on the Hudson River live in a tidal estuary with twice daily high tides and twice daily low tides and that they expect that high tides of the future will be similar to those we experienced during Hurricane Sandy. They asserted that options 2, 2A, 3B and 4 include in-water barriers that pose a threat to wildlife and are not protective in a comprehensive way. They are in favor of alternate 5

which calls out for nature based coastal shoreline barriers and on shore structures which won't restrict tidal flow. This solution would meet individual municipalities needs and would protect vulnerable infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants. The other options pose threats to low-lying shoreline communities. Updated numbers will cost upwards of \$118 Billion for the most expensive and will cost roughly \$1-2.5 billion annually which will not be paid for by the Federal government but will be the responsibility of local stakeholders.

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 Shimsky the Committee adjourned at 12:27 PM.