

**Environment Committee  
Meeting Summary  
April 21, 2009**

**Present:** Robert Byrnes\*, Greenwich; Leigh Grant\*, Norwalk; Paul Settelmeyer, SWRPA Chairman; Floyd Lapp, and Nicole Davis, SWRPA;  
\*Committee co-chairs

Mr. Byrnes called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

I. Mr. Byrnes asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Settelmeyer, which was seconded by Ms. Grants and carried unanimously.

**II. Reconnaissance Study Update**

Dr. Lapp drew the committee's attention to the minutes from the previous meeting. He indicated that as of April 3<sup>rd</sup> the ACOE reconnaissance study had been added to the 2009 appropriations list by Congressman Himes. If the appropriation were to pass a study would be initiated by the ACOE in early 2010. Dr. Lapp commented the appropriations process was highly competitive, but to have the study added to the list was an improvement.

Further discussion ensued regarding the timeframe of the study and if the seniority of the newly elected congressman may affect appropriations for the region.

**III. Status of Grants**

Ms. Davis stated that there was no information on the status of the grants. Mr. Settelmeyer and Mr. Byrnes inquired after the time frames for the 319 and FEMA grants. Ms. Davis responded that the outcome of both grants was expected in the spring. Dr. Lapp commented that both grants were being issued through the DEP and with the Commissioner being appointed to a position in Washington no decisions may be made before a new commissioner has been appointed.

Ms. Grant brought the committee's attention to the Community Investment Act (CIA) and a discussion ensued.

**IV. Legislative Update**

Ms. Davis commented that one of the bills the committee had been tracking had been places on the senate calendar. She summarized bill # 569 *An Act Concerning Enhancements to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act*. She commented that with this bill the burden of proof would be shifted from the municipality to the applicant for any Inland and Wetland review.

**V. Other Business**

Ms. Davis commented that a representative from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) would be at the May Agency meeting. She provided the committee with an overview of ICLEI and the services they offer municipalities. She indicated that Wilton had recently joined ICLEI and the representative would be in the area

meeting with Wilton's Energy Commission. She indicated that Patrice Gillespie with the Sierra Club and the Wilton Energy Commission had expressed interest in have ICLEI speak to all the member municipalities and felt that this would be a good venue to address representative from the member municipalities. Ms. Grant commented that she thought there had been a presentation from ICLEI a few years back and other municipalities were members. Ms. Davis indicated that Stamford and Westport had previously been members but she was unaware of their current status. Dr. Lapp recommended that information on ICLEI go out in the agency packet. Mr. Settlemeyer added that SWRPA and the board should identify who the contact for each municipality would be prior to the agency meeting.

#### VI. **October Environment Summit**

Dr. Lapp began the discussion by asking the Co-chairs if they were on board with the idea of an Environmental Summit. He indicated that as a result of comments made at the previous agency meeting he was concerned. Mr. Byrnes and Ms. Grant both agreed they were on board with the idea. Mr. Byrnes indicated he had previously had reservations, but he, Ms. Grant and Ms. Davis had met to discuss the summit, during which time they identified the target audience and discussed a number of possible formats. Ms. Grant agreed and commented they had looked at the summit from many different angles and felt that success stories should be the focus.

Dr. Lapp suggested that they consider the new DEP commissioner as a key note speaker. He indicated that depending on who was appointed, a newly "minted" commissioner would offer a certain appeal. Ms. Grant agreed and commented that Gina McCarthy would have been a good speaker as well. The committee discussed a number of possible formats for the summit, topics, and potential speakers. Stormwater management emerged as the leading topic with the potential to be structures as 1 large panel or two smaller panels, with one panel discussion focused on policy and land use and the second on success stories. Proposed speakers and moderators included Lee Koppelman, Stony Brook University; Curt Johnson, CFE; Mike Yeosock of Hale Alpert, City of Norwalk; and a presenter from the CT NEMO program.

Mr. Byrnes indicated he had a conflict with the next meeting date. Dr. Lapp recommended the meeting be rescheduled and the rest of the committee agreed. June 11, 2009 was tentatively set as the next meeting at 2 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 P.M.

Prepared by Nicole Davis,  
South Western Regional Planning Agency