

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: October 26, 2009

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Rogowsky.

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: B. Randolph (CEO); L. Trentacoste (Law); B. Hagen, S. Capasso [list of other attendees is on file]

Committee on Environment & Energy called to order at 2:55 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Flood Mitigation Program**

Chair Abinanti opened the meeting with a discussion of recent energy efficiency legislation. Mr. Crane provided committee members with an overview of the newly enacted Green Jobs/Green New York statute. Members also reviewed a new federal initiative and competitive solicitation for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. Leg. Rogowsky stated he has been attempting to increase use and distribution of LED light bulbs and fixtures. Leg. Harckham noted he is working with staff to evaluate new legislation to expand residential opportunities for energy efficiency improvements.

The Committee then renewed consideration of draft flood control legislation. In discussion, members identified several aspects of the legislation that should be further clarified or defined: a definition for "flood" in the legislation; role of an advisory board; applicability to school districts; powers of the County Board; the applicability and scope of the statute; procedures for prioritization and approval of projects; powers of the Planning and Public Works commissioners; and the structure of flood control management. In concluding the subject discussion, Chair Abinanti expressed intent to discuss these aspects further with the Administration and the County Attorney.

Chair Abinanti also suggested members review a conceptual regional stormwater management approach forwarded by Alfred Gatta (affiliated with LISWIC). In addition, staff for Leg. Maisano provided members with correspondence forwarded by the Village of Pelham, recommending certain improvements to the village storm drain system.

Leg. Oros raised a general question that some constituent residents had stated that FEMA would grant a flood zone exemption if property owners could demonstrate a certain flood elevation for the property and also made a \$500 payment.

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting ended at approximately 4:05 p.m.

[audio recording of the meeting is on file]