

WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PO Box 970
Shelter Island, NY 11964

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING WITH USGS
October 22, 2014

Members Present: Chairman John Hallman, Hoot Sherman, Ken Pysher

Members Excused: Peter Grand, William Anderson, Town Liaison Supervisor Dougherty

Others Present: Irene Fischer, Ron Busciolano

The meeting opened at 7:30 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 10, 2014 at 7:30PM.**

New Business:

Chairman Hallman summarized, for the USGS guests, the events leading to the recommendation of the Irrigation Committee that the WAC should consider cutting back on well level monitor readings and now consider implementing well quality testing.

Member Pysher expressed his opinion that to eliminate the well level monitoring data would eliminate important historical data. He also noted that the recommendations of the Irrigation Committee did not take into consideration the effects of the rising sea levels and all the issues that accompany that.

The WAC expressed their concerns regarding the methods that were used for the testing of the wells ordered by the Irrigation Committee, noting that the Irrigation Committee were intent on replicating the methods of testing that were originally used when the wells were created.

Chairman Hallman reported that the hydrologist hired by the Irrigation Committee stated that 40 was the highest concentration of chlorides, although he has personally seen numbers in the 50s, 60s, 70s, and also over 200 in certain areas.

Mr. Busciolano reviewed the financial information in the packet that was distributed to the WAC. He noted that 13-14 wells are now being monitored monthly.

Ms. Irene Fischer explained that in a traditional water quality sample the USGS evacuates 3 columns of water before taking a sample and then all the USGS water quality samples are sent to a national lab in Denver where the machines are calibrated several times a day. She described the protocol used by the USGS and also noted that the well must be running for at least 25 minutes prior to sampling. She also explained the screening process in response to the request by Member Pysher.

Mr. Busciolano spoke about the process of water quality testing correlated with the tides. He stated that the USGS does monthly monitoring rather than quarterly monitoring because they feel it is necessary to really see what is happening. He continued to review the information in the prepared packet and stated that he prepared this data in an effort to try to determine if the USGS is possibly monitoring more than is necessary. He suggested that the WAC should review the data and possibly consider eliminating

monitoring of some of the wells that are very close to another well that is being monitored. He noted that well level monitoring of one well cost approximately \$1,000 annually. He suggested maybe knocking it down to 9 wells being tested monthly and 7 wells being tested annually, and then consider adding water quality testing.

Ms. Fischer stated that water quality testing of 6 wells annually would cost \$13,800, and the testing would be done in the fall after the peak summer season. She noted that the water would be tested for pesticides, chloride, and human health pharmaceuticals.

Chairman Hallman stated that he would like to submit a proposal for the water quality testing to the Supervisor and Ms. Fischer stated that she will prepare a proposal.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle LiCausi
Clerk to the Committees