

**Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee  
Environmental Sub Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 29, 2018  
East Hampton Town Hall**

Present: Jeff Bragman, Peter Van Scoyoc, Rick Del Mastro, Susan Macy, Carolyn Logan Gluck, Sara Davison, Si Kinsella

Absent: Kim Shaw, Virginia Edwards

Carolyn called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm

The minutes of the April 6, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

**DEEPWATER WIND**

Peter reported that the Town's Natural Resource and Planning Departments will be issuing a report addressing the environmental concerns raised about the cable (this is in lieu of a NRSP). The report will be made public. The easement for the actual cable is a separate document from the agreement on community benefits. **Supervisor Van Scoyoc confirmed that the easement will be limited to the proposed number of turbines (15) and limited to the specified cable size of 138 kilovolts** and amount of energy landed. Peter believes that the opportunity to have input on community benefits is over. Other wind energy projects will have to use different cables.

It is believed that the Trustees will vote on DWW at their 7/9 meeting and the Town Board around July 10.

Peter emphasized the benefit of decentralizing the energy grid like using roof solar and offshore wind that reduces carbon emissions and increases community resiliency.

**WATER**

Jeff and Peter reported on the recent progress on Wainscott's Water supply district and other water related issues.

SCWA is ready to go to bid for the installation of water mains throughout the new water supply district. Two sections have already started. The main construction is expected to start in August. Town will bond for the project in early July.

Jeff reported on refinements on the Town's reimbursement for POETS. Some question on whether the reimbursement from the town for the installation of a POET is taxable and trying to make the vendor's affidavit a little simpler. Only 7 people have submitted paperwork for reimbursement to date.

Quite a few residents have still not responded to the original request by Suffolk Co. Health Dept. for well testing. It is hoped that in the peak summer when more people are here this number will decrease. Boundaries of the testing area will continue to evolve. North Sagaponack now is being tested.

SCWA has dug the new well at Stephen Hands Path. It is expected to be up and running soon.

DEC report is progressing. At least 13 monitoring wells have been installed and groundwater flow is pretty well defined. They are now retesting wells.

The Health and Human Services (HHS) report on PFCs that the EPA had tried to suppress is comprehensive and damning on the health effects of exposure to PFCs. The current standard of 70 ppt (for combined PFOA and PFOS), ~~is considered to be at least 6x too high.~~ which the HHS agency said should be 7 ppt for PFOS and 11 ppt for PFOA -- the two common PFAS compounds (see attached article from the New York Times published June 20, 2018).

Si questioned whether the public water is safe to drink given that SCWA may only be testing to the EPA standard (of 70 ppt) for combined PFOS/PFOA and not to a more strict standard as published by the HHS (of 7ppt and 11ppt for PFOS and PFOA, respectively).

Si asked about blood tests for residents. Several people in the watershed have already had blood tests which can be obtained at Stony Brook University Hospital.

Sara reported on Georgica Pond. FOGP is working to find a consultant to design a sampling plan for surface water run-off from the sand pit to Georgica Pond. Blue – green algae levels are very low, but the chlorophyll levels and temperatures are rising which can result in low oxygen conditions. An enhanced monitoring program is being established to measure effects of the aquatic weed harvester. A PRB (permeable reactive barrier) which intercepts nitrogen from groundwater is being designed at the Creeks. Properties employing organic landscaping practices are being mapped at the pond.

The Hamlet study was briefly discussed. The Town may adopt it hamlet by hamlet and not wait for all hamlets to be ready to adopt together. Peter is not sure if the Wainscott part will be ready to adopt within 6 months and if not is willing to entertain extending the moratorium. Whether more input from the business community of Wainscott was necessary was questioned. Carolyn is the chair of the Hamlet Study subcommittee.

Si reported on Wainscott Pond. A report from the Gobbler Lab is in the works which will include a remediation plan. The plan will be presented sometime this summer.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting date TBD.

# The New York Times

## ***EPA-Recommended Chemicals Levels in Water Too High: U.S. Report***

**By Reuters**

June 20, 2018

WASHINGTON — The risk level for exposure in water to common chemicals used in Teflon and firefighting foam should be at least seven to 10 times lower than the threshold recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to a draft report released on Wednesday that the White House and EPA had tried to keep from publication.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released the draft study of the controversial class of chemicals called PFOA or PFAS for public comment.

Trump administration officials warned in internal emails made public last month by the Union of Concerned Scientists that the report would cause a "public relations nightmare" if released because the risk levels are much lower than those set by the EPA. The Trump administration stopped the publication of the study earlier this year.

The chemicals in question, which have been used for decades in products like Teflon and other non-stick products and firefighting foam, have contaminated water systems. Companies like Dow Chemical and 3M have faced numerous lawsuits from people exposed to the chemicals in their water supply.

More recently, communities around military bases in states including Pennsylvania, Michigan and West Virginia have been exposed to PFAS water contamination because the Defense Department uses foam containing the chemicals for military exercises.

Public water systems, private drinking wells and military water supplies have been treated on a 2016 EPA recommendation that advised people not to drink water if it had more than 70 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFOA and PFOS chemicals, a level that some researchers said was inadequate to protect public health.

The HHS agency said the level should be 7-ppt for PFOS and 11-ppt for PFOA -- the two common PFAS compounds.

The chemicals are linked to cancer, liver and thyroid damage, and other health and fetal effects. Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers in certain states have expressed alarm over exposure to the chemicals.

Environmental and health groups have said the report's findings would be essential for states that need to clean up PFAS-contaminated drinking water.

"After repeatedly pushing the administration to make these findings public, I'm very glad to see it release this study today," said Republican Senator Shelly Moore Capito of West Virginia. "The information contained in the report will help determine potential threats our communities face as a result of certain water contamination issues."

Also known as C8, the chemical was used at companies like DuPont in West Virginia and other states since the 1950s to make Teflon and other nonstick products, and has affected area residents.

"This study confirms that the EPA's guidelines for PFAS levels in drinking water woefully underestimate risks to human health," said Olga Naidenko, senior science adviser at the Environmental Working Group, an environmental watchdog group.

She said EPA should use the report's finding and collect and publish all water results showing PFAS contamination at any level, "so Americans across the country can take immediate steps to protect themselves and their families."

A recent analysis by the Environmental Working Group showed that tap water supplies for an estimated 110 million Americans are contaminated with PFAS chemicals.

(Reporting by Valerie Volcovici; Editing by Leslie Adler)