

WHAT IS THE JAMAICA BAY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

On July 20, 2005, the City of New York enacted Local Law 71 that:

- Requires the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a watershed protection plan to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the Jamaica Bay; and
- Established the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee to advise the DEP and provide plan recommendations.

Pursuant to the requirements of the law, three members were selected to serve on the committee by the New York City Council and four members were appointed by Mayor Bloomberg. Since the fall of 2005, the committee has been meeting regularly to develop plan recommendations. The original sponsor of Local Law 71 recently introduced legislation to extend certain deadlines relating to the plan's development. Under the legislation, the committee would submit preliminary recommendations on July 1, 2006 and final recommendations on June 1, 2007; currently, the committee's final recommendations are to be submitted on July 1, 2006.

In developing their recommendations, the committee considered the most current scientific information available on the problems confronting the bay and convened expert panels on the topics of stormwater and green building best management practices, wetland loss, and water quality to increase their understanding of these issues.

The committee has solicited input from the public by holding two public meetings – one in Brooklyn and one in Queens – at the start of the process. The committee received a large number of comments at the meetings, as well as subsequent written comments, which are reflected in their final report.

WHO IS ON THE JAMAICA BAY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

The Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee members are:

- Doug Adamo, National Park Service
- Manny Caughman, Community Activist
- Len Houston, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Dan Mundy, Jamaica Bay Eco Watchers
- Brad Sewell, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Dr. R. Lawrence Swanson, Stony Brook University
- Christopher Zeppie, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Biographies of committee members are available upon request.