

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMAN GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS COMMITTEE

VINCENT MUSCARELLA,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 6, 2016
5:18 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

VINCENT MUSCARELLA
Chair

STEVE RHOADS
Vice-Chair

DONALD MACKENZIE

C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

ELLEN BIRNBAUM
Ranking

JUDY JACOBS

LAURA CURRAN

LIST OF SPEAKERS

BRIAN SCHNEIDER.	5
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CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: The Parks Committee is called to order. I will act as the clerk.

I am here.

Vice Chairman Rhoads?

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Donald MacKenzie?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: C. William Gaylor?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Ranking Member Ellen Birnbaum?

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Judy Jacobs?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Laura Curran?

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: We have a quorum.

We have one item on today's agenda. Item 204-16, a resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an agreement with the State of New York, Department of Environmental Conservation in order for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study of Nassau County

back bays.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Motion by Mr. Gaylor, seconded by Mr. MacKenzie.

The item is before us.

Mr. Schneider.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Good afternoon. Brian Schneider from Public Works.

This item is an agreement between the County and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which is required in order for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study of Nassau County's back bays, which will examine the damages in coastal and tidal areas due to coastal storms and hurricanes, and of the possible means of preventing loss of human lives and damages to property.

The New York State DEC will facilitate the project on behalf of the non-federal sponsors, which is basically us and the New York State DEC.

So the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will

conduct a study over a three year time period which will identify and evaluate alternatives and will prepare a decision document that, as appropriate, will recommend a coordinated and implementable solution for coastal storm risk management at the coastal and tidally affected areas of Nassau County's back bays.

This is a three-year agreement, as I mentioned. It is a \$3 million contract, half of which will be shared by the non-federal sponsors, which is New York State DEC and us. That 1.5, which is 50 percent of the three million, will be further split by a 70 percent/30 percent share, meaning that the New York State will pay 1,050,000 and we will be responsible for \$450,000.

At the commencement of the study, we will reach out to other stakeholders along the south shore. So it's not just going to be a county-DEC study, very similar to the Long Beach study with the City of Long Beach and the county, as well as the DEC. So we will be reaching out to all of the villages and all of the municipalities along the south shore that had been impacted by Super

Storm Sandy and Irene and all the other coastal storms that have occurred and others that will happen. The idea is to really provide resiliency and true storm protection going forward. We're talking about potential tide gates along the major inlets, even across Jones Inlet and Rockaway Channel. There are some major considerations that will be considered going forward.

The Army Corps of Engineers is anxious and they wanted to begin work in this fiscal year, and that's why this contract is coming before you today.

We're asking for the approval of \$450,000 to move forward with this agreement.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: That was very thorough.

Any questions? Ms. Birnbaum.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Is this only the south shore or does -

MR. SCHNEIDER: Only the south shore. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepared a North Atlantic Coast comprehensive plan, and in that plan they looked at areas up and down the eastern

2 seaboard that were impacted by Sandy. Nine areas
3 were specifically identified in that North
4 Atlantic Coastal study. Nassau County back bays
5 was one of those nine. But there was no
6 inference of any additional work in other areas
7 of the County, specifically the north shore, at
8 this time. That may change. But as of right now
9 they are moving forward with the back bays.

10 CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Thank you. Ms.
11 Curran.

12 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you.

13 Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy is talking
14 about these gates at Jones Inlet and East
15 Rockaway Channel, I believe it is, right?

16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. Correct.

17 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So this is the same
18 thing.

19 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

20 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: This will be funding
21 that study.

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. Exactly.

23 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Okay. Great.

24 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I forwarded the
25 North Atlantic Coastal Plain Study to the mayor

and I can share that link with you.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I'd love to see that.

MR. SCHNEIDER: It's really an amazing document that the Corps put together really looking at some innovative, out-of-the-box technologies that will really make a positive benefit and protection to these south shore communities that right now have no protection.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: And it's being done in Europe, I understand.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: In Holland.

MR. SCHNEIDER: That's been going on for decades.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Okay. Great. Great to see something innovative being done. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Mr. Rhoads.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Brian, if you wouldn't mind, the study that you're going to send to Legislator Curran, if you could send that to me as well.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Sure.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: This is more of a

statement. I think we all believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It's fantastic that we're stepping in with the federal government to try to come up with ways that we can perhaps prevent the new Super Storm Sandy.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Keep in mind, this is a \$3 million study phase. I think the bigger price tag is going to come when some of these initiatives and components to really protect the south shore are really put out there as real things that could be done to protect those areas. It's going to be a lot of money.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It's a great first step, though.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN MUSCARELLA: Any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Hearing none; all those in favor signify by aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

1 Public Works & Parks Committee - 6-6-16 11
2 (No verbal response.)
3 The item carries.
4 There being no further business, a motion
5 to adjourn by Mr. Rhoads, seconded by Mr.
6 MacKenzie.
7 All those in favor of adjourning signify
8 by aye.
9 (Aye.)
10 Any opposed?
11 (No verbal response.)
12 We are adjourned.
13 (Whereupon, the Public Works Committee
14 adjourned at 5:24 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New York,
do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above
mentioned and took stenographic record of the
proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and
accurate transcript of the same and the whole
thereof, according to the best of my ability and
belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 24th day of June, 2016.

FRANK GRAY