

Conference Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee: Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation

Date: Monday, 3/21/05

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: LOB Hearing Room B

Present: Senators Marcellino (Co-Chair), Bonacic, Rath, Valesky (D), and alternates Trunzo and Krueger (D)

Assemblymembers Lopez (Co-Chair), DiNapoli, Magee, Pheffer, Ortiz Young (R), and alternate Acampora (R)

The Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation Subcommittee has had several productive meetings over the past week, and after thorough consideration we have reached an agreement. We are pleased to present this report which provides detail on all the budget changes agreed to by the subcommittee, including agreement on spending levels and Article VII proposals for the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction as follows:

Adirondack Park Agency;
Department of Agriculture and Markets;
Energy Research and Development Authority;
Environmental Facilities Corporation;
Division of Housing and Community Renewal;
Greenway Heritage Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley;
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council;
Hudson River Park Trust;
Olympic Regional Development Authority;
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation;
Department of Public Service; and
State of New York Mortgage Agency.

The subcommittee allocates the \$25 million General Fund target as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Final Agreement

Environmental Justice	\$	500,000
Jamaica Bay		1,600,000
Whitney Point		2,000,000
ATV - Financial Plan Impact		2,500,000
Town of North Elba/ORDA		155,250
Cornell Community IPM		300,000
Northeastern Queens Nature & Historical Preserve Commission		120,000
Invasive Species Eradication		1,000,000
Peconic Bay		200,000
Village of Bayville/Valentine Beach - Flood Control/Water Quality		75,000
Port Washington Aquifer Study		45,625
Jamaica Bay Estuary Plan		45,625

Subtotal Environment	\$	8,541,500
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Department of Agriculture and Markets (AG&Markets)

Cornell - Geneva Experiment Station	\$	500,000
Cornell - Integrated Pest Management		1,000,000
Migrant Child Care		606,000
NYS Apple Growers Association		500,000
Cornell - Cattle Health Assurance		147,000
Quality Milk Promotion		148,000
Agricultural Teachers Education		40,000
Additional Services and Expenses for Food Inspectors		1,100,000
Additional Services and Expenses for Pet Inspectors		300,000
Farm Viability Institute		1,000,000
Cornell Diagnostic Lab		265,000
Cornell Ag. In the Classroom		69,000
Farm Family Assistance		41,000
Grape Entomologist – Fredonia Experiment Station		4,000
Future Farmers of America		49,000
Avian Disease		43,000
Cornell Seed Inspection Program		27,000
Ag Economic Development		61,000
Cornell Rabies		250,000
Golden Nematode		7,000
Cornell Apiary Research		85,000
Apiary Inspection		200,000
NYS Onion Research		14,000
North Country Agriculture		400,000
Marine Resources		100,000
Johnes Disease		41,000
Clarkson Waste-to-Energy		1,000,000
Deny Food Safety Penalty Increases		700,000
Maple Producers Assoc.		100,000

Subtotal Agriculture	\$ 8,797,000
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks)	
Independence Trail	250,000
Subtotal Parks	\$ 250,000
Housing	
NPCs	5,041,500
RPCs	2,370,000
Subtotal Housing	\$ 7,411,500
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 25,000,000

Environmental Conservation Agreement

The Assembly and Senate have reached an agreement to fund the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) at a level of \$150 million. This includes the removal of the Executive's proposed offloads with the exception of the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria. This also includes ensuring that the \$25 million increase will be a guaranteed increase in 2006-07 and beyond.

The subcommittee allocates the EPF as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND
(\$ in millions)

Solid Waste Account	Final Agreement
Municipal Recycling	7.000
Secondary Markets	7.000
Hudson River Natural Resource Damages	1.300
Pesticide Program	2.475
Landfill Closure	3.000
Subtotal Solid Waste Account	20.775
Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Account	
Local Waterfront Revitalization	14.850
Municipal Parks	14.915
Hudson River Park	5.000

Stewardship	6.500
Historic Barn Program	0.500
Zoos, Botanical Gardens, & Aquaria	6.000

Subtotal Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Account **47.765**

Open Space Account

Land Acquisition	40.000
Agricultural & Farmland Protection	17.500
Hudson River Estuary Management	5.000
Biodiversity	1.000
Non-point Source Pollution Control	12.250
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	1.860
Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed	1.500
Albany Pine Bush	0.800
Long Island Pine Barrens Planning	0.950
Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve	0.600

Subtotal Open Space Account **81.460**

Total **150.000**

Housing Agreement

The Assembly and Senate have agreed to restore the funding for Neighborhood Preservation Programs and Rural Preservation Programs to the 2003 level. We also agreed to allocate \$25 million in housing capital as detailed below:

Housing Capital

Housing Trust Fund	\$	10,000,000
Affordable Housing Corporation		10,000,000
Housing Opportunities for the Elderly/RESTORE		1,000,000
Rural Area Revitalization		1,000,000
Senior Housing Program		1,500,000
Urban Initiatives		1,500,000

Total Housing Capital **\$ 25,000,000**

Article VII

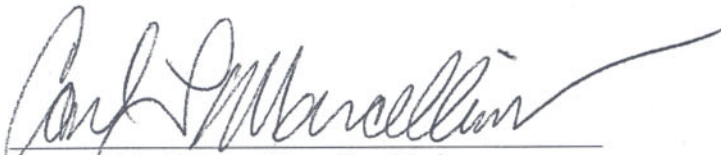
The subcommittee reached agreement on the following Article VII proposals:

- Accept pesticide registration fee extender;
- Amend All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) program proposal to create a dedicated fund that would be subject to a subsequent chapter;
- Reject Title V Operating Permit Program Fee increase;
- Amend EPF provisions;
- Reject proposed food security language, proposed inspection frequency cuts and restore food inspector positions at the Department of Agriculture and Markets;
- Reject proposed penalty increases for violations to the Agriculture and Markets Law;
- Reject proposed inspection frequency cuts to the Pet Dealer Licensing Program and restore pet dealer inspector positions at the Department of Agriculture and Markets;
- Accept the authorization of certain State agencies to fund their activities with revenues from assessments on public utilities;
- Accept the authorization of the Energy, Research and Development Authority (ERDA) to fund their activities with revenues from utility assessments; and
- Accept the transfers from ERDA to the General Fund and a DEC special revenue fund.
- Include language requiring the Executive to appropriate monies for the Systems Benefit Charge in the State budget beginning in SFY 2006-07.

There was no Article VII language at issue regarding housing.

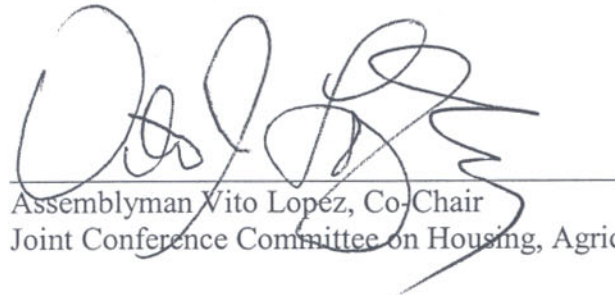
After thorough deliberation on the issues of wetlands and loft protections, the Assembly and Senate were unable to reach an agreement. These issues are hereby submitted to the General Conference Committee for consideration:

- The expansion of the Department of Environmental Conservation's authority over wetlands and the establishment of permit fees to fund staff positions to administer the program.
- The Assembly's proposal for expansion and extension of Loft Protections.



Senator Carl Marcellino, Co-Chair

Joint Conference Committee on Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation



Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Co-Chair

Joint Conference Committee on Housing, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation