



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Steve Levy
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 28, 2008

Mr. Robert Kessler
The Coalition to Save the Yaphank Lakes
P.O. Box 623
Yaphank, NY 11980

Dear Mr. Kessler:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 2008 detailing some of the important efforts which are underway to remediate and protect Upper and Lower Yaphank Lakes as well as the entire Carmans River system.

The RFP for the aquatic invasives species eradication study, which is being funded through the Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiatives (WQPRP), is currently being finalized prior to review by the County Attorney's Office. It is anticipated that this RFP will be advertised by early September. Once a contractor is selected we can move forward to determine the most efficient mechanisms for removing the invasive species that have so severely impacted these lakes. Initially studying the available methods of invasive species eradication will ensure that funding is not wasted on methods that will only provide short term, temporary, remedies to the problem. This project will enable us to identify the most viable long term solutions to address the eradication of invasive species in these lakes.

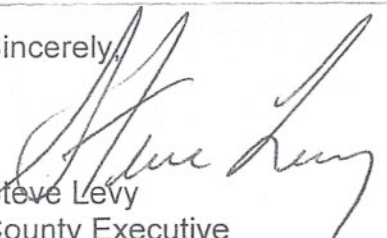
Multifaceted problems, like those being experienced at the Yaphank lakes, call for coordinated and well thought out solutions. The stormwater runoff issue is one of several issues contributing to the problem that needs to be addressed. Other issues contributing to the problem of excessive nutrient loadings to these lakes are leaching from surrounding septic systems as well as fertilizer runoff and waste from geese and ducks that has increased in recent years.

The recently approved local fertilizer law will help to reduce the nutrient loadings to these lakes. Reducing unnecessary, excessive, and ill-timed applications of fertilizers will benefit all surface waters in Suffolk County. Excess nutrients in these waters are contributing to eutrophication leading to increases in biological oxygen demand and to the explosive growth of invasive species. We must continue to educate the public regarding the dangers of over fertilization.

Regarding the stormwater issue I have requested that Suffolk County DPW look into the direct discharges from CR 21. Remediation of stormwater outflows that discharge directly into surface waters remains a top environmental priority of Suffolk County.

Suffolk County will continue to diligently address the problem of invasive species and their effect on lakes throughout Suffolk County including the Upper and Lower Yaphank lakes. The recreational value of these lakes is very significant and we recognize the importance of these lakes to the Yaphank community.

Sincerely,



Steve Levy
County Executive