

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2010

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Armeno. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended, and notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

**ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Andover Borough  
Vita Thompson, Andover Township  
Mimi Tomey, Byram Township  
Richard Pumphrey, Frankford Township  
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township  
William Sanford, Hampton Township  
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton  
James Benson, Stanhope Borough  
Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township  
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large  
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
Ernie Hofer, At-Large  
Kathy Little, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large  
John Nugent, At-Large  
Susan Zellman, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Christopher Kelly, Hamburg Borough  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township  
Louis Kneip, Vernon Township  
Denise Webb, Wantage Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: John Phillips, Nouvelle Associates  
Andrew Holt, Nouvelle Associates  
Luciano Bruni, Nouvelle Associates  
Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Mgt. Group

**REORGANIZATION:**

In the absence of County Counsel, Chairman Armeno called on the Nomination Committee to offer names for nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Jim Landrith nominated John Armeno as Chairman and Jeffrey Butz as Vice Chairman. No other names being offered, motion was made by Geraldine Pflugh to close the nominations and name John Armeno as Chairman and Jeffrey Butz as Vice Chairman of the Sussex County Water Quality Management Policy Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Jim Landrith and carried unanimously.

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by David Muscalo to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2009. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Butz. All were in favor, with abstentions from Vita Thompson, Mimi Tomey, William Sanford, Paul Baldwin, Geraldine Pflugh and Richard Gottemoller. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

In Ms. Brees' absence, Chairman Armeno read the list of correspondence. Ernie Hofer requested a copy of Correspondence 2 and Kathy Little requested a copy of Correspondence 3.

Chairman Armeno welcomed new members Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton, Water and Sewer Department and Vita Thompson, Andover Township, Municipal Clerk/Administrator.

**PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Brees was ill and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

County Counsel did not attend this evening's meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. RESOLUTION FOR NOUVELLE ASSOCIATES WMP AMENDMENT, ROUTE 15, LAFAYETTE:

Chairman Armeno said there is a Resolution that was supposed to be voted upon this evening, however correspondence was just made available which questioned some items on the WMP Amendment for Nouvelle Associates. Mr. Armeno said he was unaware of this until last evening at a League of Municipalities meeting. He has not been able to confer with County Counsel or staff and requested that this Resolution be voted on at the next PAC meeting.

John Phillips for Nouvelle Associates said they preferred that PAC act on the Resolution this evening and said they have addressed Cerenzio and Panero's concerns in an additional report. Rather than putting this Committee in a position of voting on an issue it is not fully comfortable with, and recognizing that Ms. Brees is not present, they reluctantly agreed to table this until the next meeting. He requested that Staff let him know about any specific questions they may have before the next meeting.

B. DEP REVIEW OF COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Chairman Armeno said he did not have comments on the DEP Review of the County Wastewater Management Plan. Information was sent out in the mailing which noted some towns that were added back into the water quality management planning areas.

C. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak reported that a contract agreement has been developed with Princeton Hydro for modeling services to develop specific numbers that the Restoration Plan will have to target to restore the Paulins Kill to surface water quality standard. Also, a contract has been developed to work with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to do an aquifer study of the Paulins Kill watershed area.

Progress is being made on the identification of riparian restoration projects for the Paulins Kill this spring. Potentially three to four projects could be completed this spring if an agreement can be made with the landowners and adjacent owners.

There has been some work with Sussex Borough to begin restoration work along the Clove Brook just upstream of Brookside Park. There is a significant stream debris problem at that location. There needs to be approval from DEP Compliance and Enforcement to allow preliminary clearing of the stream debris to prevent flooding this spring.

Nathaniel reported that Ernie Hofer has been aggressively working with DEP to implement a new system for the uploading of water quality data. This data will identify all the water bodies in the State, their impairments, if any, and whether or not they are meeting water quality standards. In the past, this information was distributed by hard copy. Also, an e-mail was received from DEP which had an

extensive list of entities which have submitted data. There were three entities on the list that have received full certification to submit data, use the system and have the data incorporated successfully. Those groups were US EPA Region 2, Rutgers University and the Wallkill Watershed Group. Nathaniel said that Ernie is directly responsible for that certification.

March 2010 will represent the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Wallkill Watershed Management Project efforts. Over \$3 million in grant funding has been received in ten years. Of the 20 initial planning grants that were awarded by DEP in 2000, only three entities are still doing work in watershed management along those original planning lines. Nathaniel also said that the website will be redesigned to help celebrate their 10th anniversary. There may be an event associated with the MUA and the Wallkill's Earth Day.

D. PAC BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

The current PAC By-Laws and comments from Joe Pinzone were provided to the PAC members. Chairman Armeno read through each section, and after discussion, it was agreed to make changes as follows:

II. PURPOSE

1. Change last sentence to read, "This shall include the encouragement of public participation in water quality issues."
2. Change to, "A major function for the PAC members is informing and motivating the Municipality, their officials and their appointees."
- 3.(b) Change the word "criticality" to "pertinence".
- 3.(c) Remove the word "values".
- 3.(d) Change the word "test" to "examine" and remove the word "those".
- 3.(e) Remove (e) in its entirety.
- 3.(j) Change to, "To make, recommend and to sponsor and encourage educational programs and public hears on water quality issues."

Additionally, Ernie Hofer will work on changes to II. PURPOSE, 1 and 2 which will be discussed by PAC.

IV. MEETINGS

3. Change quorum number from seven (7) to nine (9).
4. Include "mailed electronically" in the request for Special Meeting method.
6. Include "mailed electronically" as a distribution of Draft Resolution method.
7. Insert "Pledge of Allegiance" as number two (2) in Agenda. Change word, "Attendance" to "Roll Call".
8. Change heading from "Standard Operating Procedures" to "Suggested Operating Procedures".

Chairman Armeno asked the PAC members to review the changes that were made this evening. The discussion on By Laws changes will continue. He also asked that Ms.

Brees add “new” acronyms to Appendix A and to consult with Eric Snyder to update Staff Checklist in Appendix B.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a brief discussion related to the Nouvelle Associates application.

Bill Sanford suggested that the County install a method to amplify the speakers in the Freeholder Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Geraldine Pflugh. The motion was seconded by Kathy Little and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.