

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:33 p.m. by Chairman Butz. 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
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Lisa Chammings, Stillwater Township
Annette Stendor, Sussex Borough
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large
Dennis Mudrick, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Alice Brees, Principal Planner
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2013. The motion was seconded by Richard Gottemoller. All were in favor, with abstentions from Lisa Chammings, Annette Stendor and John Nugent. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees said she and Eric Snyder had a pre-application meeting with the owner of the Lowe's property on Route 206 in Hampton Township. There are two existing lots in front of Lowe's that are part of the sewer service area which ties into Hampton Commons. The owner is thinking of adding at least one additional lot to the sewer service area. He said he has the capacity and that the existing flow from Lowe's is very low.

John Nugent said Hampton Township holds the water allocation. SCMUA submits a bill to Hampton Township for approximately 14,000 gallons of allocation. He thought the Lowe's existing flow is approximately 1,000 gallons a day.

Ms. Brees said the owner originally talked about adding a half-acre lot to sewer service area (lot with the dentist office); but when he heard what the process would be, he thought maybe he would add more. This change will require him to come before PAC.

Alice Brees also reported that she received an e-mail yesterday of a possible amendment in Jefferson Township for additional development around the Quick Chek on Route 15. Paul DeMuro from DEP said even though the development is in Jefferson Township, Sussex County is the WQMP Agency and the proposal would have to come before PAC's full review process. Ms. Brees said the Sussex County Wastewater Plan used to include certain areas in Morris County and now it doesn't. Ms. Brees said now that Morris County has its own Wastewater Plan, we would like to change our process to have Morris County hear the amendment, not Sussex County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **CONSENT RESOLUTIONS FOR FUTURE SEWER SERVICE AREA MAP, AND DEP RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED:**

Alice Brees provided PAC with a summary of the Sussex County municipalities, the County MUA and some municipal MUA's that responded to the notice for Consent Resolutions for the Future Sewer Service Area Map. Resolutions have been received from most of them. Where a consent resolution was not received, the DEP will be sent

the certified mail return receipt postcard to show that we did ask for the resolutions. Ms. Brees said next week she will be sending the summary to DEP with copies of all the consent resolutions. The proof of publication from the NJ Herald and the Star Ledger will also go to DEP.

Ms. Brees said we are getting close to final adoption of the map. At this point, we cannot add lots to the map; that would send it back through more of the review process. However, there will be some minor map corrections, such as adding permit numbers where they are available and adding notes to the map. Ms. Brees said Vernon was incorrectly shown on the map as only discharge to groundwater when there is also existing discharge to surface waters. A note explaining that will be added to the map.

Final map corrections will be done this month and the final Freeholder Resolution will probably be in April. DEP is working on the written responses to the comments which they will publish in the New Jersey Register. We may have final approval from DEP by June.

Lisa Chammings said Stillwater Township is discussing the consent resolution at a meeting on Tuesday. Hopefully, Ms. Brees should have the resolution by March 20.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL;

Chairman Butz said he did not have anything to report on the Upper Delaware Watershed and that he has not heard anything new concerning the Wallkill Watershed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL:

Alice Brees received an e-mail from the New Jersey Clean Water Council regarding a Public Hearing they are sponsoring on, "A Resilient New Jersey: Adapting Water Infrastructure to the "New Normal." NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin and other speakers are scheduled to provide an overview of the water infrastructure damage from recent storms, summarize funding opportunities for rebuilding efforts, and address DEP resiliency policy initiatives. Public testimony will follow immediately after the speakers. Following the hearing, the New Jersey Clean Water Council will provide its recommendations to the Commissioner. The Public Hearing is being held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at NJ DEP Public Hearing Room in Trenton. Written comments will be accepted until April 30, 2013.

Chairman Butz said Sussex County has a 208 Water Quality Committee but that many counties in New Jersey do not. Water Quality Committees were set up so that there would be local input for proposed changes and development. He said Warren County does not have a 208 Policy Advisory Committee, proposed developments go directly to DEP. In his years of working with the Paulins Kill Pequest Watershed

Association, he has seen that there are many people in Warren County who are upset by what DEP approves. He said he has been thinking about PAC's process and the checklist we have for applicants coming before PAC. He feels that some of it is lacking local input because all of the townships are not represented at the regular PAC meetings. Mr. Butz said he would like to change the checklist PAC uses for applicants so that the applicant has to contact the 208 PAC representative. Even though the application has to go before the local Planning Board or Zoning Board first, it would still give PAC the ability to hear from the local representative. The applicant would have to reach out to the designated municipal member and ask them to attend the meeting when they are presenting their application.

Howard Baker said the lack of attendance here could be seen as a compliment to the fact that PAC is doing a good job and that there aren't any significant problems. He suggested that perhaps the municipalities have a lack of understanding of what PAC is and the work that it does.

Richard Gottemoller said he has noticed that towns will show up if something applies to them; they show up when they have to. As long as PAC meets its quorum and the rules set up for this committee, it's the town's own fault for not appointing a representative.

Kathy Little said she did speak at the Council meeting during Public Session and told Sussex Borough that they need to have a PAC representative. They have appointed representatives in the past, but the representative doesn't think there is anything going on in Sussex Borough, so there is no need to come to the meetings. Ms. Little introduced Annette Stendor, a newly appointed Councilwoman in Sussex Borough who is also Sussex Borough's representative to PAC.

At Lisa Chamming's suggestion, Chairman Butz asked the PAC members to introduce themselves to each other.

Chairman Butz said what he is suggesting is that the applicant needs to notify the township representative to this Committee. They may not show up but they need to be notified. He gave an example saying that Fredon Township can require an applicant to see Alice Brees but that doesn't necessarily mean that Fredon Township knows when the applicant comes to PAC. He feels this would help with the process of the townships showing up and then, if it is something that is happening in Fredon Township, the PAC representatives can get input from the Fredon representative.

Kathy Little asked which towns do not have a PAC representative. The recording secretary advised her that currently, only Montague Township does not have a representative. It was also noted that for this evening's meeting, three members were excused.

Howard Baker said that rather than it being a structural problem with procedures, that this is more of a PR problem. We need to educate the towns about what PAC does and what having a representative can do for them.

Richard Gottemoller agreed and said that perhaps the checklist should include notifying the representative of an application coming before PAC.

Kathy Little talked about the difficulties in getting people to become involved. Volunteers are few and far between and most of the local boards are made up of the same people.

Eleanor Mensonides said that perhaps education is the key because PAC is not just sewer service. There is also watershed, lake issues, septic management, stormwater runoff, etc.

Lisa Chamings suggested that this issue be put on next month's agenda so that all the membership can provide input.

Howard Baker suggested that Alice Brees send a letter to the Mayors and Planning Boards advising them that PAC is contemplating changing their procedures to require notification to the municipal representative who would then bring it to their attention, and ask for feedback.

Richard Gottemoller said that letters often get put in a pile, but if Ms. Brees and the Chairman were to attend town meetings to introduce themselves, they may participate more. Ms. Brees said there would need to be a relevant issue they want to hear about. Eleanor Mensonides said maybe the towns should be asked if there are any water quality issues that are concerning them. Kathy Little said if Staff were to send information out to the towns, it should include a list of the different items PAC is involved with. Howard Baker suggested PAC include a liaison from the Highlands Council. Eleanor Mensonides said Rich Vohden is on the Highlands Council and that he could be invited to attend meetings.

Chairman Butz asked Alice Brees to put this topic on next month's agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Little. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.