

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by Vice Chair Webb. 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: Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair
James Landrith, Andover Borough
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Management Group
Tom Knutelsky

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by David Muscalo to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. All were in favor, with abstentions from Keith Gourlay, Carrine Kaufer and Ryan Earley. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees discussed correspondence relating to a new well restriction area on Route 206 in Sandyston Township.

The Agenda was amended to New Business, A.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees said she attended a meeting regarding the Open Space water resource grant. She said she would like to ask Cliff Lundin to speak to the PAC about it in the future. Ms. Brees asked Nathaniel Sajdak to speak about it.

Mr. Sajdak said that Barbara Davis is from The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. She applied for a grant from the Open Space Institute for funding from the William Penn Foundation. The grant provided funds to work with Sussex County to update its Open Space Plan, which was written by The Land Conservancy in 2003. The update was intended to be unique. It will not only identify lands that are already protected, it will identify high priority lands within the County that will not only benefit from preservation, but more so from stewardship or restoration work. Mr. Sajdak said his organization was asked to partner with The Land Conservancy and the County to identify potential projects on properties that are identified as having high resource value.

The Open Space Plan update is being conducted as a modeling mapping exercise. There are a series of maps being developed that use scoring for hydrology, riparian buffers and endangered species factors to then identify properties. Each map represents a different level of concern for open space. Ultimately, these maps will be overlaid to prioritize properties around the County. Then, Mr. Sajdak's team will be going out to look at them as a case study. When asked what types of projects are involved, Mr. Sajdak talked about flood plain restoration projects, stream stewardship clean-ups, stormwater management projects and invasive species control.

There was some discussion about the staff meetings that were held with each of the municipalities. The towns have been also been invited to and have attended Open Space meetings where the updates of the plan are discussed.

Alice Brees reported that the County Planners Association met with the DEP Asst. Commissioner Dan Kennedy regarding the new Water Quality Rules. DEP received 1,800 comments on the new rules and they are currently responding to those comments. The Commissioner said it was his goal to get the new rules published and finalized in the New Jersey Register by May or June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak said that the Watershed Management Group has been asked to partner with Trout Unlimited to help with the Sparta Glen Brook restoration project. Trout Unlimited is sponsoring some in-stream restoration work, stream bank stabilization and trout habitat work on that particular section in Sparta Glen.

Mr. Sajdak said a couple of weeks ago, he was invited to give a presentation to the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. There were 50 individuals from different corporate businesses who make annual contributions to this partnership to sponsor projects, such as the Wallkill Project, which will restore about a four-mile section of river by the high school and middle school in Sparta. The group was very receptive to the presentation and the project. He also said another 100 trees were planted on state land in Augusta. When asked how many trees have been planted, Mr. Sajdak said they've planted about 7,000 trees on the four-mile Paulins Kill corridor.

There are plans to put in a rain garden at McKeown School in Hampton and work at Rutgers University. Mr. Sajdak also hopes to get funding from the William Penn Foundation to do an impervious cover assessment for the town of Newton. This past summer, the Lake Owassa and Culvers Lake Associations expressed concern about stormwater management. He met with both lake organizations and said he is interested in seeing the lakes in the Paulins Kill work together to create a lake stormwater program. He would like to see them sponsor community rain garden programs in their lake associations.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT:

Tom Knutelsky said he is an engineer with Harold Pellow and Associates. He appeared before PAC in December to do a simple amendment to the plan. He said there were unexpected rule changes and they have since decided to do a full amendment application. Frankford Township is looking for support from PAC so that they can send the amendment to DEP for their review.

Mr. Knutelsky said the sewers are currently being built and are 80% complete. The portion of the property in Frankford Township is directly north of the sewer being constructed in Branchville. At the north end of Branchville, there are 17 residential lots in Frankford Township which are directly adjacent to the sewer line being constructed to come into the system. Frankford Township currently has an allocation of 26,000 gallons per day (GPD) associated with the new Paulins Kill wastewater treatment plant. The town of Branchville has a 144,000 GPD allocation for a total of 170,000 GPD which will be treated by that plant. According to the NJPDES permit, discharge to groundwater is 200,000 GPD, so there is room for that plant to grow in the future. They are assuming the maximum bedrooms for the 17 lots to be three bedrooms or more, using the DEP formula, this equals 300 GPD per dwelling, so they

are looking to add 5,100 GPD to the sewer system that is going to be constructed. Mr. Knutelsky said that number is important because the additional gallons per day value of the wastewater treatment plant that is being constructed will be within the hydraulic capacity of that plant. The 26,000 GPD reserved by Frankford Township included the school and a project known as Evermay, an assisted living facility. Currently all that is connected to the Branchville system has 8,200 GPD. Frankford Township School was a willing partner in the beginning, but they no longer want to connect in at this time. The additional lots they are asking to be added to the sewer service area will be serviced by the plant hydraulically and it will be within the total allocation for Frankford Township.

Mr. Knutelsky said 16 of the 17 residential lots already have single family homes on them which are served by "individual subsurface disposal systems," also known as septic systems. There is one lot that is not developed. Based on Frankford Township's zoning, that lot cannot be further subdivided. It is reserved for residential purpose and it is between the other lots. Because there is potential threatened and endangered species habitat shown on GIS map, DEP has indicated that they may not want that lot to be added. Frankford Township wants that lot included in the sewer service area.

He said they are not trying to designate undeveloped land for further development; they are trying to connect existing residential lots. The benefit is that they can do this with the construction crew that is working there now. Also, there is a very high groundwater table in this area and individual subsurface disposal systems fail. The septic systems were built to the older code, so they are not up to current septic system standards.

David Muscalo asked about the location of the treatment facility. Mr. Knutelsky pointed out the area on a map. When Mr. Muscalo asked about the water table, Mr. Nugent said the disposal bed area drains well. Mr. Knutelsky said that the beds of the plant are constructed outside of the flood plain, in an existing farm field, so there is no vegetation disturbance for the construction of the plant. It is high and dry with very good soil.

Mr. Knutelsky said that Frankford Township provided a Resolution to authorize the 17 lots to be submitted for PAC review. There are also meeting minutes from Branchville Borough indicating that they agree with the Frankford Township Resolution. This information has also been sent to the SCMUA.

Alice Brees requested that the calculated gallons per day for the school and Evermay be included in the document. When asked, Mr. Knutelsky said to his knowledge, there is no allocation reservation for the school specifically.

Mr. Knutelsky said he is looking for PAC support for their submission to DEP for approval of the addition of the 17 lots to Frankford Township's sewer service area. Ms. Brees said if PAC is ready to recommend approval, she will draft a Resolution to be memorialized at the next meeting. She said she will need to see the revisions with the calculations for the gpd. After the Resolution is memorialized, it will need to go before

the Freeholder Board, and after their approval, it goes to DEP. The earliest it would reach DEP will be in May.

MOTION;

A motion was made by Richard Gottemoller to approve Frankford Township's request for a Wastewater Plan Amendment to include 17 residential lots into their sewer service area. The motion was seconded by Jim Landrith and carried unanimously.

The meeting returned to the Planner's Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Muscalo. The motion was seconded by Keith Gourlay and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.