

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2011

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Vice 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  
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton  
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
Ernie Hofer, At-Large  
Kathy Little, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large  
Freeholder Liaison Susan Zellman

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Vita Thompson, Andover Township  
Brian VanDenBroek, Franklin Borough  
Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township  
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill Watershed Management Group

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Joe Pinzone to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2011. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. All were in favor, with abstentions from Howard Baker and Eric Powell. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet.

**PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Alice Brees said for the last month, for the portion of her job related to PAC, it centered on public comments following the DEP Public Meeting on March 15. About 70 people attended the meeting. DEP displayed their sewer service area maps and they had forms available for people to fill out. The DEP comment period formally ends April 14.

Ernie Hofer asked Ms. Brees about DEP's response time on the comments. Ms. Brees said DEP should provide their comments back in 60 days.

Alice also advised PAC that Bill Sanford passed away on March 31. David Muscalo added that a memorial service is being held this Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at the Baleville Congregational Church in Hampton.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. **DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR ST. PAUL'S ABBEY PLAN AMENDMENT:**

Corey Stoner, Harold Pellow and Associates, spoke on behalf of Andover Township regarding the St. Paul's Abbey Plan Amendment. Last month he did a presentation for PAC for this project and was here this evening to address some additional questions from PAC.

Mr. Stoner said he updated their Water Quality Management Plan Amendment to include discussions on the existing septic systems on the property. He described how the septic systems will be closed, and the facilities connected to the upgraded treatment plant when constructed. Facility sewer flows information and a map showing the approximate locations of the septic systems were also included.

Ernie Hofer asked if all the structures on the site are owned by the Monastery. Mr. Stoner said they are. He added that the property will continue to be owned by the Monastery but will be leased back to the Township who will transfer the lease back to the developer. There was a lengthy discussion on suggested language to be added to the Resolution to clarify that Andover Township is leasing the property from St. Paul's Abbey for the sole purpose of providing 60-80 units of affordable housing.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the Resolution for St. Paul's Abbey Plan Amendment with the conditions noted above. The motion was seconded by Jim Landrith. All were in favor with an abstention from Ernie Hofer. Motion carried.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak reported that North Jersey RC&D's funding on the national level has been completely cut. He said that NJRC&D has provided the funds for the County's riparian efforts.

Mr. Sajdak said the Wallkill Watershed Group has a new employee, Eric, who will help with the Agriculture Outreach work. They are confident that they are about to enter into a cooperative agreement with NCRS, which is the federal agency that deals with the agricultural community. Eric also has surveying and design work capabilities.

They have approved watershed restoration plans for the Papakating and Clove Brook and have just entered into a contract agreement with Princeton Hydro to begin some of the preliminary field feasibility and project design work. Those projects include a major stream restoration along the Clove Brook in Sussex Borough, installing stormwater manufactured treatment devices within the Clove Acres Lake community and a massive restoration project along the Route 23 border of the lake. They are currently doing field work to collect the data to start with the project design.

Mr. Sajdak said they are very busy with the Paulins Kill Watershed basin. Ernie Hofer has been working on the watershed restoration plan and they are identifying the projects to be recommended to DEP for funding. The projects include a significant project along East Clinton Street in Newton; a big project along Decker Road in Lafayette; continued efforts at Lafayette Park; and an agricultural outreach project which may include a manure management effort. There have been some very productive meetings with the Town of Newton, Lafayette Township and Sussex County Community College. During the week of May 16-20, there will be a volunteer planting event at the Homestead Complex on the secondary pond. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Nathaniel. In addition to planting, they will get involved in invasive species removal. Long range plans include stormwater management programs to coincide with work that Rutgers has been doing in the County.

Ernie Hofer added that there is another exciting project at the Sussex County Community College. There are several programs planned for that site as well as a tie-in with educational outreach efforts between the college and the community. They are working with a number of the associate professors.

The auto tour continues to be popular. On June 22, Mr. Sajdak will be conducting his third bus trip with the Montague and Sandyston seniors. On May 6, the SCMUA and Wallkill Watershed Group will be hosting their sixth annual Earth Day celebration.

The Event is designed to be an outreach campaign to the schools in Sussex County; bringing them to the Solid Waste Facility to demonstrate educational and environmentally focused activities. About 400 students from ten different schools are signed up to participate in the day and there are over 10 different vendors and exhibitors. The students range from pre-school to college age. Residents are also invited.

C. DEP REVIEW – PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH 4/14/11:

Alice Brees said DEP has 60 days to respond to the public comments. Based on telephone calls she has been receiving, there will be more comments coming in. Hopefully, some of the areas will be put back into the sewer service area.

D. RUTGERS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT – RAIN GARDEN CERTIFICATION, APRIL 27 AND RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP, MAY 5:

Rutgers has two workshops coming up. The Rain Garden certification is on April 27 and the Rain Barrel Workshop is on May 5. The Rain Garden certification will include a day of planting to be determined at another time. Ernie Hofer said he completed the Rain Garden Certification and is willing to talk to anyone interested in taking the course.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. DEP LAWSUIT CHALLENGING WATER QUALITY RULES:

Alice Brees said a developer in Bergen County filed a lawsuit to challenge DEP Water Quality Rules. They are arguing that DEP is getting into land use regulation and they do not have the authority to do so. The document is available to anyone who wants to read it. Eric Snyder is working with Dennis McConnell to determine the cost or impact to the County as a result of DEP's removal of the sewer service areas.

B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Liaison Susan Zellman said she is the liaison to the Lake Musconnetcong Regional Planning Board and that they have applied to DEP for herbicide treatment to combat Eurasian Milfoil and Water Chestnut. Last year the DEP had concerns about endangered plant species, which were relatively unfounded because they found that the endangered species expanded throughout the lake. DEP is now saying they may not be able to apply the herbicide where the endangered species is. Freeholder Zellman said that removal of the milfoil enhances growth of the endangered species. The water chestnut continues to be a menace to the lake and the whole Musconnetcong watershed. They've written to Rodney Frelinghuysen to look to the EPA because they feel it will impact the whole Musconnetcong basin since it doubles and triples every year. Freeholder Zellman said she has a Power Point Presentation showing the impact of herbicide treatment and will be happy to share it with PAC. They are also dealing with the appearance of some dead fish, and will consult with a pathologist to determine the cause.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eleanor Mensonides. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.