

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:32 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
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
Robert Schultz, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Lisa Chammings, Stillwater Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Kathy Little, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large
Susan Zellman, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Alice Brees, Principal Planner
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
ALSO PRESENT: Debra Nicolson, Esq., Sparta Junction -Applicant
Andrew Holt, Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Ken Dykstra, Dykstra Walker Design Group

PRESENTATION:

A. SPARTA JUNCTION ECO COMMERCE CENTER, WMP AMENDMENT:

Debra Nicholson, Esq. spoke on behalf of Sparta Junction Eco Commerce Center and Eastern Propane. She said that her family's business owns these properties. The DEP Stormwater regulations have mandated that you must have a truck wash facility with a recapture/recycling component to keep the water from going into the ground. Currently the nearest truck wash facility is in Pennsylvania.

Ken Dykstra, Dykstra Walker Design Group is the Engineer for this project. He displayed an Exhibit titled "Sewer Service Area Plan". The project is in Sparta's Economic Development Zone near Demarest Road and Prices Lane, and is in the vicinity of Houses Corner Road. He said the proposed truck wash will be located on property currently owned by Sparta Township. They've designated a sewer service area which excluded most wetlands and flood plain areas. It includes the Sparta property and an adjacent 6-lot approved industrial subdivision. They've also included four more lots between that and the NY Susquehanna and Western Railroad, which is an active freight railroad. These were included because of their proximity to the project. The Eastern Propane Transfer Station is also in that location.

Andrew Holt, Suburban Consulting Engineers said this Plan Amendment was written to be a Site Specific Plan Amendment consistent with the recent public law signed by the Governor in January. The service area has been defined and the lots and blocks have been listed in Volume One of their report. The wastewater flow projection from those parcels is about 19,800 gallons per day. The central component is the truck wash facility which is planned to discharge 6,000 gallons per day of wastewater effluent, but it will use much more water. It takes about 3,000 gallons of water to wash one truck. In the truck wash there is a capture, recycling and treatment component. This is very similar to the wastewater treatment process.

The description of the treatment process is in Volume One. It is a membrane batch reactor process. They will collect the wastewater from the various users, including the Sparta DPW facility. This will likely be done through a low pressure sewer. Each of the users has a small on-site pump station. Each pump is pumping into a small diameter force main. A network of force mains will find their way over to the truck wash combined/ wastewater treatment facility. There it will go into a main primary screening and grit removal process, then to equalization tanks to buffer the spikes of flow that will come at various times. From there it enters the wastewater treatment process. It goes through an anoxic zone for the nitrification/de-nitrification process into an aeration zone and then to the membrane bio reactor where the treated effluent is drawn through the membranes. Much of the residuals and contaminants are

captured with this process. The sludge is re-circulated through the process and ultimately an excess amount of sludge is collected in holding tanks and trucked off site. They estimate they will generate about 8,000 gallons of sludge per month from a 20,000 gallon per day plant.

Mr. Holt said the final layout of the building has not been developed, but in concept they will have possibly two lanes where trucks can drive through. In the third bay of that building will be the treatment process train where all the wastewater treatment process components will go. There may be additional manual wash bays, similar to car spray washes. This also gets captured and routed back through the automatic truck wash collection system. It catches all the runoff into a center trough. Grit removal and 90% of that flow is recycled on the spot. The membrane process will not allow contaminants to proceed back into the environment. Sludge will be sampled for hazardous materials.

Mr. Holt said for the most part the environmentally constrained areas are to the west of the project and there is a stream corridor along the southern portion, parallel to the railroad. The sewer service area is outside of the environmentally constrained areas. The potable water supply to generate an extra 20,000 gallons per day is anticipated to come from Sparta's municipal water system. He confirmed that they are in the Highlands Planning area and said that the Highlands Council only has jurisdiction on water purveyors if you need to adjust your Water Allocation Permit. David Muscalo pointed out that the aquifer for wastewater discharge is different from the aquifer for water supply. Mr. Holt said that was correct but that the State does not have a problem with that as long as they are not modifying the permit.

Alice Brees asked how close the project is to the Limecrest Quarry. Mr. Dykstra said the quarry is south and within a half mile. Ms. Brees said the applicant submitted a map of Existing Sewer Service Areas and facilities and that was missing from the map. Sparta Sand and Gravel and the quarry have NJPDES Permits. Denise Webb said the closed Sparta landfill also has an NJPDES permit. Ms. Brees said on Table 3, Page 12, she thought it would help if they show more clearly what is existing and what is proposed. She said they had another WMP application that was disapproved because there was an effect on rising groundwater levels when the quarry wasn't pumping. She asked if this site was immune to such problems. Mr. Dykstra said the quarry affected the other property because of the elevations in the area. This site is at a higher elevation and the pumping of the quarry will not have any impact of the water table in their proposed disposal area. When asked how far down is the water table, Mr. Dykstra said they have excavated down to 15', which was their maximum machine size at the time. There was no water table within 15', it was sand all the way down.

David Muscalo said the soil logs indicated some mottling. Mr. Dykstra said there were a number of logs that were done. In the area where they are proposing disposal beds, they did not have mottling. There was a previously disturbed area where the DPW has had previous activities, so there were some conditions with silt soils. They are avoiding that area.

Alice Brees said the “flood prone areas” on their map does not show the updated digital FEMA maps. Mr. Dykstra said that site does periodically flood but that is a fully developed site. He said they will clarify that in the report. Jeffrey Butz said they mentioned that the closest truck wash location is in Pennsylvania. He asked if that meant there is no other location in Sussex County. Ms. Nicholson said basically people are washing their fire trucks and DPW trucks with hoses. Nobody is in compliance with the DEP Stormwater regulation. She said there is a high interest level in this truck wash, locally and out of County. Only if there is excess capacity would out-of-County people be given the opportunity to use this facility. Based on the demand, this facility could end up operating around the clock.

Jeffrey Butz confirmed that the activity will be confined to the inside of a building. Mr. Dykstra said, “Yes.” Mr. Butz was concerned that storm water could wash into the drains. Howard Baker asked if there was a possibility that this facility would be expanded in the future. Mr. Dykstra said he isn’t ruling anything out. Mr. Holt said there is sufficient space to expand if needed. The process units will be sized to have expandability if needed without building a whole new building. Mr. Muscalo added that they will need additional water supply. John Nugent asked if they have applied for a NJPDES Discharge Permit. Mr. Holt said they have not applied yet. They first need to get this into a sewer service area and have a Site Specific Amendment approved by DEP. Mr. Butz said they are not showing an alternate disposal field. Mr. Dykstra said they believe they have adequate capacity and land area to be able to construct the necessary disposal bed area. Those details will be worked out in the NJPDES Permit review process. Alice Brees said there is a list on page 17 of existing septic systems, and she suggested that they provide more information about wastewater flows for them. On Page 16, the table says “excess deficit facility capacity” and she is not sure what that means. Mr. Dykstra said DEP likes to see categorized uses and flows. This is a breakdown of the 19,800 gallons. He said the “excess deficit facility capacity” might be the difference between the planning flow and the projected commercial flow. He said he will double check that.

The meeting was opened to the public for comments or questions. None were offered. The meeting was closed to the public.

Chairman Armeno said when staff receives answers to the questions that were raised this evening, a Resolution will be prepared which will be acted upon at the next meeting. Affected parties were determined to be Sparta Township, Sparta Water Utility, Andover Township, Byram Township and SCMUA.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jeffrey Butz to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution based on the information that was presented provided that all the requested information is submitted before the next meeting. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. A roll-call vote was taken. All were in favor.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Jeffrey Butz to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides . All were in favor, with abstentions from Vita Thompson, Robert Schultz, Paul Baldwin, Lisa Chammings, Denise Webb, John Armeno and John Nugent. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Numbers One, Four and Five.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that she has been working with Hampshire Companies and that PAC will probably be hearing a plan revision next month. They have two vacant lots off of Route 23 in Wantage. This would be an application for an expansion to add those two lots into the MUA service area.

There is an issue with the Maione Homes property on Route 23 in Wantage, which has a proposed sewer service area. They are coming in to the County Health Department with septic applications for a 10-lot subdivision. Each lot is less than 2,000 gallons per day, but if the subdivision is considered "one property" for development, then DEP would have jurisdiction. DEP should be issuing a letter to clarify which agency has jurisdiction.

Ms. Brees also reported that the State Strategic Plan should be adopted with a month. This would mandate all of the State agencies to back the State Plan where growth areas would be included in the sewer service area. Hopefully, the DEP will back off their way of reviewing the sewer service areas and will recognize that they have to follow the State Strategic Plan. There will be another DEP and County Planners meeting next week.

Chairman Armeno talked about the Hopatcong Borough Resolution regarding Lake Hopatcong Commission. He questioned whether PAC should make a recommendation to the Freeholder Board to support this issue. Freeholder Liaison Zellman said by the time the copy came to the Freeholder Board, it was outdated. Ms. Zellman said she spoke to Steve Ellis, the Regional Supervisor for Parks and Forestry, and he said that decision had already been made. It could not be determined whether or not this Resolution was revised from the one the Freeholders received. Freeholder Zellman said before the Freeholders take any action, she wanted to talk to Steve Ellis to make sure they aren't asking for something that the Commission and/or Parks and Forestry already decided upon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. DEP REVIEW – SEWER AREA MAP:

Alice Brees said there will be a meeting between DEP and County Planners next week and that it has been a couple of months since the last meeting. There is a new website where the user can compare both the County map and the DEP map on the same screen. Based on the new legislation, all of the Counties are supposed to submit to DEP existing and future sewer service area maps. Ms. Brees said she will looking at the County map submitted in 2008 and then update with new plan amendments, new DEP permits issued, etc. There has also been new sewer infrastructure built since 2008. Ms. Brees said she has not received the final specifications from DEP, she just has a draft. PAC will hear more about this next month. Ms. Brees said she will e-mail the link to the website to PAC members.

Applicants that are in the 2001 County WMP can still apply for a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) permit. DEP will issue that permit because they are still using the 2001 plan. Once an applicant gets a permit, DEP cannot remove them from sewer service area.

Freeholder Zellman asked Ms. Brees if she has been asked by DEP for input regarding potential areas of economic development. Ms. Brees said she has, and that they did include designated centers. She said the centers that were included in the old State Plan are supposed to be used in the new State Strategic Plan. Many of the towns that have sewer service areas were designated centers at one point. This should help support the County's sewer service areas.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Jeffrey Butz said he did not have anything to report on the Upper Delaware Watershed. Alice Brees said she spoke to Nathaniel Sajdak and he said there will be restoration projects coming up in the Paulins Kill.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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 Kathy Little and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.