

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:36 p.m. by David Muscalo, Chairman Pro Tem. 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 Chirip, Green Township
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Lisa Chammings, Stillwater Township
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough
Michael Furrey, Vernon Township
Daniel Flynn, At-Large
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Howard Baker, Chairman, Hopatcong Borough
Gary Larson, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Varro, SCMUA

A motion was made by Richard Gottemoller to nominate David Muscalo as Chairman Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by James Chirip and carried unanimously.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by James Chirip to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2015. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. All were in favor, with abstentions from James Chirip, Lisa Chamings, Kathy Little, Michael Furrey and Daniel Flynn. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Numbers Seven, Eight and Ten.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Ms. Brees said most of her work for PAC this month related to the County Wastewater Plan. She is working more closely with GIS to complete work with maps.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. WMP AMENDMENT FOR SCMUA CONVEYANCE FROM LANDFILL TO HARDYSTON TREATMENT PLANT FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION:

This item was discussed during last month's meeting and some questions were raised. Tom Varro, SCMUA provided a letter from Hatch Mott MacDonald, which addresses those questions. Ms. Brees provided PAC with a draft Resolution for Preliminary Approval Recommendation. Resolutions have been received from the three municipalities that are affected: Lafayette, Sparta and Hardyston.

David Muscalo asked if there has been a decision made about whether or not the old railroad bed will be used for this pipeline. Mr. Varro said the County owns that property and they will need to meet with and get County approval in order to run the pipeline through the railroad. The County may have plans for the railroad because there is potential funding for projects which convert rails to trails. If the pipeline goes through the old railroad, the area will be restored.

Mr. Varro said they plan to use HDPE pipe that has fusion welds. He said it is usually a very reliable piping system and that the pipe will not corrode and the joints will not separate. The diameter of the pipe is between four to eight inches, but Mr. Varro said it may be on the lower end. They will need to maintain a certain level of velocity through the pipe and there is not a huge quantity flowing through it. Daniel Flynn asked if the flow will be sent through in batches. Mr. Varro said it will not be a continuous pump but that it will be over a 24-hour period. It will cycle on and off. The pipe will remain full and when they pump, it will move a certain volume of water to the plant and then it will shut off.

Mr. Flynn asked about the treatment of the leachate and whether it contains metals. Mr. Varro said the biggest concern is the ammonia and the way ammonia affects the plant. The leachate contains 10-40 times the ammonia content of normal wastewater. It is easier to treat the leachate as it comes in through the pipeline rather than all at once when delivered by truck. Mr. Varro added that the leachate is a high-strength wastewater but it is not classified as a hazardous waste.

A question was raised about an alarm system. Mr. Varro said there was a concern raised by PAC regarding leak detection. He said a pressure monitoring system is planned. If the pressure varies more than the operating range, it will sound an alarm and on-call staff will respond to the alarm.

Ms. Brees asked if they will end up with more leachate in the future because the landfill is expanding. Mr. Varro said SCMUA has a permit for 35,000 gallons per day, based on an annual average. As the landfill expands, they will be capping as they go. They are currently in Phase III which is divided into A and B. When they moved into Phase III-B, they put up a berm down the middle so that whatever rains on the closed side can be treated as stormwater and pumped out. The leachate can be captured, sent to the storage tank and then sent to the Upper Walkkill. John Nugent said there is also a million gallon storage tank on site. When they do get large rain events, the tank will fill up and then it will be pumped out over a period of time. Mr. Varro said they use a geo-membrane to cap the cells. The membrane sheds the water so it does not come in contact with solid waste. It is considered stormwater, not leachate. The stormwater goes to a detention pond which is also monitored.

Ms. Brees said she left the affected parties section of the draft Resolution blank and that she will add Lafayette Township, Sparta Township and Hardyston Township as the affected parties. Also the wastewater flow for the landfill leachate will be changed from 36,000 gallons per day to 35,000 gallons per day.

MOTION;

A motion was made by Richard Gottemoller to approve the Resolution for the Preliminary Adoption of the SCMUA Wastewater Plan Amendment for conveyance of landfill leachate with the additions noted above. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

B. COUNTY WMP, APPENDICES AND MAPS FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION:

Ms. Brees provided PAC with copies of the County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP), Appendices and Maps. Stanhope was supposed to be part of the Highlands Plan conformance but they said they want to be included in the County Plan.

The County WMP is the document that follows the County Future Sewer Service Area map which was approved by DEP in June 2013. There have been a few changes in the sewer area since then, mostly in Wantage Township. There are "Significant Actions" listed and they will be approved as part of the plan, including the sewer areas in

Wantage which are connecting to the SCMUA. When the County WMP is approved, the sewer areas are approved.

Ms. Brees said this plan has a build-out analysis which shows DEP that the County conforms to nitrate dilution standards in the septic areas. Also, part of the plan is meant to show how the permitted capacity of the sewers does or does not meet future needs. Newton did a full build-out analysis which shows their additional needs. Ms. Brees said she asked DEP what happens if the projected flow is higher than the permitted flow. According to DEP, methods to address any potential wastewater deficit in the future would include: modifying the sewer service area delineation; reducing planning flow through structural controls or water conservation, providing new or expanded capacity. The County WMP will not specifically address this issue. Mr. Varro said he doubts Newton will be allowed to expand their Discharge to Surface Water. Most likely they will have to go into a Capacity Assurance Program with DEP when they reach 80% of their permitted flows. Ms. Brees said for other towns, she used their allocation numbers. The County WMP is always being amended and once approved, the towns can still make changes.

MOTION:

A motion was made by John Nugent to grant preliminary approval for the County Wastewater Plan. The motion was seconded by Richard Gottemoller. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

C. MUNICIPAL CHAPTERS – TO BE POSTED ON COUNTY PLANNING WEBSITE:

The municipal maps, which show the Existing and Future Sewer Service Areas, are now posted on the County website. Ms. Brees provided PAC with maps for the County WMP: franchise areas and sewer districts; environmental sensitive area maps; a composite zoning map; steep slopes greater than 20%; 300' buffers on Category 1 streams; flood maps and potential habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Ms. Brees had a printed copy of the draft municipal chapters. Each chapter contains the facilities table for NJPDES permits in the towns. Towns can send in any changes to their municipal chapter. Ms. Brees said she hopes to get this on the Freeholder Agenda for their May 27 meeting.

James Chirip asked what the criterion to be listed as NPDES Permit is. Ms. Brees said if a property has more than 2,000 gallons per day of wastewater, it is under DEP jurisdiction and would need a NJPDES Permit.

D. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Chirip. The motion was seconded by Richard Gottemoller and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.