

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MAY 8, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson Mensonides. 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
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Vice Chair
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Ian Blanchard, Stillwater Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Chair
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: George Green, Fredon Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Kathy Little, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: George Graham, Freeholder
Owen Dykstra for Bicsak Brothers/Main Land Sussex Co.
Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Group

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Keith Gourlay to approve the Minutes of March 13, 2014. The motion was seconded by Paul Baldwin and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Denise Webb to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. All were in favor with abstentions from Keith Gourlay, Paul Baldwin and Richard Gottemoller.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed Correspondence relating to the Martin Property in Hampton and North Village in Sparta.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Ms. Brees reported that most of her work for PAC this month related to the Build-Out and text for the County Wastewater Plan.

She said in Andover Borough, over 200 acres were preserved as Open Space. At one time, this property was a proposed development. When the County updates the sewer maps to submit to DEP, this sewer service area will be removed from the map. Ian Blanchard asked if the reduction in size of the wastewater management area will result in a reduced allotment. Ms. Brees said this was only a proposed development, nothing was built.

Ms. Brees also reported that she has been receiving a number of questions about the sewer service area map boundaries. The approved "Future Sewer Area Map" does not show the lot boundaries so you have to look at it online. Previous maps were in USGS scale and the areas were easier to see. She believes the County will be going back to that system.

PAC will probably have to see the Plan Amendment for the Quick Chek property in Jefferson Township. DEP has not yet approved the change in the County's wastewater procedures, so Sussex County still has jurisdiction in four towns in Morris County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR MAIN LAND SUSSEX CO., EXISTING "WANTAGE PLAZA" SHOPPING CENTER, WMP AMENDMENT:**

A copy of the draft Resolution for a Wastewater Management Plan Amendment for Main Land Sussex Co. was sent to the PAC members. Chairperson Mensonides asked for comments. John Nugent said the word "septage" in the second "Whereas" should be changed to "sewage." Ms. Brees said there was a comment from the MUA saying that receiving stream should be Wallkill River and that the water system is non-transient public non-community water system and therefore should be identified as a public water system. She added that the applicant will be applying to the SCMUA.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Howard Baker to approve the Resolution with the above noted changes. The motion was seconded by Denise Webb and carried unanimously.

B. DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR BICSAK BROTHERS REALTY PROPERTY, ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, WMP AMENDMENT:

A copy of the draft Resolution for a Wastewater Management Plan Amendment for Bicsak Brothers Realty Property was sent to the PAC members. Ms. Brees said there was one correction in the Projected Sewer Flow Calculations. It says 119,500 sq. ft. and that is the number for Main Land. It should be changed to 310,000 sq. ft. Mr. Dykstra agreed. Ms. Brees said this will also go in the fourth "Whereas" of the Resolution. The date of October 24 will be added as the date of the Wantage Township Resolution. All of these changes/corrections will be made to the final version of the Resolution.

Ian Blanchard asked for a clarification on the distance of the project area to water. Mr. Dykstra said there is a 300' buffer to the Wallkill River. Ms. Brees said one of the maps shows the 300' buffer at the end of the property and that she received the correction today. Mr. Blanchard also asked about the "Threatened and Endangered Species" list. Ms. Brees said DEP pays close attention to those issues and that they've already reviewed the sewer area and adjusted the sewer boundary to remove habitat areas. When asked, Mr. Dykstra said in time, they may ask DEP to expand the sewer service area. Ms. Brees said if the applicant wanted to expand the project, they would have to deal with the habitat issue.

Ms. Brees also said she received some comments from the SCMUA. They commented on the 300' buffer and she sent them the GIS map where you can see that the sewer boundary excludes the 300' buffer. They questioned the connection to Sussex Borough for water. Ms. Brees said by the end of the final approval this will need to be in place. Mr. Dykstra said they will need to have a source of water. Currently Sussex Borough is looking to extend their water system down Route 23. If they do not, then Bicsak Brothers will have the opportunity to connect to the water system on their own. The last comment related to other alternatives for connection to the SCMUA, such as the Hardyston Twp. MUA. Ms. Brees said she spoke with Tom Varro and he asked if it could be an open ended PAC Resolution. Ms. Brees said the Resolution needs to be based on what is before us. Mr. Dykstra said if anything needs to be changed, they will need to come back to PAC.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Denise Webb to approve the Resolution with the above-noted changes/corrections. The motion was seconded by Carrine Kaufer. All were in favor with an abstention from Ian Blanchard.

C. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak, from the Wallkill Watershed Group, has been involved in programs for the Papakating/Clove Brook, the Wallkill and the Paulins Kill Watersheds. They are focusing on agricultural outreach and assistance, stormwater management and riparian and flood plain restoration. They have been able to take funding from DEP and link it into these three programs. This allows them to crosslink their efforts between the various watersheds in Sussex County. It has also allowed them to implement the projects.

The ag. outreach and assistance program was designed to allow them, under the authority of the SCMUA, to use the grant dollars to work with USDA/NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service.) This organization works to develop agreements with farmers for projects such as a manure management system. A manure management system provides for better management of a potential non-point source pollutant to the watershed, and allows the farmer to increase their productivity. The NRCS provides about 60% of the funding. The Agricultural and Assistance Cost Share Program, under the MUA as the financial agent, will allow the Wallkill Watershed Group to add their grant funds to the funds from NRCS – then the funding reaches up to 90% of the potential total project cost. Funding is available for farms located within the Papakating Creek, Clove Brook and Paulins Kill Watersheds.

Mr. Sajdak said they are looking for some basic stormwater projects in the Papakating/Clove Brook areas or the Paulins Kill areas, particularly focusing on Newton and Hampton. The stormwater program is specifically looking to reduce stormwater loading and stormwater volume in developed areas.

The Riparian Restoration Program covers large areas of the watershed and gets partners and the community involved. New partnerships are bringing in additional funding outside of DEP 319 funding. The William Penn Foundation initiated a huge watershed project for the entire Delaware River Basin, covering four states. This grant program will result in \$35 million in funding over the next ten years. Under the partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Wallkill Watershed Group will be getting some of the funding. This combined with DEP funding will allow them to do a restoration project along a contiguous 3-mile corridor of the Paulins Kill. It will link State owned, agriculturally owned and privately owned parcels in this large scale riparian restoration project. The long-term goal is to bring this corridor back to a natural forested state. To date there are over 8,000 new plantings in this corridor. Mr. Sajdak said the Sussex Branch Trail borders this project corridor. He also said he is always willing to take anyone interested in learning more about these projects to the site and volunteers are always welcome.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS BY WATERSHED, SUSSEX COUNTY WMP DRAFT:

A copy of the DEP Model Build-Out was sent to the PAC members. Alice Brees said the DEP Model uses GIS layers: existing zoning by watershed and by town. All the maps

are on the ARC GIS website. Some results were received for the septic areas. The analysis was done by the HUC-11 Watersheds, and the DEP Model looks at nitrate dilution. Many of the watersheds in Sussex County meet DEP requirements. The model results will be included in the County Wastewater Plan and sent to DEP.

There are some watersheds that we will have to take a look at. There are three watersheds where the zoned number of units is greater than the septic density that DEP would allow with their model. Those watersheds are the Paulins Kill (above Stillwater), Pequest and Little Flat Brook. The County will work with these towns to take a more detailed look at those build-outs to get them more accurate.

Ms. Brees reported that Eric Snyder talked to DEP staff and he was advised that DEP allows alternative septic systems, which have a higher quality discharge. She does not think these watersheds will ever see this amount of development at build-out.

Ms. Brees said a lot of the septic area build-out is complete and that she will be working on the sewer area during the next month or so. There are a few other pieces that need to be in the plan such as water restoration plans. It is hoped that the plan will be completed this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Howard Baker. The motion was seconded by Keith Gourlay and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.