

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MAY 12, 2016

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Baker. 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: Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman  
Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair  
James Landrith, Andover Borough  
Peter Spinney, Andover Township  
Sam Castimore, Frankford Township  
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township  
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
Cynthia Tracey, Alternate, Stillwater Township  
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
Ernie Hofer, At-Large  
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough

STAFF MEMBERS: Alice Brees, Principal Planner  
John Williams, Esq., County Counsel  
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: George Zitone, Montague Township  
Richard Innella, Montague Township

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

Minutes were not available.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alice Brees talked about correspondence related to well restriction areas Miller Avenue in Newton, the County Maintenance Garage in Sandyston and Route 23 Citgo in Montague.

For the benefit of the new members, Chairman Baker asked all the members to introduce themselves.

**PLANNER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Brees talked about the Green Infrastructure Workshop. New Jersey Future will be working with Newton over the next few years on Green Infrastructure.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. DEP GRANT AVAILABILITY FOR WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Alice Brees explained that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sent a letter to all counties to notify them of "Wastewater Management Planning Grant Availability" and asking for a Letter of Intent in response. However, the timing is unusual because the DEP Water Quality Rules have not yet been adopted and the rules will govern the work to be done under the grants. Ernie Hofer said that without the adopted rules, we don't have an understanding on how to implement it. We don't know what we need to do, or what it will cost. So until rules are adopted and we have more answers, we should not be committing to undertake something. Howard Baker said that the DEP letter states that the Letter of Intent is not a commitment to do something. It is just to assess the level of interest by the counties. Alice Brees said that the next step in the process in June is the Scope of Work. At some point, if we're going to apply, then we do need to specify the work to be completed.

There was discussion about the DEP grant process predicated on the proposed regulations, but they can't finalize grants until the regulations are adopted. Alice Brees said DEP is trying to get the Counties ready, so that when the rules are adopted, possibly in early summer, then the scope of work could be done. It's a tight deadline. However, it might not fall in place the way they're hoping, if the rules take longer to adopt.

Howard Baker suggested that we say we don't want any unfunded mandates and this should be implemented without raising taxes. Basically we would say that we are a Tier 3 county and we're interested in the grant money, but we don't know what we're going to do with it yet. We could have a motion to the effect that the PAC encourages the Freeholders to send a Letter of Intent to possibly apply for grants. Details on the grant will become apparent when regulations are finalized and further details are obtained from DEP. That gets the County off the hook for committing to anything in particular and gets it down to Trenton, then the ball is in DEP's court.

Some PAC members expressed concerns about the concept of countywide septic management as described in proposed DEP Water Quality Rules issued October 19, 2015.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Howard Baker that the PAC recommend that the Freeholders send a Letter of Intent to DEP advising that they may be interested in the grant money based on details of the grant and adding that the County does not want any unfunded mandates. The motion was seconded by Peter Spinney. A roll-call vote was taken. All were in favor, with a "No" vote from Sam Castimore.

**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 Richard Gottemoller and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.