

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 12, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:36 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:     Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Vice Chair  
                              David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
                              Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
                              Ian Blanchard, Stillwater Township  
                              Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
                              Ernie Hofer, At-Large  
                              Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Chair  
                              John Nugent, At-Large  
                              Jeff Elam, Jefferson Township

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

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

ALSO PRESENT:        None

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

Minutes were not available.

**PRESENTATION:**

A. JEFFERSON TWP. WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP) CHAPTER:

Jeff Elam said he is the Municipal Engineer and Director of Public Works for the Jefferson Township. He will provide information concerning the Jefferson Township Wastewater Management Plan. The Plan for Morris County is just about approved. Jefferson Township will be the second chapter in the plan.

Jefferson Township is about 42 sq. miles and it has a section that centers around Lake Hopatcong. He pointed out an area on a map and said that section drains into the Musconetcong basin. Alice Brees said Sussex County has jurisdiction over the Musconetcong Watershed as a Water Quality Management Planning Agency.

Mr. Elam said the Highlands Act required that any proposed sewer service area in the preservation area of the Highlands would be removed from the map. This is important to the township because they had an area that drains in to the lake but was removed as a future Musconetcong Sewer Authority (MSA) service area.

Currently the whole drainage area is under a septic management program. As part of the adoption of the Jefferson Township chapter into the Morris County Plan, they have been required to adopt that same program for the entire township.

The Twp. Plan does not proposed any new sewer systems or treatment plants. The main difference is that the Lake Shawnee area is not shown as a future service area. Mr. Elam said they are closing a discharge to groundwater in one location and will connect to an existing treatment plant.

Ms. Brees asked Mr. Elam to talk about their Septic Management Program. He said the program is going well and that there wasn't too much backlash from the residents. The area was broken into districts and the Township Health Department sent out letters to the residents. The residents are required to have their septic systems pumped every three years. The Septic Management requirement will be adopted next month and it should be in place by the end of 2015.

Mr. Elam said the township also adopted ordinances required by DEP, including one on riparian buffers and steep slopes. The steep slopes ordinance affects the entire town. It prohibits development over 20%, with mitigating circumstances at 10-20%. Jefferson Township used the model ordinance from the State DEP for steep slopes.

The Highlands has mapped the Highlands preservation and planning areas and they identified three HUC-14 watersheds that have a water shortage. The Highlands developed an action plan for the towns that have water deficits, and Jefferson

Township is one of them. They provided Jefferson Township with a draft Water Conservation Plan that will provide action items to follow.

Mr. Elam said about 10 years ago Jefferson Township was looking into a sewer system. After looking for funding, the town elected not to sewer the lake. They did move ahead with the Septic Management Plan. Any future development will involve a NJPDES Permit, either a new one or a modification and the State will look into the nitrate modeling for approval. The only development he is aware of is the Quick Chek Gas Station on Route 15. They were allowed to open eight pumps because that determines the amount of wastewater they will generate. The eight pumps got them up to 2,000 gallons per day. They are doing geological work to open up another four to six pumps. John Nugent said there will not be any more discharge to surface water in New Jersey.

Ms. Brees said the State is looking for a Resolution from SWAC since the area is still within Sussex County's jurisdiction.

**MOTION;**

A motion was made by Howard Baker . The motion was seconded by Ian Blanchard. All were in favor with an abstention from Jeff Elam.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**PLANNER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Brees reported that the Amendments for the two sites on Route 23 in Wantage were on the Freeholder Agenda last night. The Resolutions will be sent to DEP as soon as they are available.

The County Wastewater Plan will be back on the Agenda next month. The County no longer has a GIS Department. We will be dealing with a consultant. Ernie Hofer questioned the logic and practicality of outsourcing GIS. He said it is such an innovative tool and with the right people you can create additional value every year through GIS. Ms. Brees said the next step for the Wastewater Plan is getting the maps. The only map that was approved so far is the future sewer area map. For the Wastewater Plan, each town will have a set of maps for existing and future sewer areas. The Septic Management Initiative will probably be on the PAC Agenda next month.

Ernie Hofer asked Ms. Brees to comment on the County Strategic Plan. Ms. Brees said the County is working on updating the County Strategic Growth Plan. She said there

was a Workshop in May at the County College. There is work being done with consultants relating to transportation and locating development near transportation.

Eric Powell said the Workshop in May focused on economic development. It was about keeping jobs and people up here and eliminating the amount of time people need to spend on Route 80 and Route 15. There was also discussion about having companies come up here and having people who live down below drive up this way in reverse of traffic flow.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. CHANGES TO WQMP PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES, DEP COMMENTS;

Alice Brees said she sent information regarding the changes to the Wastewater Quality Management Plan out in the mailing and then sent another e-mail out yesterday. She said the original procedures date back to 1990 and a lot has changed at the State since then.

The Highlands Definitions are in the Plan now. The rules for the Highlands Preservation Areas are more strict. On Page Five, the procedures say "Review of the proposed amendment shall not require the presence of a quorum." Ms. Brees said she will remove the word "not." There was some discussion on the role of an Advisory Committee. It was agreed that recommendations made by PAC should be brought to the Freeholder Board. One of DEP's comments was on having a plan revision definition and being clear about the difference between a Plan Amendment and a Plan revision.

Ms. Brees asked PAC if they wanted to see another copy of the Amendment or if she should make the agreed to changes and send it to the Freeholders. After a brief discussion, Ms. Brees said she will make the changes and e-mail the Amendment to PAC. She said once the procedures are complete, she can work on the Morris County Amendments. John Nugent suggested that County Counsel review the Amendment. Ms. Brees said she has been working with him. Ernie Hofer noted the Highlands Council Checklist for the preservation area shouldn't be included in the definitions.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Dennis Muscalo that the changes discussed above be made to Wastewater Quality Management Plan Amendment and that they be e-mailed to PAC before being sent to the Freeholders for approval. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

There were no watershed updates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a lengthy discussion on the loss of the County GIS Department. A member asked if the towns have been notified of this.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric Powell. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.