

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JULY 8, 2010

The meeting was opened at 7:30 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
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township
William Sanford, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Ernie Hofer, At-Large
Kathy Little, At-Large
Susan Zellman, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Vita Thompson, Andover Township
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: George Sweeny, Dermody Holdings
Nathanial Sajdak, Wallkill Watershed Group

Jason Dunn, Dermody Holdings/Dykstra Associates
Wendy Koelr, Hoot Systems
Alex Kowal, Hoot Systems
Mike Dunn, Hoot Systems
John Morgan, Andover Borough

PRESENTATION:

A. ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

Mike Dunn said he represents a company called, "Hoot System," which is an advance wastewater treatment system for residential and commercial use. His presentation this evening focused on the Hoot System for residential use. Representatives from Franklin Precast were also present.

Mr. Dunn said the Hoot System is an aerobic treatment system which helps the soil to dissipate the effluent. New Jersey's guidance document, "The Aerobic Treatment Guidance Document" lists mandatory operation and maintenance of the systems and he has worked with DEP to ensure that he has a good product line.

Many of the projects in this area are in lake communities which have changed from part-time, vacation residences to full-time residences. The septic systems were not designed for full 12 month usage. The Hoot System takes the place of septic tanks. It is basically a mini treatment plant for the home. The systems are certified under the NSF Standard 40 Class 1 Treatment Plant certification process.

Mr. Dunn gave a detailed description of the system and its performance and answered questions involving operation, maintenance, cost and longevity. Printed information on the Hoot System and Franklin Precast were provided to PAC.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Denise Webb to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. All were in favor, with abstentions from Howard Baker, Eric Powell, Ernie Hofer and Kathy Little. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Denise Webb to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Kathy Little. All were in favor, with abstentions from James Landrith, Eric Powell, Richard Gottemoller and Ernie Hofer. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Numbers Five, Six, Seven, Nine, Ten and Twelve.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that she and Eric Snyder will be following up with Rutgers regarding the Green Infrastructure Project and scope of work.

There was a meeting in Milford regarding studies for projected growth on the Upper Delaware River for New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A Susquehanna University Professor is working with the National Park Service to collect information from the Counties. They are using aerial photos and looking at trends of growth to project future growth.

Ms. Brees said she and Eric Snyder have been adding information regarding the Strategic Growth Plan and the Sewer Service Areas to Power Point. This will be shared with the Office of Smart Growth and DEP for the County Wastewater Plan. The next meeting with DEP and the Counties is scheduled for July 20.

The Byram Center has been approved by the Highlands Council. Byram will work directly with the Highlands Council on their sewer service area.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

County Counsel was excused from this evening's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. PROPOSED SPARTA RECREATION CENTER, WMP AMENDMENT:

George Sweeney said he is the attorney for the Sparta Recreation Center. He asked Jason Dunn to address the issues which were raised at their presentation to PAC in May. Alice Brees had some comments, focused mainly on projected flow. As recommended at the May presentation, Mr. Dunn did look further into the projected flow and found it was significantly more than what he had originally proposed.

Mr. Dunn said this project is unique because it does not fit into the uses listed in NJAC 7:14A for Treatment Works approval. DEP does allow for some professional judgment to be made as long as it can be justified. Mr. Dunn discussed the project with the Executive Director of the Sussex County YMCA in Hardyston Township, because it has a similar use. He was able to obtain some information regarding their flows, which is between 8,000 – 10,000 gallons per day (gpd) for that facility. The original submission was for 5,000 gpd. With new calculations, they revised the application and resubmitted it for 15,000 gallons per day. They arrived at the new calculation by increasing the number of guests that would visit the proposed facility and by taking into account the gallonage that the Hardyston YMCA is using. The project summary was revised to reflect the changes and he also replaced the site plan map to show the proposed and existing sewer service areas.

Mr. Dunn said he needs to provide a few more items to PAC, however, these are items that can be submitted before they go to DEP. He asked PAC to take action on this

application this evening contingent upon the items being submitted before they go to DEP. He said he needs to submit the HUC-14 Watershed Area Map, the map showing the comparison between DEP's sewer service areas and the County's sewer service areas. He also will provide a summary with more detail in how the gallonage was determined. A description of what the lots look like now will also be submitted. The application itself will not change.

Mr. Dunn said he had conversations with Eric Powell regarding Sparta's buildout and he has since received a letter from Eric saying that Sparta has planned on this project and it is within their allocation. Mr. Sweeney said that Sparta's total allocation with SCMUA is 205,000 gallons per day, and due to the economic downturn, there are a number of large generators that have revamped or completely dropped their plans, which put gallonage back into their balance.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Denise Webb to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution of support for the Sparta Recreation Center. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Butz and carried unanimously.

Since PAC generally does not meet during the month of August, the Resolution will be voted upon at the September meeting. Affected parties were determined to be Sparta Township and the SCMUA.

B. DEP REVIEW OF SUSSEX COUNTY WMP:

Alice Brees said there wasn't anything new to report on the Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan. The issue of how DEP will treat the Highlands region is still unresolved, DEP still has not specified their policies for the Planning area. The next meeting between DEP and the Counties is July 20.

C. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathanial Sajdak reported that May and June have been significant months with regards to on-the-ground restoration work. Throughout the month of May they were working to implement a riparian restoration project at Station Park in Sparta Township. Over 600 trees and shrubs were planted throughout a ten-acre area straddling the Wallkill River and Station Park. The goal was to remove invasive species, fragmities, which took over the riparian corridor after the floods of 2000. North Jersey RC&D served as the funding source and the Watershed Group served as the coordinating entity for this project. Volunteers and in-kind contributions helped make this a huge success.

Riparian efforts continue at Lafayette Park and Clove Acres Lake in Sussex Borough. The project at the Homestead Complex has been postponed from spring to September.

A full scale project is being planned for the Clove Brook from the spillway at Clove Acres Lake to the confluence with the Papakating Creek. They are looking at tree

removal, stream bank stabilization and riparian restoration. Mr. Sajdak said that Tennessee Gas will be required to do mitigation work as a result of the work they are doing for the gas pipeline. They are trying to get DEP to approve Tennessee Gas contributing funds to assist with the effort at the Clove Brook.

Ernie Hofer is working on the technical component of the Paulins Kill Restoration Plan, which is about 85% complete. They are doing some outside contracting work with Princeton Hydro for some modeling work, the Land Conservancy of New Jersey and Bob Canace for some aquifer studies and North Jersey RC&D for threatened and endangered species work and stream visualization characterization work. They have received reports from those entities and they are currently being reviewed to determine how to incorporate them into the restoration plan. This information will ultimately be shared with PAC, probably during the fall.

Ernie Hofer said that within the next six months they will probably have presentations to PAC addressing aquifers within the project area and an overview of the Paulins Kill restoration.

Mr. Sajdak reported that last week the Wallkill Watershed Auto Tour had its first Bus Trip and it was a major hit. The Stanhope Borough Senior Club approached him about having a chartered bus take them on the Auto Tour and asked him to accompany them. He said 53 seniors took the tour and that he and Ernie Hofer served as the tour guides for the day. The bus made stops along the tour, stopped for a tour of the Franklin Mineral Museum, stopped for lunch at the George Inn in Vernon, went across the border into Orange County, NY and came back down. The trip went from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CANCELLATION OF AUGUST PAC MEETING:

Chairman Armeno said that the August PAC meeting is usually cancelled unless something major comes up. PAC members will receive notification.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeffrey Butz. The motion was seconded by Denise Webb and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.