

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JULY 9, 2015

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: James Landrith, Andover Borough
Dave Hansen, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Joseph Carr, Town of Newton
Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township
Ian Blanchard, Stillwater Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair
Daniel Flynn, At-Large
Ernie Hofer, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Gary Larson, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

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

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Daniel Flynn to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2015. The motion was seconded by Dave Hansen. All were in favor, with abstentions from Dave Hansen, Carrine Kaufer, David Muscalo, Joseph Carr, Ian Blanchard, Denise Webb, Daniel Flynn and Ernie Hofer. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that the County Wastewater Management Plan has been submitted to Trenton. An amendment is coming in to change the plan. Frankford Township will be adding some lots that have some existing houses to the sewer service area. This amendment will probably come before PAC in September. Ms. Brees hopes that it will be a small change that can be attached to the plan and it can be included with the same Public Notice.

Ms. Brees said she has been working with GIS Manager to look at the GIS layers. She hopes to have Virtual Site Visits to present to PAC in September or October. This will also be on the County website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMITTAL TO DEP:

Ms. Brees reported that some informal comments have been received from DEP regarding the County Wastewater Management Plan. They want to see some of the hard data behind the build-out numbers. She will be sending them the Data Base information which was used for the build-out figures. They were also asking for 2014 flow numbers.

Ms. Brees also said all of the sections of the County Wastewater Plan are posted on the County website. The website is www.sussux.nj.us - Planning Division, Wastewater Plan 2015.

The DEP is in the process of coming out with new wastewater rules. There are about 10 other counties that have started their wastewater plan under the existing rules. DEP does not want the counties to have to start all over again. Ms. Brees said the new rules should be simpler. The DEP is moving toward complete digital submissions. The rules will come out as proposed and then there will be a comment period. When asked what happens if the new rules are more desirable, Ms. Brees said she and Eric Snyder have talked about this, and he felt we already know what the existing rules look like. If there is a problem during the review, the County does have the option of waiting for the new rules. When asked, Ms. Brees said the last County Wastewater Plan was

approved in 2001. Plans need to be updated every six years, but DEP wants to increase that to 10 years.

Daniel Flynn asked if all of the municipalities have signed onto the plan. Ms. Brees said they do not formally sign on until after DEP does their review. Then the County Wastewater Plan goes to Public Notice with a request to municipalities for a consent resolution. As long as changes do not affect maps, there is still time to make minor changes to municipal chapters.

B. MUNICIPAL CHAPTERS – COMMENTS FROM BYRAM TOWNSHIP:

Byram Township already has an approved Wastewater Plan. They submitted their plan under Highlands conformance. They wanted to make sure our plan did not conflict with their plan. Most of the changes were minor.

C. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL :

Ian Blanchard said it appears that there is an earthen dam which has been built up since last year near the old railroad bed by Trinity Street. Ms. Brees said there is a group that was trying to improve the rail-trail through the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Blanchard said he will speak to Nathaniel Sajdak about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. WATER RESOURCES REPORT AND PROPOSED ACTIONS FROM TOGETHER NORTH JERSEY (13 COUNTY REGIONAL GROUP):

Together North Jersey is a 13 County Group that is looking at Water Resources issues at a regional level. Ms. Brees provided PAC with their report for informational purposes.

Howard Baker said at the last meeting it was pointed out that Ian Blanchard has been to Nepal. It was suggested that he would be given an opportunity to speak about his experience.

Mr. Blanchard said he and a college friend have been involved in a project to build and operate private schools in Nepal. They have been involved with this project since 2010 and have built three private schools. They have also brought industries into the rural villages and they employ the parents of their students two days a month to work in the industries. The money from the industries is used for the schools and to provide free education. They have 22 students who live with them.

Mr. Blanchard said he was there during the recent earthquake and that he was making lunch when the earthquake hit. There was about five minutes of intense shaking. After the students were quieted down, he continued to prepare lunch. He said the news media will show the same clips over and over again but the reality is

that life goes on. He also said the experience has colored his perception of relief efforts, fear mongering and the news media.

There was a brief discussion about the need for an August meeting. A motion was made by Denise Webb to cancel the August PAC meeting. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave Hansen. The motion was seconded by Ernie Hofer and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.