

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

The meeting was opened at 7:35 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  
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township  
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
James Benson, Stanhope Borough  
Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township  
Denise Webb, Wantage Township  
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large  
Kathy Little, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Alice Brees, Principal Planner  
Dennis R. McConnell, Esq., County Counsel  
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Group  
Glenn Kienz, Attorney for Germany Flats Village  
Owen Dykstra, Germany Flats Village

The Agenda was amended to go directly to #5, A, proposed resolution for Sparta WMP.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. GERMANY FLATS CENTER WMP AMENDMENT, SPARTA TOWNSHIP:

Glenn Kienz, attorney for Germany Flats Center said he and Owen Dykstra did a full presentation last month and they are here tonight to answer additional questions from PAC. A proof of owner's authorization for all lots, a wastewater facility description and anticipated flow calculation were requested by PAC and provided. Regarding the availability of public water, they provided a letter from the Sparta Township Director of Public Utilities. PAC asked for a report on proposed drainage facilities and they provided conceptual drainage reports prepared by Owen Dykstra's office. They also provided an evaluation of impacts on surrounding wells prepared by Maser Consulting, and a Facilities Table for the proposed wastewater treatment facility.

Owen Dykstra said a hydrogeologist was scheduled to attend the meeting this evening, but he was held up in traffic. Owen Dykstra was sworn. Mr. Dykstra said they authorized Tom Dwyer to do an evaluation of the impact on private wells in the area. Mr. Dwyer prepared a report dated August 26, 2011. He did a well search of all the wells in the area and then he did an analysis to see if there would be any potential impact due to the proposed Germany Flats discharge of 120,000 gallons per day. Mr. Dwyer's summary said the proposed discharge of wastewater will be treated to NJDEP Class II-A ground water quality standards to the water table flow system overlying the Germany Flats aquifer. Previous testing and analysis of the site had demonstrated that the water table flow system is hydraulically isolated from the underlying Germany Flats aquifer. In addition, ground water flow path analysis for the site has demonstrated that the renovated wastewater will not intersect any private wells. Therefore, it is concluded that the proposed discharge of tertiary-treated wastewater will not have an adverse impact on private wells in the area.

Mr. Dykstra said that due to the location and flow path, the bulk of the private wells in the area are on the northwest side. There is one well on the Tannis property, north of the property and there is also one located on the Sparta Evangelical Free Church property. The flow path of the water table for the proposed discharge is towards the wetland area, which is hydraulically disconnected from the other wells because of the gradients.

David Muscalo asked if there will be odor control for the solids that settle to the bottom of the anaerobic reactor. Mr. Dykstra said since the system is in the middle of a developed area, they will do odor control as required by DEP. Mr. Muscalo also asked about secondary water quality standards, odor, taste, etc. Mr. Dykstra said they provided the report from Aqueonics and that they are meeting all State Standards.

A draft copy of the Resolution for Germany Flats Village was provided to PAC. Chairman Armeno read the Resolution into the meeting.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Jeffrey Butz to accept the amendment to the Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan for Germany Flats Village, Route 15, Sparta Township. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. A roll-call vote was taken. All were in favor with an abstention from Geraldine Pflugh. Motion carried.

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by David Muscalo to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Benson. All were in favor, with abstentions from Jeffrey Butz, Keith Gourlay, Geraldine Pflugh, Denise Webb and Kathy Little. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Butz to approve the Minutes of July 14, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Keith Gourlay. All were in favor, with abstentions from David Muscalo, James Benson, Geraldine Pflugh and Denise Webb.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet. She provided PAC with two articles on hydro-fracking. In New Jersey there is a one year ban on hydro-fracking. The Delaware River Basin Commission is proposing regulations for the industry. They have a website with more information at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net)

**PLANNER'S REPORT:**

Alice Brees reported that she has been working with Kevin Gilbride, a new reviewer at DEP. He is working on the sewer service area maps. One of the things he did was map the old T1 permits and get them up to date. Ms. Brees proposed that when they are dealing with specific towns, she will copy the PAC member on the e-mail. When DEP is finished, she will post the updated version of the map on the County's website.

**B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:**

Jeffrey Butz reported that the Paulins Kill Pequest Watershed Association is having a meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13 at the Ridge and Valley Conservancy Building, Main Street, Blairstown. If the roads are not open (due to flooding,) the meeting will be postponed to a future date.

Nathaniel Sajdak reported that in 11 years of his watershed work in the area, he has seen water in areas he has never seen before. He gave an example of Wallkill River at Bassett's Bridge, two miles south of the New York border. There is a gauge on the bridge that peaked out the day after the hurricane at 12.7'. Prior to that it had never been above 10'. The Papakating Creek is also at peak levels. The Pelletown Gauge Station went from a base flow of 4' to 10' over a six-seven hour period. He said this rain event will probably be classified as a 500-year storm. Mr. Sajdak praised the work done by road crews throughout the State, County and Municipalities.

The Paulins Kill Restoration Plan is about 95% complete as a draft and it will be submitted to DEP by the end of this month. They have provided a project manual to DEP that outlines eight different projects they feel are important to implement in the Upper Paulins Kill Area. The storms of the last two weeks have helped to document the need for these projects. Mr. Sajdak said there has been tremendous stream bank erosion on the Clove Brook but they are fortunate to have the funding to restore some sections.

Alice Brees asked Nathaniel Sajdak to let her know a future date for the Paulins Kill Presentation to PAC.

C. DEP REVIEW – PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SEWER AREA MAP:

Alice Brees said in general DEP is restoring some of the sewer service areas that they had removed. She provided PAC with a chart, by municipality, outlining the number of comments received, the site/project name, blocks and lots, etc.

D. RUTGERS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:

To date three of the four rain gardens have been planted. Ms. Brees showed the poster that was displayed in the County Building at the Farm & Horse Show. The poster had photos taken by Rutgers of some of the projects. The fourth rain garden will go on the Sparta Library property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Little. The motion was seconded by Jim Landrith and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.