

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:38 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.

A moment of silence was observed to remember those who perished on September 11, 2001 and for members of the military.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Andover Borough
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Vice Chair
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Michael Furrey, Vernon Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Chair
John Nugent, At-Large

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nighar Sultana, Brooklyn College

A motion was made by Howard Baker to amend the Agenda to the Presentation. The motion was seconded by James Landrith and carried unanimously.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by David Muscalo to approve the Minutes of June 12, 2014. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. All were in favor, with abstentions from James Landrith, Keith Gourlay, Carrine Kaufer, Paul Baldwin, Denise Webb and Michael Furrey. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION:

A. AQUIFER STUDY, UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED:

Alice Brees introduced Ms. Sultana from Brooklyn College. Ms. Brees reminded the PAC that Ms. Sultana made a presentation to them a few years ago. She is here this evening to give a presentation of her completed Master's Thesis.

Ms. Sultana said the title of her thesis is "Aquifer Characterization of a Fractured Flow System using Geographic Information Systems and Groundwater Modeling System." The case study is of the upper Delaware Watershed, HUC-14 in Sussex County, NJ. She hopes that results from this research will enable County Managers and Planners to determine sustainable water usage by providing them preliminary research on their aquifers.

The scope of her research was to focus on well log data, field data and results from previous work which are coupled with a spacial database scheme (GIS.) She also used a groundwater numerical model (Groundwater Modeling System) to determine the flow velocity and direction of the water, the quantity of groundwater storage and the recharge potential of the Martinsburg Formation Aquifer.

Ms. Sultana said that population growth and climate changes potentially threaten sustainable water resources. Counties play an important role in managing water resources, and municipalities strongly influence the use of resources within their jurisdiction. In order to make science-based decisions, Counties need tools to organize, store and analyze hydrological data for the present and future.

Her presentation focused on background, models and tools she used, a review of the geology of the area, the methods she applied and the results of her study. Ms. Sultana acknowledged her Professor and also Ms. Brees for her help in providing data.

The Agenda returned to Review and Approval of Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Numbers One, Three, Seven and Eight.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that she and Eric Snyder have been working on text for the County Wastewater Plan draft. Hopefully, she will have that available at the next PAC meeting. They are also working on build-outs for the towns.

There was a pre-application meeting with SCMUA. They are proposing to have a connection from the landfill in Lafayette to pipe the leachate to the Hardyston wastewater plant. They met with Tom Varro and an Engineer from Hatchmott McDonald.

There was also a pre-application meeting with Wantage Ridge for a proposal of 100 housing units which will be served by Wantage Village discharge. Ms. Brees said Wantage Village is already on the sewer map.

There is also a proposal for the Kelly property in Vernon to connect to the SCMUA. They have already received an initial endorsing Resolution from Vernon Township. The plan shows a proposed hotel connecting to the sewer area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. UPDATES FOR FUTURE SEWER SERVICE AREA MAP:

Ms. Brees provided the PAC with a list of mapping changes for the Future Sewer Area Map as of August 26, 2014. The changes included amendments in Wantage that have come through the PAC. The updated future map would show those areas since they have already received preliminary approval from the Freeholders. She said the County Wastewater Plan would go through the whole Public Notice Amendment process. Ms. Brees said she hopes to bring in the updated future sewer service area map next month. There will also be a map specific to each town.

B. CHANGES TO WQMP PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES, DEP COMMENTS:

Alice said DEP still has to approve changes made by the County and then it will be finalized.

C. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

No updates were available.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE;

Alice reported that DEP requires a Septic System Management Initiative to be part of the County Wastewater Plan. DEP backed away from requiring Municipal Ordinances and enforcement of septic pumping. There are two towns that have such an Ordinance, Sparta and Byram. So far there has been an internal meeting with the

County Administrator, Planning and the Health Department. The plan is to have a mailing by the towns to residents.

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

Alice provided the PAC with a Resolution for a Plan Revision for the Quick Chek Site, on Route 15 in Jefferson Township. The revision would amend the Morris County Wastewater Management Plan. The Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan Agency has no comments and does not object to the Plan Revision. (Sussex County WQMP Agency adopted changes to its Plan Amendment Procedure in July 2014 to lessen their jurisdiction over Morris County municipalities in WQMP Area.)

MOTION:

A motion was made by Michael Furrey to accept the Resolution as written. 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 David Muscalo. The motion was seconded by Eric Powell and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.