

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Webb. 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
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough (7:43 p.m.)
Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Ernie Hofer, At-Large
Gary Larson, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Dave Hansen, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chair
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Daniel Flynn, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

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

OTHERS PRESENT: John Williams, Esq., County Counsel

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Ernie Hofer to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. All were in favor, with abstentions from Kathy Little, Denise Webb, Richard Gottemoller, Gary Larson and John Nugent. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet. There were comments on and/or questions answered on Correspondence Numbers One, Two, Four and Six.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that the proposed changes to the DEP Water Quality Rules may be out in October. She believes DEP will be doing away with some of the requirements and making the process easier.

Ms. Brees asked John Williams, County Counsel to discuss an issue with Swartswood Lake. Mr. Williams said Swartswood Lake Watershed Association (SLWA) came to a Freeholders Meeting on a couple of occasions. They wanted the Freeholders to join in correspondence they were issuing to the DEP. Similar letters have been issued by the Environmental Commission for Stillwater and then Stillwater Township itself. He said that Randy Sprague, an engineer with Swartswood Lake, has a report that spans decades of their work with DEP. The current issue is to control biomass from plants growing in the lake. The American Lotus is taking over and DEP sees it as an endangered plant. Mr. Sprague said in the past, the DEP did address this issue; however they are now silent about addressing any response to the issue of controlling bio mass. The group is trying to be heard for what are legitimate concerns. Mr. Williams said the group is planning to have a meeting with DEP and some legislators

Alice Brees said someone from Swartswood Lake spoke to the PAC years ago about weed harvesting. They have been struggling with this issue for some time. Gary Larson said he believes that at one time, DEP permits were issued to harvest the weeds. Ernie Hofer said he is the President of the Council of Lake Associations (C.O.L.A.) and he saw Randy an hour ago. Randy told him that there will be a meeting with DEP within a month. State Senator Steve Oroho has been very active and will be a participant at the meeting. Mr. Hofer said a harvesting process was in place several years ago. The machinery broke and they were looking for additional funds to replace it. Mr. Hofer also said that lake quality and water quality used to fall under the Watershed Management Department of DEP. Five years ago, DEP reorganized and lake and water quality now falls under DEP Office of Land Management and other departments that are not really focusing on water quality.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. DEP REVIEW OF COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – SEWER AREA BUILDOUT:

Ms. Brees reported that she heard from a staff person at DEP that the initial review of the Wastewater Plan is good. There is some focus on the sewer area and DEP is looking for more details on the Facilities Tables for NJPDES Permits. We will need to provide the breakdown by residential and non-residential uses for the wastewater flow through April 2015. This breakdown will have to be an estimate; we could base it on area by zoning districts. The Plan will describe how this was estimated. DEP would also like an estimate for Inflow and Infiltration for the SCMUA facility. She said she will send an email to the SCMUA and the municipalities asking for data.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FOR INFORMATION: EPA PRIMER FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS:

Ms. Brees said she found this EPA Primer on a website and that it had some good information. It will probably be included in the packet for new PAC members. This document is from 2004 and it does not appear to have been updated, but it was agreed by PAC members that the information was still valid and it was a useful document.

Alice Brees advised PAC that she will ask the Freeholder Board to present Eleanor Mensonides with a Certificate of Recognition for both the PAC and the SWAC. Denise Webb asked that she let the Committees know when the certificate will be presented. Ms. Brees said it will probably happen during one of the October meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ernie Hofer. The motion was seconded by Richard Gottemoller and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.