

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 13, 2011

The meeting was opened at 7:33 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
Christopher Bilik, Green Township
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Kathy Little, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Brian VanDenBroek, Franklin Borough
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Mgmt. Group

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Geraldine Pflugh to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2011. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Butz . All were in favor, with abstentions from Christopher Bilik, Paul Baldwin, Richard Gottemoller, Eleanor Mensonides and John Nugent. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Landrith to amend the Agenda to New Business, A. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Pflugh and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PAULINS KILL WATERSHED PRESERVATION, NATHANIEL SAJDAK:

Nathaniel Sajdak said this program began in 2000 when the SCMUA was awarded the initial Planning Grant from DEP to jumpstart the Watershed Planning Initiative in the Wallkill Basin. The grant was designed to last two years. After 11 years, \$3 million in grant funding has been received, countless in-kind services have been provided by the MUA and countless stakeholder partnerships have been formed. Their area of coverage has expanded to include much more of Sussex County.

Mr. Sajdak said they were awarded a grant from DEP in 2007 to write a Watershed Restoration Plan for the upper Paulins Kill Watershed area. He gave a Status Report on the development of the Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper Paulins Kill Watershed from the headwaters to Balesville. The work included Water Quality Monitoring and Sampling; Watershed Characterization and Assessment Work; Groundwater/Aquifer Studies; GIS Modeling and Mapping Efforts; Education and Outreach; and Riparian Restoration Projects.

He also discussed the top ten projects which have been completed to date. The first draft of the development of an Upper Paulins Kill proposed Implementation Projects Specifications Manual was completed in July 2011. Mr. Sajdak also described the proposed implementation projects for 2011-2015.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Number Six.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that during the past month she and Eric Snyder had a pre-application meeting with Sparta Township's Engineer and an applicant. They are looking to build a regional vehicle truck washing facility in the area of Sparta Junction. They need to meet storm water permit requirements for the non-point source pollution. PAC will probably see that application in the future.

The new Village Center in Sparta Township was on the Freeholder Agenda. Ms. Brees said she will be sending it to DEP to be added to the County Plan. John Nugent asked Ms. Brees if she had a report from Aqueonics. She said there was a report from a hydrogeologist but isn't sure about a report from Aqueonics. He said that typically if there a single property owner, a home owner's association can own and operate the facility. If there is more than one owner, they have to file a petition with BPU to become a public utility. He said that he knows from previous dealings with Aqueonics that they were not able to become a public utility. Sparta Township can take over ownership and run the facility but multiple owners cannot start a treatment plant and establish rates. They have to go a public hearing under BPU jurisdiction. He also suggested that the manufacturer of the facility do a presentation to PAC of the proposed facility. Chairman Armeno directed Alice Brees to do the research of the Village Center in Sparta Township. The information can then be forwarded to DEP. He also asked Ms. Brees to discuss this with Dennis McConnell and put this item on the Agenda for the November PAC meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Jeffrey Butz said he did not have anything to report on the Upper Delaware Watershed. Nathaniel Sajdak said he covered this in his presentation.

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

Alice Brees said she had an article on the table written by NJ Future. The article was a summary of the status of the Wastewater Plans and what it will mean for New Jersey. At a DEP/County Planners meeting a couple of months ago, she had the impression that DEP is under a lot of pressure to get the map work finished.

Normally, the Wastewater Plan includes both sewer service areas and septic areas. There is a build-out model that will have to be done at some point. DEP is considering changing it so that just the sewer service areas can move through first and allow permits to start being issued while issues relating to septic areas are deferred.

C. RUTGERS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:

Alice Brees said there is nothing new to report regarding the Rutgers Green Infrastructure Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Chairman Armeno said that in all probability the November PAC meeting will be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Landrith. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.