

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER
QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

OCTOBER 10, 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Butz. 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
Sam Castimore, Frankford Township
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township (7:39 p.m.)
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Lisa Chammings, Stillwater Township (7:38 p.m.)
Annette Stendor, Sussex Borough
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large
Kathy Little, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Denise Webb, Wantage Township
Joseph Lashendock, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

The last paragraph under New Business will be changed to say that Kathy Little told the Mayor that the mechanism to close the sluice gate needs to be located in Sussex Borough, not Hardyston Township. A motion was made by Howard Baker to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded by Jim Landrith. All were in favor, with abstentions from Sam Castimore, Keith Gourlay, Carrine Kaufer and John Nugent. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Brees reviewed the correspondence listed on the attached sheet and answered questions on Correspondence Numbers Two.

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees reported that recently there has been a lot of confusion about the current DEP process since they are now saying there is a deadline of January 2014 for any site specific amendments. The legislation that was passed January 2012 was only good for two years. There was supposed to be County Planners Meeting with DEP in Trenton but it was postponed to November 6. She hopes to have some clarification from DEP at this meeting.

There was a pre-application meeting with the applicant for White Deer Plaza in Sparta. They will be making a presentation to PAC within the next month or so. This will be a wastewater revision. The existing sewer service area will be connecting to the SCMUA.

Eric Powell, Sparta Township Engineer said White Deer Plaza is currently a separate service area. They also have the Town Center service area which is connected to the MUA. They are looking to take the White Deer service area and merge it into the Town Center service area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY WASTEWATER PLAN – DRAFT:

Ms. Brees said that hopefully next month PAC should see the first portion of the County Wastewater Plan text which she and Eric Snyder have been working on. The first step to take will be the build-out analysis. She is working with the County GIS office to update the Open Space layer, the existing zoning for the towns and the matching density. The build-out will be in the septic areas and in the sewer service areas. The data is currently being prepared. She will be reaching out to the towns to verify data.

Sam Castimore said he has concerns about the lack of growth in Sussex County. He agrees with the need for water quality but questioned the need for more open space in the County. He asked at what point do turtles and birds take second tier to maintaining public employees' security and their family structure without moving out

of the State. He has concerns about the public employees and their pensions. At some point commercial growth is needed to maintain a tax base.

Alice Brees said the DEP requires the Wastewater Plan and she anticipates that the build-out will show that the existing municipal zoning has densities appropriate to maintain water quality. An initial run of the DEP model was done five years ago for areas on septic systems and it showed there can be a lot more septic systems and still meet the high level of water quality that DEP required. This is because of the large amounts of open space in the County. The model will also compare the sewer area build-out compared to the capacity of the treatment plants. She believes the towns with sewers already have an idea of how that matches up. A town would look at that when determining their sewer allocation amounts. There were some counties that have existing development on smaller lots than Sussex County and less open space. For them, the build out model might show that if those counties built out, their septic areas would not meet DEP water quality standards.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Chairman Butz said he did not have anything new to report on the Watersheds. He asked if PAC had anything to report. They did not.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO WQMP PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES:

Alice Brees said these changes to the Wastewater Management Plan Amendment Procedures came about after a request from Morris County. Until recently Morris County did not have a Wastewater Plan. They now have a Draft Wastewater Management Plan. Morristown has four towns within the Musconnectcong Watershed: Jefferson, Mt. Arlington, Netcong and Roxbury, which is in Sussex County jurisdiction. Sussex County does not want to be in control of that whole process and is looking to give this jurisdiction to Morris County. This change in procedures accomplishes that. Ms. Brees said this change means PAC will not have to hear applications for these areas as fully as we have in the past. Sussex County will be asked for comments but will not be in control of the process.

Another change is to be in conformance with DEP process. Once the application goes to DEP for review, there will be a Public Hearing at that point only if someone requests it. If PAC agrees with these changes, she can prepare a Resolution which will go to the Freeholders. DEP will need to approve these changes to our procedures. Once DEP approves it, PAC can adopt the change. Ms. Brees said Dennis McConnell will attend the next meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jim Landrith to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution in support of the above changes to the Wastewater Plan Amendment Procedures. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker. A roll-call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Jim Landrith asked if it was necessary to pass the Resolution in the same year it was introduced. Ms. Kaufer said that Resolutions can be carried to the next year but Ordinances could not. Ms. Brees said she will check with County Counsel.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Howard Baker. The motion was seconded by Kathy Little and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.