

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Baker. 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
Dave Hansen, Hampton Township
Carrine Kaufer, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough (7:42 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: Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Daniel Flynn, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Ernie Hofer to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo. All were in favor, with abstentions from Dave Hansen, Carrine Kaufer, Howard Baker and David Muscalo. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Ms. Brees reported that comments on the Wastewater Plan have started to come in. She has been going through each Municipal Chapter to add permits to the Tables. The information will then go to the GIS Consultant so he can make changes to the map.

The DEP will be coming out with proposed changes to the Water Quality Rules sometime next week. Ms. Brees said they will be sent to the PAC with the next meeting notice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. DEP REVIEW OF COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – SEWER AREA BUILDOUT, ADDING T-1 PERMITS, MAP CORRECTION FOR LEGENDS RESORT:

Ms. Brees said that she and Eric Snyder had a conference call today with DEP staff. There was discussion about the proposed rule changes and how the County's Wastewater Plan compares to the changes. Currently, the DEP considers the County's Wastewater Plan a partial plan because, according to the current rules, it doesn't have a section on water supply, or municipal adoptions of steep slope ordinances, riparian corridor and septic management plans.

Over the years, the wastewater process has been so bogged down that the Legislature keeps stepping in to make rules to keep things moving. The last time they did this, it was Public Law 2013, which allowed for partial plans to be approved. This expires January 17, 2016. According to the DEP, some missing parts of the plan are water supply and steep slope ordinances; however, those items will not be required under the new DEP rules. The new rules will require septic management plans, currently a missing part of the plan. This involves the municipalities sending out public information and public education. When the DEP talks about septic management, they're talking about towns tracking septic pump-outs done by homeowners. This involves some type of computer software system and a municipal employee being assigned this task.

Ernie Hofer said if the towns have an ordinance for a septic management system, there should be coordination through the Health Department. There was some

discussion about seasonal properties and abandoned properties. Gary Larson said the towns should be advised that they need to work out the details of how to do this and be given a certain date to finish their plan. Ms. Brees said the current DEP rules require the towns to adopt a Septic Management Ordinance, but then DEP verbally backed off of that requirement. They said they would not require ordinances. They want the towns to have a septic management plan and then keep track so they can report conformance back to the DEP. There was some discussion about the costs to the towns in administering these programs. Ms. Brees said the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed software, which is available online, to provide free resources for the towns. Mr. Larson said when the time comes, the County should provide the resources to the municipalities from localities around the county that already have these projects in place.

B. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak gave a report on active projects which include a Manure Management project on a dairy farm in Wantage; a Soil Erosion Control project on a dairy farm in Wantage; riparian restoration work in Memory Park; riparian restoration work along State land on Decker Road and State land in Augusta.

Mr. Sajdak also talked about work that is going on along the four mile corridor along the Paulins Kill. There is now active restoration work going on in all four areas. During the last two weeks, 1,200 trees have been planted on the Tanis Farm. This was done through an easement program with NRCS and local contractors were brought in to help with this project. Mr. Sajdak said in two weeks, he is bringing the entire fifth grade class from the McKeon School to work with Cerbo's Nursery and the NJ Audubon Foundation to plant about 100 trees. These are the same children who potted about 600 small trees about two years ago. The trees were then brought over to a nursery area at the MUA to allow them to grow.

Mr. Sajdak talked about the importance of partnerships. They have been working with the Nature Conservancy, the William Penn Foundation, the National Fish & Wildlife, NJDEP and the US Fish & Wildlife, among others. He also talked about an urban reforestation project in Newton which will extend a tree line around a ball field and reforest an entire corridor of Moore's Brook. This is part of Neighbors Helping Neighbors Day. The DPW will dig the holes, Cerbo's Nursery is going to drop off the trees and put them in the holes and then the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will help backfill the holes.

David Muscalo asked about the plantings survival percentage on the projects at the Jorritsma Farm and Decker Road. Mr. Sajdak said they learned from the earlier projects to spend more money and get bigger materials. The survival percentage on the Jorritsma farm is about 80-85%; for the Decker Road project, the survival percentage is closer to 90-95%. He added that the best size to plant is the two-gallon container: it is easily carried, it does not require a very large hole and the tree is already almost seven feet tall. The tree is already above the vegetative weeds that they are trying to outcompete, so the survival rate is high. Mr. Sajdak also talked about the importance

of maintenance and that is the value that the local community, volunteers and organizations provide.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Landrith. The motion was seconded by David Muscalo and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.