

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

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: Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough, Chairman  
James Landrith, Andover Borough  
Peter Spinney, Andover Township  
Keith Gourlay, Hampton Township  
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township  
Cynthia Tracey, Stillwater Township  
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough  
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large  
Ernie Hofer, At-Large  
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Denise Webb, Wantage Township, Vice Chair  
Ryan Earley, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township

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

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Keith Gourlay to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by John Nugent. All were in favor, with abstentions from Jim Landrith, Howard Baker, Kathy Little and Ernie Hofer. Motion carried.

[To PAC members --Please note that the recording for this meeting had extremely low sound volume, so please mention any changes needed at the meeting.]

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alice Brees discussed and answered questions regarding Correspondence from NJDEP regarding the Frankford Township Sewer Service Area Amendment Summary.

**PLANNER'S REPORT:**

Alice Brees reported that most of her work for PAC this month involved the Wastewater Plan.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. DEP WATER QUALITY RULES – ADOPTED NOVEMBER 7, 2016 – OVERVIEW OF CHANGES (LISTED IN DEP POWERPOINT SLIDES):

Ms. Brees reported that as of November 7, 2016, the DEP rules are adopted. She provided PAC with an outline which corresponds to the DEP PowerPoint Slides. She said there was a meeting in Trenton with County Planners and DEP staff at the end of October. DEP has been hiring staff to avoid Plan Amendment backlogs. The Counties have 18 months, to May 7, 2018, to submit their Wastewater Plans. DEP is working on providing information to the counties. They plan to do a better job of sharing their NJPDES permit information online for the wastewater facilities. Ms. Brees reviewed and discussed the outline she provided to PAC.

B. COUNTY WASTEWATER PLAN “TO DO LIST”: MAPPING UPDATES, SEWER FLOW DETAILS, PROJECTED SEWER CAPACITY DEFICIENCIES, MUNICIPAL CHAPTERS:

Ms. Brees said that she hopes to finish the revised Wastewater Plan text by the next PAC meeting. There was a meeting with Paul DeMuro and DEP staff in October and now all of their comments have been received. Sections of the Plan that are no longer needed will be removed. Ms. Brees said the County is fortunate because, in general, the sewer capacity is adequate for proposed growth in the County. It also does not have a problem with nitrate dilution in septic areas. She said by next month, she should be able to provide PAC with the document and the map.

C. “WATER USE AND CONSERVATION PLAN” REQUIRED FOR FIVE HIGHLANDS TOWNS, PER HIGHLANDS COUNCIL LETTER DATED APRIL 8, 2013:

Ms. Brees said that Corrine Kaufer may be able to discuss this at a future meeting, as Hardyston Township has already had to deal with this issue. According to DEP, a Water Use and Conservation Plan will be required for Hardyston, Vernon, Sparta, Franklin and Hamburg. According to the Highlands Council analysis, all of those towns have some water deficits in specific HUC-14 watersheds.

D. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

There were no new updates regarding the Upper Delaware and Wallkill Watershed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. NJ FUTURE "GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE" GRANT FUND APPLICATIONS:

Ms. Brees advised PAC that there is a Grant available through NJ Future called, "Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure" and copies of the grant information were provided to the PAC members. Grant money will be available to advance demonstration projects for Green Infrastructure, such as rain gardens, bio swales, etc. They are open to Developers, Municipalities and non-profits. The project must be located in the northwest NJ Highlands area. The grant will provide \$10,000 to develop the plan, \$5,000 to implement and they will provide the media exposure.

John Nugent announced that he will be retiring on November 30 and this will be his last PAC meeting. PAC members offered their congratulations and best wishes. Howard Baker thanked him for his service to PAC.

Chairman Baker asked Jim Landrith to head a Nominating Committee for reorganization during the first meeting in 2017. He asked for volunteers to work with Mr. Landrith. Dave Muscalo offered to work with Mr. Landrith.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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