

SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2010

The meeting was opened at 7:30 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
Richard Pumphrey, Frankford Township
Brian VanDenBroek, Franklin Borough
Jeffrey Butz, Vice-Chairman, Fredon Township
William Sanford, Hampton Township
Robert Schultz, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
David Muscalo, Lafayette Township
Paul Baldwin, Town of Newton
Joe Pinzone, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
James Benson, Stanhope Borough
John Armeno, Chairman, At-Large
Ernie Hofer, At-Large
Kathy Little, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large
John Nugent, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Geraldine Pflugh, Stillwater Township
Richard Gottemoller, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Watershed Mgmt. Group
Christopher Saul, Contractor for homeowners
Peggy Schreck, Homeowner

Chairman Armeno called for a motion to amend the Agenda to include under New Business-A, discussion of the PAC 2011 Meeting Dates and a Nominating Committee for new officers.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jeffrey Butz to amend the Agenda as described above. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

A. PROPOSED LOT ADDITION TO WHITE DEER PLAZA SEWER AREA, SPARTA:

Christopher Saul said he is the contractor for the homeowners, Dr. David and Peggy Schreck. He attended this evening's meeting to discuss Block 135, Lot 2 in Sparta Township. The property is on County Route 613 and is outside the sewer service area. He is here to propose the inclusion of this property in the future sewer service area of White Deer Plaza plant. This would allow the home, which is currently on a septic system, to connect to the public sewer system.

The current septic system is 15' from the built home. To meet current code a new septic system would have to be a minimum of 25' from the building. This would place the septic system literally on the edge of the roadway. It would also require a structural wall along the county road.

Mr. Saul displayed a map which showed the subject property, County Route 613 and the current boundary of the sewer service area at White Deer Plaza. He said the Schreck's neighbor, Mr. Song was connected to the public system after his septic system failed. The public sewer line runs parallel to County Route 613 on his property. Mr. Saul requested that the public system be carried to the front of the Schreck's property and that the Schreck's be moved off the septic system and connected to the sewer service. The Schrecks have made application to Sparta and a Township Resolution has been approved. Mr. Powell, Sparta Township Engineer, has also done the required gallonage calculations and there is enough water available to include the Schrecks. This will require the extension of the line onto their property and up to their house. There will not be any more disturbances to the County road because the line already crosses the road due to the failure of Mr. Song's old system. Mr. Saul also talked about the Schreck's 32 year old septic system and described it as "stressed." Also, on the property is a large Norway maple with an extensive root system. If permitted, the old septic will be completely removed from the property.

David Muscalo asked if the roots will be a problem for the pipe which will connect to the public system. Mr. Saul said the proposed pipe is thick walled and can handle the roots. When asked, Mr. Saul said there is an easement agreement with Mr. Song. The

waste treatment facility for the White Deer Plaza is owned and operated by Sparta Township. It discharges into the Wallkill River. Ernie Hofer said that Lake Mohawk fully supports this connection based on hardship to the Schrecks, the Lake Mohawk Lake Quality Management and septic programs. Mr. Saul said he would provide a copy of the easement agreement with Mr. Song to Alice Brees. Ms. Brees said she is in receipt of the Resolution from Sparta. Mr. Saul thanked Eric Powell for his help through this process.

During a brief discussion it was determined that the affected parties are Sparta Township and the Lake Mohawk Association. Ms. Brees said she has talked to DEP staff about this situation and was advised that this will be a WMP revision and that it is a shorter process. Chairman Armeno asked Ms. Brees to prepare a Resolution to be voted upon at the next meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the preparation of a Resolution of support to include the Schreck's property in the sewer service area. The motion was seconded by Ernie Hofer. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor with an abstention from Eric Powell. Motion carried.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Joe Pinzone to approve the Minutes of November 4, 2010. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Butz. All were in favor, with abstentions from Brian VanDenBroek, Robert Schultz, Howard Baker, Eric Powell, Kathy Little and Eleanor Mensonides. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

Alice Brees said she has DEP's latest maps and requested that PAC members who represent towns in the Highlands take a look at it after the meeting. DEP added a new category called, "Inconsistent with the Highlands Regional Plan." There is an April 2011 deadline for the Counties to go to Public Hearings for the County Wastewater Plans using their latest maps. DEP provided a template showing the text they want in the County Wastewater Plans. Ms. Brees said she has started adding from the DEP template into the County plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

County Counsel was excused from this evening's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. WATERSHED UPDATES: UPPER DELAWARE, WALLKILL:

Nathaniel Sajdak reported that the Wallkill Wildlife Refuge has provided grant funds which will allow them to do sampling work on the Wallkill River. They have initiated sampling on the northern end of the river, which will allow them to cross the border into New York to collect samples at Oil City Road. Fecal and e-coli sampling is being conducted as well as some chemical sampling.

Mr. Sajdak said there was an extremely successful clean up of the debris dams inside Sussex Borough. The success of this clean up was due to the fact that Sussex Borough and Hardyston Township signed a Shared Services Agreement for the DPW Services and that Bob Schultz, the Superintendent for the DPW crew in Hardyston Township, took on the project. Mr. Sajdak said he looks forward to providing before and after pictures to PAC. He said this is the first piece of a much bigger project at this site and he thanked Mr. Schultz and his men for their work.

Mr. Sajdak said they implemented Phase I of a riparian restoration project at the Homestead Complex. The front pond now has 120 new trees and shrubs surrounding it. The intent is to bring shade cover to the pond, hopefully to eliminate or reduce the impact from the geese. The County Facilities Management staff provided assistance, the funding and supplies were provided by North Jersey RC&D and there was a volunteer landscape architect who did the design and oversaw the project from beginning to end. Phase II should begin next spring on the second pond which may include some rain gardens and stormwater swales.

The Paulins Kill Restoration Plan is taking shape. They've identified some of the projects they are looking to implement and recommend to DEP for funding. If DEP approves the funding, it will allow them to do significant work in the Paulins Kill in Sussex County. The Paulins Kill Grant has allowed strong relationships to develop with the County, Rutgers, North Jersey RC&D, and the Ag. Agent at Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

An Agricultural Outreach Specialist has been added to the Wallkill Watershed Management Group's staff. He has experience working with the agricultural community doing on-the-ground projects.

Mr. Sajdak said there was a request for another Auto Tour. He said he and Ernie Hofer took a group of 45 people from St. Jude Church in Hamburg for the Auto Tour Bus Trip. A group in Montague is also interested in touring the Wallkill by bus.

Ernie Hofer said that leveraging the skills of outside groups, through partnership arrangements, has allowed them to accomplish more, good quality work.

B. DEP REVIEW OF COUNTY WMP:

The DEP Review of County WMP was covered in the Program Manager's Report.

C. RUTGERS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:

Alice Brees said that four seminars were held with the grant money for the Green Infrastructure Project. Three seminars were at the County building and one was in Byram. The first seminar was geared toward Municipal officials and staff; the second was on detention basin retrofits and maintenance; the third was geared toward towns that have Green Teams and Environmental Commissions; and the fourth seminar was geared toward design professionals and provided continuing educational credits for Planners, Engineers and Landscape Architects. The presentations are on Rutgers' website: www.water.rutgers.edu Another series of four seminars will begin in the spring with different topics.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PAC MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW OFFICERS:

The meeting dates for PAC in 2011 and an Agenda for all Meetings sheet was provided to the PAC.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the 2011 meeting dates for PAC and the Agenda for all Meetings. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Butz and carried unanimously.

Chairman Armeno named Jim Landrith as Chairman of the Nominating Committee . He said Eleanor Mensonides volunteered to be on the Committee and that Mr. Landrith and Ms. Mensonides are authorized to ask others to participate. Anyone who would like to serve as an officer should speak to the Nominating Committee members. Next month's meeting will begin with the Nominating Committee presenting the nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman for a vote. County Counsel will be asked to attend to preside over the vote.

Chairman Armeno said that three At-Large members of PAC received letters asking if they wished to continue their appointment to PAC. There is still one vacancy for an At-Large member. Mr. Armeno said if anyone knows someone who is interested in this position, they should bring it to Ms. Brees' attention. She will bring it to the attention of the Freeholders. He suggested that current members ask for a reappointment from their respective municipality.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Chairman Armeno wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eleanor Mensonides. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.