

**MINUTES
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS MEETING ROOM
November 4, 2019
1:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Williams at 1:30 p.m. Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 and the NJ Water Quality Management Planning Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:15-9.3(b)7, have been complied with and are entered into the minutes of this meeting. A salute to the flag was observed prior to the start of today's meeting.

I. Roll Call

Attendance was as follows:

Khalid Anjum	Middlesex County	Not present
William Robins	Borough of Dunellen	Not present
Theodore Chase, Jr.	Township of Franklin	Not present
Freeholder Charles Kenny	Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders	Not present
Alan Godber	Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, Inc.	Not present
Sewell Peckham	Borough of Helmetta	Not present
Dawn Mc Donald	Borough of Spotswood	Not present
Margaret Drozd		Not present
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	Present
Brandon Goldfine	Middlesex Water Company	Not present
Donald Newton	Borough of Sayreville	Not present
Dawn Corcoran-Gardella	Township of Piscataway	Not present
Jason Friedman	Middlesex County Planning Board	Not present
Siegfred Hubak	Township of Woodbridge	Not present
Alice Tempel	Borough of South Plainfield	Present
Brian Racin	Borough of South River	Not Present
Bryan Bidlack	Township of South Brunswick	Present
Leigh Jones	Township of East Brunswick Water and Sewage	Not present
Ron Yake	Township of Plainsboro	Not present
Les Varga		Not present
Lou Ploskonka		Not present
Robert Noel	Monroe Township Utility Dept.	Present
Doriann Kerber	Borough of Milltown	Present
George Ververides	Middlesex County Office of Planning	Present
Mirah Becker		Present
Laurie Sobel		Not present
Nicholas Tufaro		Present
Lori Kahel		Present
Sharon Martens	Middlesex Cty. Office of Public Health – Environmental Division	Not present
Gary Rojek		Not present
Ronald Sendner	Middlesex County Office of Engineering	Not present
Edward Kuchie		Not present
Kyle Clonan	NJ Water Supply Authority	Not present
Kevin Aiello	Middlesex County Utilities Authority	Not present
Wale Adewunmi		Present
Daria Ludas	Borough of Jamesburg	Present

I. Roll Call (continued)

Allan Williams	Highland Park Environmental Commission	Present
Rick Lear	Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation	Not present
Michele Bakacs	Rutgers Cooperative Extension	Not present
Sara Malone	Rutgers Sustainable Raritan Initiative	Not present
Suzan Colon	Old Bridge Twp. Environmental and Open Space Committee	Not present
David Hall	Township of Old Bridge	Not present
Heather Fenyk	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership	Not present
Alex Zakrewsky		Not present
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper	Present
Brandon Goldberg	City of New Brunswick	Not present
Scott Tarnoski		Not present
Joseph Meyer	SUEZ Water	Not present
Maximo Vazquez	City of Perth Amboy	Not present
Maritza Rodriguez		Not present
Bryan Cardenas		Not present
Edward Segotta	Borough of Carteret	Not present
Greg Remaud	NY/NJ Baykeeper	Not present
Tom Boccino	Somerset County	Not present
Steve Gottlieb	East Brunswick Township	Not present
Sean Kaplan	Borough of Middlesex	Not present
John Kranz	Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Com.	Not present
Denise Marabello	Township of Cranbury	Not present
Chris Gianotto	Township of North Brunswick	Not present
Thomas Vigna		Not present
Craige Ambroch	Highland Park Resident	Present
Amy Jones	DuBois & Associates for the Scotto Property	Present
Steven Hambro, Esq.	Hambro & Mitchell for the Scotto Property	Present

I. Minutes of the Meeting of September 9, 2019

The minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2019 were distributed prior to today’s meeting.

Mr. Noel recommended two corrections where he was referred to as Mr. Hudak (Page 3, Section 4 and Page 5, Section 17). A motion was made by Mr. Adewunmi, seconded by Mr. Noel and approved to adopt the minutes as amended.

II. Presentation – JeanMarie Hartman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rutgers University Department of Landscape Architecture: “Assessing Forest Status in the Lower Raritan Watershed and What the WRA Can do To Help”

Mr. Williams introduced Dr. Hartman for her presentation on The Role of Forests as Green Infrastructure. Highlights of the presentation included how forests are nature’s best green infrastructure, advantages of Green Infrastructure, and A Raritan River Basin Atlas: Visions for Urban and Community Forestry (2019 Geo Design Studio Project). See attached PowerPoint presentation for more details.

II. Presentation – JeanMarie Hartman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rutgers University Department of Landscape Architecture: “Assessing Forest Status in the Lower Raritan Watershed and What the WRA Can do To Help” (continued)

Dr. Hartman shared information on the 2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program (see attachment).

Dr. Hartman asked the members to sign up to volunteer to review the atlas draft, provide comments, and to share contacts of individuals who may be interested in Dr. Hartman’s work. She invited everyone to attend the student presentations on December 17, 2019 at 1 p.m. in Room 148, Blake Hall, 93 Lipman Drive, Cook Campus. Lastly, she recommended promotion of the protection and increase of upland forests as part of any program that addresses water quality, storm water management, green infrastructure, resiliency and conservation.

III. Presentation -- Proposed Site-Specific Amendment – Frankie Scotto Property, Block 37, Lot 12.14 – South Brunswick

Mr. Steven Hambro made a presentation on the Frankie Scotto project. The property is located on Block 37, Lot 12.14 in the Township of South Brunswick. On December 12, 2018, the property received Major Subdivision approval for seven (7) lots from the South Brunswick Township Planning Board. Six of the lots will be developed into single family homes, while the 7th lot will be used for a storm water detention basin. The property is zoned R-3 and is consistent with zoning and the Township Master Plan. The Middlesex County Utilities Authority have submitted a resolution that it has sufficient capacity to treat the 1,800 gallons per day of effluent from the project. The proposed SSA does not contain any areas of endangered or threatened species habitat. There are no Category One waterways or historic buildings on the site.

Ms. Amy Jones explained that in 2015 an LOI was obtained to verify the wetlands and transition area limits on the site. The LOI classified the wetlands as Intermediate and Ordinary Resource Value with associated 50 and 100-foot transition areas, indicating the NJDEP did not determine the wetlands on the site are threatened or endangered species habitat.

Ms. Jones added that there were no threatened or endangered species studies or evaluations performed on the site for the proposed project. The Landscape Project mapping (version 3.3) does not map the site or vicinity as Rank 3, 4, or 5 habitat for any threatened or endangered species. The wetlands on the site are also classified as Intermediate Resource Value by the NJDEP and are not identified as critical or documented species habitat. Therefore, a habitat suitability assessment or impact analysis was not warranted for the project.

Mr. Williams indicated that it appeared that the applicant had met all NJDEP and County requirements. A motion was made by Ms. Kerber, seconded by Ms. Ludas, and approved to endorse the Frankie Scotto Project Amendment. The amendment will be presented to the Middlesex County Planning Board at their meeting on November 12, 2019.

IV. Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP)

No report.

V. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP)

No report.

VI. Manalapan Brook Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan (Freehold Soil Conservation District)

Mr. Hill reported that Princeton Hydro is continuing their work. There will be a meeting held about the next phase of the project in mid-November.

VII. Middlesex County Flood Control Commissions

- **South Central Middlesex County Flood Control Commission**

No report.

Ms. Ludas stated that in addition to her, she has four individuals, representing the Borough of Helmetta, Borough of Sayreville, Borough of Jamesburg, Borough of Spotswood and Monroe Township that would be interested in serving on this commission once it is restarted. Ms. Becker will communicate this information to upper management.

- **Green Brook Flood Control Commission (Middlesex County)**

Mr. Ververides stated that the focus is in Middlesex Borough. There are still issues in the upstream area in Union County. The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders are funding their share maintaining the levees.

VIII. NJ Water Supply Activities/Projects (NJWSA)

- **Raritan Basin Watershed Plan/Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance**
- **D & R Canal Tributary (Franklin) Project**
- **Cedar Grove Brook (Franklin) Project**

No report.

IX. Raritan Riverkeeper

No report.

Ms. Becker asked Mr. Schultz to speak about the Perth Amboy CSO issue and the SWIM Group. Mr. Schultz stated that there has been some staff turnover in Perth Amboy who were working on the CSO and other environmental issues and programs. Mr. Adewunmi added that Perth Amboy is the only Middlesex County municipality discharging to the MCUA who has a CSO. There are time scales from NJDEP, and the final time scale is July 1, 2020. They have covered a lot. Perth Amboy has retained a consultant to do some of the work. Mr. Schultz added, the consultant, CDM Smith, does not give adequate notice to the public to participate in outreach meetings.

Ms. Kerber added that NJ Water Works will be adding CSOs to their municipal outreach program.

X. Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE)

No report.

XI. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

No report.

XII. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan

Ms. Becker provided a brief update on the Wastewater Management Plan. Middlesex County is working with Plainsboro. NJDEP is going to review the concerns that Plainsboro has about the draft plan.

NJDEP has indicated that they are close to concluding review of the plan. This morning the NJDEP indicated that the plan may be ready to go to public hearing by January or February 2020. Staff will present the draft document to the WRA before it goes to public hearing.

XIII. Status Update on NJDEP NJ Resilient Program and CRS/MS4 Group

No report.

XIV. Correspondence

- **NJ Proposes Stringent Drinking Water Standards for PFOA and PFOS**

Ms. Becker indicated that she has been reviewing a Drinking Water Study. She will be creating a summary of the information for the next meeting.

XV. Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed at today's meeting.

XVI. New Business

- **Information from the Water Summit**

Ms. Kerber stated that she attended a Water Summit on September 18. Many towns throughout the nation are creating long range water quality plans. Some towns are turning their garbage into energy. A lot of outreach is done through social media. Artists have a different view than the general public and are being used in engagement processes.

XVII. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

XVIII. Next meeting, date, time and place

The next WRA meeting will be held on January 13, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Freeholder Meeting Room, County Administration Building.

XIX. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

lak

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