



**MINUTES
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM
January 11, 2016
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:

William Robins	Borough of Dunellen	Not present
Theodore Chase, Jr.	Township of Franklin	Not present
Freeholder Charles Tomaro	Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders	Not present
Alan Godber	Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, Inc.	Not present
Will Sigle		Not present
Sewell Peckham	Borough of Helmetta	Not present
David Hall	Township of Old Bridge	Not present
Dawn Mc Donald	Borough of Spotswood	Not present
Jean P. Mayer		Not present
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	Present
Brian Carr	Middlesex Water Company City of Perth Amboy	Not present
Stephen Pospiech		Not present
Leigh Anne Hindenlang		Not present
Andrew Toth		Not present
William Kurzenberger		Present
Donald Newton	Borough of Sayreville	Not present
Tim Eppinger		Not present
Dawn Corcoran-Gardella	Township of Piscataway	Not present
Vincent Martino	Middlesex County Planning Board	Not present
Olga Sgambettera		Not present
Siegfred Hubak	Township of Woodbridge	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
Anne Zeman	League of Women Voters	Not present
Ron Yake	Township of Plainsboro	Not present
Les Varga		Not present
John Riggs	Township of Monroe	Not present
Dorian Kerber	Borough of Milltown	Not present

I. Roll Call (continued)

George Ververides Mirah Becker Laurie Sobel Nicholas Tufaro Alexander Zakrewsky	Middlesex County Office of Planning	Present Present Present Present Not present
Sharon Martens Gary Rojek	Middlesex Cty. Dept. of Public Health – Environmental Division	Present Present
Ken Klipstein Kathy Hale Bob O’Neil	NJ Water Supply Authority	Not present Not present Not present
Richard Fitamant Kevin Aiello	Middlesex County Utilities Authority	Not present Not present
Daria Ludas	Borough of Jamesburg	Not present
Doug Robertson Glenn Sandor	Township of North Brunswick	Not present Not present
Allan Williams	Highland Park Environmental Commission	Present
Rick Lear	Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department	Not present
Michele Bakacs	Rutgers Cooperative Extension	Not present
Judy Shaw Sara Malone	Rutgers Sustainable Raritan Initiative	Not present Not present
Denise Nickel	Middlesex County Improvement Authority	Not present
Suzan Colon	Old Bridge Twp. Environmental and Open Space Committee	Not present
Heather Fenyk	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership	Not present
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper	Present
Michele Bakacs	Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service	Not present

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – November 9, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2015 were distributed prior to today’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Presentation on the Middlesex County Water Pollution Program – Sharon Martens and Gary Rojek, Middlesex County Office of Public Health – Environmental Division

Ms. Sharon Martens and Mr. Gary Rojek presented a summary of the County’s Water Pollution Program. A variety of NJDEP delegated work activities are carried out in 22 municipalities that contract with the Middlesex County Office of Environmental Health. Tasks are either conducted by office or monitored in the remaining non-contracting municipalities of Middlesex County to ensure compliance with NJDEP/CEHA work. The Water Pollution Control Program is responsible for well inspections, inspection on non-community water sources, domestic well drilling inspections, septic system inspections, and water monitoring and sampling both surface and water and well water.

III. Presentation on the Middlesex County Water Pollution Program – Sharon Martens and Gary Rojek, Middlesex County Office of Public Health – Environmental Division (continued)

In reference to the enforcement of the septic code, the Office of Environmental Health (OEH) does enforcement for 22 municipalities that contract with Middlesex County. Enforcement includes reviewing new septic design plans or alteration plans to an existing system. OEH also reviews construction/renovation permits for any property with a septic system. This includes installation of fences, sheds or swimming pools.

The Office of Environmental Health (OEH) was instrumental in getting involved in the County's Septic Management Plan. OEH had filing cabinets full of information that was inventoried and entered into a data base. The data base is a work in progress because the information changes often and needs to be updated. The data base also serves as an inventory so pump out reminders can be sent every three years. OEH also provides educational materials to homeowners. Ms. Martens credited the services of interns to accomplish the data base.

Mr. Rojek explained that a Geographic Information System (GIS) has been operated and maintained for various mapping activities in the County. Digital maps are produced and updated using current GIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) hardware and software. This system is used for various projects involving environmental issues. Some projects have involved mapping of public and domestic water resources in Middlesex County along with the impacts of the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) in Middlesex County. The system is compatible with the GIS operated and maintained in the NJDEP. In regards to the septic management program, it is estimated that there are 2,700 septic systems in the County. Currently there are 557 septic systems mapped. It is hoped to finish mapping for South Plainfield and Piscataway before June 2016.

Mr. Tufaro thanked Ms. Martens and Mr. Rojek for getting involved so the County could do the septic management plan in a coherent way. It was a monumental task in addition to all the other tasks that the Office of Public Health has to deal with on a daily basis. Although NJDEP had some concerns on the plan, Office of Planning staff will be working with the Office of Public Health to keep the plan as strong as it presently is while addressing the NJDEP concerns on the management of the systems. The Office of Planning will be working on a Natural Assets Inventory over the next year and a half and would like to get the Office of Public Health to participate in this effort by sharing some of their GIS files.

IV. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan – Mirah Becker

Ms. Becker presented an update on the Wastewater Management Plan. Staff has been working very hard to move eight amendments through the process to meet the January 17, 2016 deadline. Two public hearings were held which covered the eight amendments. Mr. Brian Racin of the WRA spoke out against the Middlesex Energy Project at the December 7 Public Hearing. Mr. Racin provided detailed testimony which basically stated that the habitat suitability study was not done accurately by the environmental consultants. He submitted his own mini habitat suitability study which is currently being reviewed by the NJDEP. It appears that Mr. Racin's study does not undermine the consultant's work. Mr. Racin's study honed in on species that are not endangered.

IV. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan – Mirah Becker (continued)

Mr. Racin also submitted a letter to Ms. Becker which expressed his concerns that the WRA members did not have sufficient time to review the project. Ms. Becker assured the members that the bylaws were followed to the letter. The bylaws do not state how many weeks or months the members will be given before they must vote on a project. Staff is recommending that a subcommittee be formed to look at the bylaws.

The DEP recently came out with a new directive that which extends the deadline to May 1, 2016 for Middlesex County to submit any additional amendments. If the amendments are not adopted before May 1, they would have to wait to be adopted after the proposed rules go into effect which may not be until the fall of 2016 or winter of 2017. Two additional amendment applications have been submitted to the Office of Planning. Staff distributed summaries of the two projects for the members' information. Staff is recommending that a special meeting be held on February 8. Ms. Tempel asked if the new rules would be more stringent and questioned whether the two projects would meet the requirements under the current rules and the proposed rules. Ms. Becker stated as far as she knew, the new rules would make it even easier to receive approval. Mr. Williams added that the Assembly was voting on changes to the new rules. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to hold a special meeting on February 8, 2016 to discuss the proposed two amendments to the Wastewater Management Plan.

V. Manalapan Brook Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan (Freehold Soil Conservation District (FSCD)/Middlesex County)

It is hoped that construction will begin in the summer. Delays at NJDEP have caused the project cost to rise which will need to be addressed.

VI. Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP)

No report.

VII. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP)

Members can visit the website at to <http://lowerraritanwatershed.org/> find out about upcoming events.

VIII. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

Dr. Shaw has retired. Ms. Malone is still involved in the program. However, the program will be co-led by Jeanne Herb and Rick Lathrop.

IX. 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

X. Middlesex County Flood Control Commissions

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

No report.

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

Mr. Ververides stated that in reference to maintenance, the County Engineering Office is working out an agreement with Somerset County whereby Somerset County would be responsible for maintaining and upkeep of the levees and pumping stations and levee flood gates.

XI. Rutgers University's Green Infrastructure Initiative

Mr. Tufaro reported that there will be a workshop entitled "Fixing Flooding: One Community at a Time" on February 26, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The conference will appeal to a broad range of constituents, including planners, engineers, floodplain managers, environmental commissions, green teams, landscape architects and more. More information can be obtained at www.water.rutgers.edu.

Also, NOAA will be holding a half day workshop on Green Infrastructure for Coastal Communities on June 14, 2015 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. More details to follow.

XII. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence presented at today's meeting.

XIII. Old Business

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

XIV. New Business

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

XV. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

XVI. Next meeting, date, time and place

The next WRA meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Middlesex County Administration Building, Freeholder Meeting Room.

XVII. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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