



**MINUTES
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEETING CENTER
September 8, 2014
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	Present
Freeholder Charles Tomaro	Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders	Not present
Alan Godber	Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership, Inc.	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
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	Not present
Brian Carr	Middlesex Water Company	Present
Stephen Pospiech	City of Perth Amboy	Not present
Leigh Anne Hindenlang		Not present
Andrew Toth		Not present
Donald Newton	Borough of Sayreville	Present
Tim Eppinger		Not present
Dawn Corcoran-Gardella	Township of Piscataway	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	Not present
Brian Racin	Borough of South River	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	Present
Les Varga		Not present
John Riggs	Township of Monroe	Not present
Dorian Kerbed	Borough of Milltown	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	Middlesex Cty. Dept. of Public Health – Environmental Division	Not present
Ken Klipstein Kathy Hale Bob O’Neil	NJ Water Supply Authority	Not present Not present 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	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	Present
Dan Healy	Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission	Present
Bill Schultz	Raritan River keeper	Present
Cattie Tobin Cara Music	Clean Ocean Action	Present Present
Heather Fenyk	New Brunswick Environmental Commission	Present

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – May 12, 2014

The minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2014 were distributed prior to today’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Presentation by Ms. Heather Fenyk, of the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership

The members welcomed Ms. Heather Fenyk of the newly formed Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership.

The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership is a cooperative effort of civic scientists, community members, government agencies and academic entities working to conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of the Lower Raritan watershed. The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership began when members of two Environmental Commissions recognized a need for water quality data specific to the Raritan River and its tributaries. The group submitted intern proposals for Rutgers “Raritan Scholars,” defining an internship program to assist in developing a phase-in plan

III. Presentation by Ms. Heather Fenyk, of the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (continued)

for a volunteer water quality monitoring program in this area. In May, the group hosted a day-long habitat assessment training program for area volunteer water quality monitors. The event resulted in volunteers adopting 11 area stream segments. This information will be recorded and made part of the public database. The momentum from this project gave rise to an acknowledgement of the need to address data gaps that exist for all of the municipalities in the Lower Raritan Watershed, and made clear a profound existing need for the creation of a watershed association for this area.

The mission of the LRWP is to provide the public with water quality results and information so that people can make informed decisions about where, when and how they can use the waterways of the Lower Raritan watershed. The goals are to establish a model for crowd-sourced community based watershed and water quality monitoring for the Lower Raritan watershed.

David Tulloch is leading a graduate environmental design studio which will be totally devoted to the Lower Raritan.

Working in partnership with the NJDEP, the LRWP will host a Stream School on October 20-21, 2014. It is free for all the LRWP stakeholders/participants. The expectation is that individuals who are trained at the session will then go out in the field and obtain relevant data and report it back this spring.

Volunteers are currently being sought to help with office and administrative support tasks. Volunteers are also needed to seek grants, community outreach activities legal assistance. Please follow the group on Facebook by "Liking" its page.

In conclusion, Ms. Fenyk asked the membership to support the Lower Raritan Watershed in concept. The members received a map of the WMA 9 which includes 22 of Middlesex County's municipalities. Carteret, Cranbury, and Plainsboro are not included in WMA 9.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to support the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership in concept.

IV. Municipal Blue Star Program – Ms. Catie Tobin & Ms. Cara Muscio, Clean Ocean Action

The members welcomed Ms. Catie Tobin and Ms. Cara Muscio of Clean Ocean Action who made a presentation on The Municipal Blue Star Program.

The municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey Program with Clean Ocean Action's focus on water quality protection. The goal is to inspire coastal towns to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification and reap its benefits, while at the same time focusing on watershed-wide water quality improvements. Any municipality registered or certified in the Sustainable Jersey program is eligible to work toward a Blue Star Award. In order to receive Blue Star Certification, the municipality must first become Sustainable Jersey certified. Information that further explains the program is attached to the minutes of today's meeting.

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

Mr. Tufaro provided an update. The first phase of the project is moving along at a solid pace. Two of the three floating wetland islands were installed in Thompson Park. The other projects include detention basin retrofits and lakeside buffering. An overall video about the watershed and watershed help has been developed. Maintenance videos are also planned.

VI. Lawrence Brook Watershed Flood Control Project (LBWP)

Mr. Godber presented a report on the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership activities. A group is being formed to get involved in studying impervious surface which will be used for GIS mapping in five communities. Last semester an intern did some work on invasive plants in Milltown. The study will be continued this semester.

VII. Green Brook Flood Control Commission

Mr. Ververides reported that the project is continuing. The County is working with NJDEP on agreements regarding maintenance of the pumps and levees.

VIII. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative (Sara Malone)

No report.

IX. Raritan Basin Watershed Plan/Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance (NJWSA)

Nothing to report.

X. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan (WMP)

Ms. Becker reported that the resolution to adopt the Future Wastewater Service Area Map has been tabled since NJDEP has not decided on the final map. A special WRA Meeting may be held in late September or early October to vote on the map. Staff is also proposing to amend the plan amendment procedures.

XI. Watershed/Water Quality Management Plan Implementation Projects

- D & R Canal Tributary (Franklin) Project (NJWSA)
- Cedar Grove Brook (Franklin) Watershed Restoration Plan (NJWSA)

Nothing to report.

XII. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence reviewed at today's meeting.

XIII. Old Business

- Reorganization – Office of Vice Chairperson

Mr. Williams stated that the position of Vice Chairperson is still available. Duties of the Vice Chairperson would be to conduct the meeting in the Chairman's absence and to assist in finding speakers for the meetings. Interested members should contact Mr. Williams.

XIV. New Business

There was no New Business at today's meeting.

XV. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

XVI. Next meeting, date, time and place

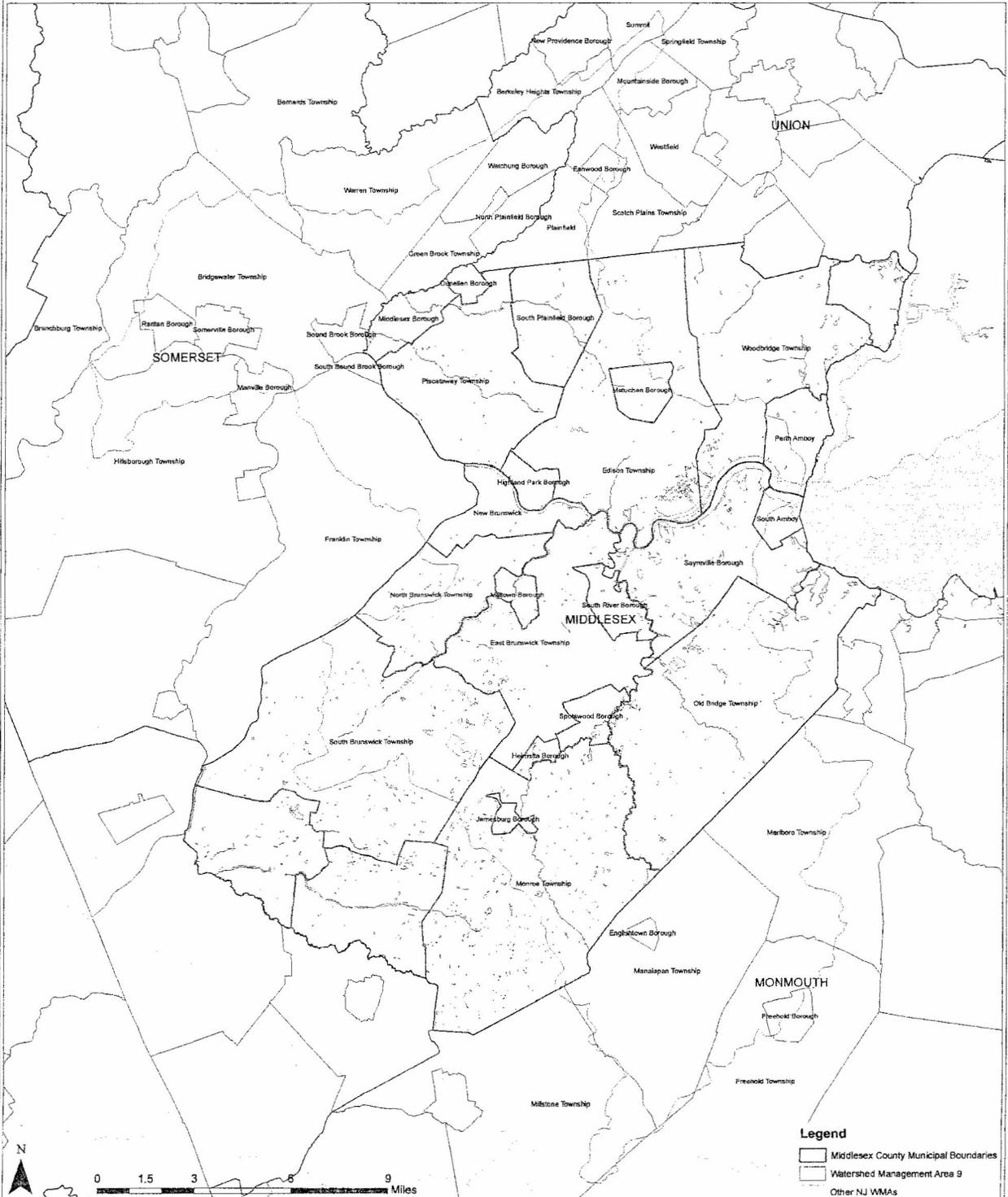
The next regular WRA meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor planning meeting center. A special meeting to discuss the Future Wastewater Service Area Map may be scheduled for late September or early October.

XVII. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

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Watershed Management Area 9



Join Us for the Launch



Municipal Blue Star Program

Inspiring towns to link the benefits of Sustainable Jersey certification with improvement and enhancement of our waterways.

When: Thursday, September 18, 2014

Where: Stockton College - Campus Center Theater
101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

[Pre-register here](#)

For more information: [Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:catie.tobin@cleanoceanaction.org) or visit CleanOceanAction.org

Municipal leaders and experts from across the state will discuss solutions to local water quality issues and successful municipal programs.

Introducing Environmental Canine Services:
an innovative pollution tracking demonstration.

Who should attend?

- ✓ Green Team Members
- ✓ Municipal Leaders
- ✓ Environmental Groups
- ✓ Sustainability & Clean Community Program Managers

To meet the challenges facing community leaders to improve and protect water quality, Clean Ocean Action has collaborated with *Sustainable Jersey* to create the *Municipal Blue Star Program*.
HEALTHY WATERWAYS = HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

@CleanOcean

@CleanOceanAction

Facebook.com/CleanOcean

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. School is open, parking is free, but limited, so come early.



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY Categories	SUSTAINABLE JERSEY Sub-Categories	SUSTAINABLE JERSEY *Actions that count as Blue Star Actions	Number of Points	Check if Completed	
Climate Mitigation & Adaptation		Climate Action Plan	10 Points		
		Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk	20 Points		
Community Partnership & Outreach		Community Education & Outreach	10 Points		
		Education for Sustainability Programs	10 Points		
		Green Challenges & Community Programs	10 Points		
	Green Fairs	Green Your Green Fair	10 Points		
		Hold a Green Fair	10 Points		
Green Design	Green Design Municipal Buildings	Upgrade/Retrofit Water Conservation	10 Points		
Innovation & Demonstration Projects		Green Roofs	10 Points		
		Innovative Community Project 1	10 Points		
		Rain Gardens	10 Points		
Land Use & Transportation		Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element	10 Points		
Local Economics		Green Business Recognition Program	10 Points		
		Environmental Commission	10 Points		
Natural Resources		Natural Resource Inventory	20 Points		
		Open Space Plans	10 Points		
		Water Conservation Education Program	10 Points		
		Water Conservation Ordinance	20 Points		
	Natural Resource Protection Ordinance	Environmental Assessment Ordinance	10 Points		
		Habitat Conservation Ordinance	10 Points		
	Tree & Woodlands Management	Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal	20 Points		
		T-Tree Assessment of Municipal Trees	10 Points		
	Operations & Maintenance	Green Purchasing Program	Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance	10 Points	
			Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution	6 Points	
Energy Efficient Appliances or Equipment			10 Points		
Green Cleaning Products			10 Points		
Green Maintenance Equipment and Materials			10 Points		
Grounds and Maintenance		Create a Policy	10 Points		
		Efficient Landscape Design	10 Points		
		Integrated Pest Management	10 Points		
		Minimize Water Consumption	10 Points		
		Recycled Materials and Composting	10 Points		
Waste Management	Recycling	Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal	10 Points		
		Bulky Rigid Plastics	10 Points		
		Recycling Education & Enforcement	6 Points		
	Waste Reduction	Shrink Wrap	10 Points		
		Backyard Composting Program	6 Points		
		Grass - Cut It or Leave It Program	6 Points		
		Materials Reuse Program	10 Points		
	Reusable Bag Education Program	6 Points			
COP Required Ordinance (of those 1 of 5)		Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk*			
		Innovative Water Quality Project*			
		Model Control Stormwater Ordinance for Municipalities*			
		Plastic Bag Ban or Fee*			
		Stormwater Utility Support Resolution			
			Total Points: 420 Points		
*may receive Sustainable Jersey points; please contact Sustainable Jersey prior to starting the project to confirm					

The Municipal Blue Star Program

A collaboration with Sustainable Jersey



What is The Blue Star Program?

The municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey Program with Clean Ocean Action's focus on water quality protection. Our goal is to inspire coastal towns to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification and reap its benefits, while at the same time focusing on watershed-wide water quality improvements.

Who can participate in the Blue Star Program?

Any municipality registered or certified in the Sustainable Jersey program is eligible to work toward a Blue Star Award. In order to receive Blue Star Certification, the municipality must first become Sustainable Jersey certified.

Why become a Blue Star Municipality?

Nearly all of New Jersey's waters fail to meet the fishable, swimmable, and drinkable goals of our laws. Most of these issues are a result of our everyday actions, and the way we use land and water resources. Fortunately, many can be fixed or prevented with small changes within our daily lives and communities. Through this Blue Star initiative, not only will your community become a leader in environmental stewardship, but you will help ensure the resiliency and vitality of a clean coastal ecosystem and economy.

How to become a Blue Star Municipality?

To achieve Blue Star Award status, simply target "Blue Star" actions while counting points for Sustainable Jersey Certification. At either Bronze or Silver certification level, 50% of your points must come from the Blue Star List of Sustainable Jersey actions. In addition, you must choose one COA specific action to complete. *Look for the complete Blue Star Application, coming soon!*

Five steps to becoming a Blue Star!

1. Follow the application requirements for Sustainable Jersey.
2. Ensure that 50% of your certification or re-certification points are "Blue Star Actions" to meet both Sustainable Jersey & Municipal Blue Star certification.
3. Submit documentation to Sustainable Jersey to receive certification. (Must be Sustainable Jersey certified to apply for Blue Star certification)
4. Submit your Blue Star Application to Clean Ocean Action for certification

5. Celebration/Award Presentation hosted by Clean Ocean Action

What are the benefits of the Blue Star Program?

All certified Municipal Blue Stars will receive an acknowledgment package which includes a celebratory Blue Star Award event and an attractive plaque. The Sustainable Jersey and Blue Star programs:

1. Improve and protect the economic and environmental future of the community
2. Reduce costs through green initiatives, while increasing municipal funds through enforcement
3. Promote healthy waters, resilient communities, and environmentally sound practices
4. Showcase communities as statewide role models through COA communications
5. Increase community pride and participation

What is Sustainable Jersey?



Sustainable Jersey is an action and point-based certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

The program promotes the 3 equal, interrelated components of sustainability:

- **Prosperity:** support your local economy and use community resources
- **Planet:** practice responsible environmental management and conservation
- **People:** embrace social equality and fairness.

How do I get more information?



www.CleanOceanAction.org

Education@CleanOceanAction.org

Phone: (732) 872-0111



www.SustainableJersey.com

info@sustainablejersey.com

Phone: (609) 771-



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