



**MINUTES
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEETING CENTER
March 9, 2015
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.	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
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	Present
Brian Carr	Middlesex Water Company	Not 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	Not present
Alice Tempel	Borough of South Plainfield	Not present
Brian Racin	Borough of South River	Not present
Bryan Bidlack	Township of South Brunswick	Not 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 Kerber	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 Present
Sharon Martens	Middlesex Cty. Dept. of Public Health – Environmental Division	Not present
Ken Klipstein Kathy Hale Bob O’Neil	NJ Water Supply Authority	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 Steve Yergeu	Rutgers Cooperative Extension	Present Present
Judy Shaw Sara Malone	Rutgers Sustainable Raritan Initiative	Not present Present
Denise Nickel	Middlesex County Improvement Authority	Present
Suzan Colon	Old Bridge Twp. Environmental and Open Space Committee	Not present
Dan Healy	Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission	Not present
Heather Fenyk	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership	Present
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper	Present
Kim Cenno	NJDEP	Present
Tom Boccino	Somerset County	Present
Mark Renfree	Raritan River Review	Present
Greer Thacker	NJ American Water	Present
Kate Miller	The Watershed Institute	Present

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – January 12, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2015 were distributed prior to today’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Presentation by Steve Yergeu – EPA Raritan River Project

Mr. Steven Yergeu, from Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) made a presentation about the EPA Raritan River Project.

The US EPA (Region 2) provided funding to the RCE Water Resources Program to conduct the EPA Raritan River Project to provide a comprehensive understanding of the sources of pollution affecting the water quality of the Raritan River Basin. Data related to known Superfund, Brownfield, and contaminated sites, point source and nonpoint source pollution has been collected within the Raritan River Watershed, but the data was fragmented, inconsistent and difficult for the general public to access. RCE compiled data into a comprehensive database and developed an interactive tool that will assist stakeholders in making decisions related to environmental cleanup, site reuse, identification of water pollution sources and data gaps and providing recommendations for future research to fill the gaps and improve water quality.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of the source pollution in the Raritan River Basin, project staff has compiled existing data and information available on the Raritan River and the Raritan Bay. A library of journal articles, technical reports and research theses has been created. An Advisory Group to review data and assist with the determination of data gaps and to develop a prioritization scheme for polluted sites has convened.

IV. Presentation by Kimberly Cenno -- Status of TMDL Designations for the Lower Raritan River, Lawrence Brook and South River

Ms. Kim Cenno presented the status on establishment of Total Maximum Daily Load for monitored water pollutants to date. While the majority of the upper reaches of the Raritan watershed have been categorized through computer modeling, the estuaries and tidal influenced segments of the Lower Raritan remain resistant to successful modeling, primarily due to the alternating flushing and deposition actions of seasonally fluctuating tides that influence this water body as far up-river as the John Lynch Bridge crossing at the City of New Brunswick. There are plans to continue studies within the Duhernal Lake Watershed in the southeastern areas of the county.

In 2016, NJDEP has tentative plans to shift the program focus from the Governor's 10 point Barnegat Bay Action Plan to a comprehensive water quality action plan for the Raritan River Basin. In preparation for that effort, NJDEP will be officially requesting water quality monitoring data from other sources with NJDEP approved quality assurance plans to share in databases. Information recorded up to July 2015 will be accepted for processing. NJDEP will interface with the WRA, the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership and the Lawrence Brook Watershed Association for past valid data and to assist in future citizen science water quality monitoring activities.

V. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan

Ms. Becker gave a brief updated on the Wastewater Management Plan. The Board of Chosen Freeholders approved the Future Wastewater Service Area map at their meeting of January 15, 2015. Presently, we are awaiting NJDEP adoption of the map.

Staff presented a group amendment for the members' consideration. The group amendment consists of the following four properties:

- Metuchen Realty Acquisitions, Block 37, Lot 5.12 (part); 5.22, 16.02, 17.01 (part), and 17.02 – Metuchen
- South River Business Park, LLC, Block 68, Lot 1; Block 77.01, Lot 1; Block 83, Lot 1 – South River
- Joanne Labarbera Property, Block 148, Lot 114.01 – North Brunswick
- Janet Reynolds Property, Block 262, Lot 108 – North Brunswick

A staff report which explained each proposed amendment was distributed to the members for their review. Staff recommended approval of all the amendments. A motion was made, seconded and approved to endorse amendment 2015-01.

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

Mr. Hill and Mr. Tufaro gave a brief update. The project is moving along. It is hoped to release the RFP in the summer. Ms. Bakacs has completed the first educational video. The video will be presented at tomorrow's Planning Board Meeting. The WRA will also see the video at a future meeting.

VII. Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP)

No report.

VIII. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative (Judy Shaw/Sara Malone)

Ms. Malone presented an update on Sustainable Raritan River Initiative activities. The Sustainable Raritan River & NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program Raritan Bay Conference will be held on June 12. More details to follow.

IX. NJ Water Supply Activities/Projects (NJWSA)

Nothing new to report.

X. South Central Middlesex County Flood Control Commission

No report.

XI. Green Brook Flood Control Commission (Middlesex County)

Mr. Ververides stated that the Middlesex Borough portion is almost complete. The County is still reviewing and coming to a conclusion with an agreement with NJDEP on the maintenance of the levees and pump stations.

XII. Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission

No report.

XIII. RU Water Resources Program Impervious Cover Assessments for WMA 9

Ms. Fenyk announced that on March 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Planning Board Meeting Center, Chris Obropta will be speaking about his green infrastructure impervious surface assessment plans developed for 54 municipalities, including most of the Lower Raritan watershed municipalities. These include assessments identifying the percent of impervious coverage for each municipality and action plans to work toward remediating some of the impervious coverage. There are monies available to implement the projects.

XIV. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence presented at today's meeting.

XV. Old Business

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

XVI. New Business

- Resilient Communities Seminar – April 28, 2015

Ms. Becker invited everyone to a Resilient Communities Seminar sponsored by the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Planning which will be held at the Fire Academy in April 28, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Staff has received commitments from many interesting presenters. The program will serve as a one stop shopping opportunity for municipalities to learn more about resiliency programs. A Save the Date announcement was distributed.

XVII. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

XVIII. Next meeting, date, time and place

The next regular WRA meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor planning meeting center.

XIX. Adjournment

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

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