



**MINUTES
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MEETING CENTER
September 14, 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	Not 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	Present
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	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	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	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 Brendan Torres	Middlesex County Office of Planning	Present Present Present Present Present Present
Sharon Martens	Middlesex Cty. Dept. of Public Health – Environmental Division	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	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	Not present
Heather Fenyk	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership	Present
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper	Present
Greer Thacker	NJ American Water	Not present

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – May 14, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2015 were distributed prior to today’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan

- **Presentation and Approval of the Report Element of the Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan**

Ms. Becker gave an update on the report element of the Wastewater Management Plan. She stated that staff has been working closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to move toward adoption of the plan. County staff has put in a tremendous amount of time to work on the plan over the past seven or eight years. Other counties have hired consultants spending between \$287,000 to \$403,000 to write their plans which in most

III. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan (continued)

- **Presentation and Approval of the Report Element of the Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan (continued)**

cases have not been adopted. There are 21 counties in the State and only Mercer County has an adopted Wastewater Management Plan.

NJDEP has reviewed Middlesex County's draft plan. In reference to the municipal ordinance chapter, staff worked closely with our towns, providing educational outreach and technical assistance. The majority of our municipalities adopted their required environmental ordinances. However, NJDEP required that all 25 of our municipalities adopt all required NJDEP environmental ordinances. The municipal ordinance chapter was not in compliance and it was removed from the draft plan.

The Septic Management Plan chapter was also removed from the draft. Mr. Tufaro added that Middlesex County is far ahead of any county in regard to the Septic Management requirement. The County's Office of Environmental Health has comprehensive monitoring program in place. He thanked Ms. Martens for her efforts.

The plan does not have a Water Supply element. The current NJDEP rules are due to expire within the next year. The new rules are up for re-adoption and will be revised. The municipal environmental ordinances, septic management plan or the water supply element requirements may be modified or eliminated.

The plan consists of build out and nitrate dilution analyses. The most important element of the plan is the Future Wastewater Service Area (FWSA) map which was adopted by NJDEP on March 11, 2015. Staff worked with all the municipalities to incorporate as many changes to the FWSA map as possible. Requests for revision and amendments to the FWSA map will continue to be accepted and reviewed by the WRA, Planning Board and Board of Chosen Freeholders. Staff will continue to work to be sure that there is sufficient capacity at the Middlesex County Utilities Authority.

Ms. Becker opened the meeting up to questions from the members. In summary, questions were asked about the County's Septic Management Program, FWSA mapping in the area of the Rutgers Gardens, and the Plainsboro and North Brunswick municipal chapters. The members were assured that additional comments will be accepted during the public comment period which will take place before and through 15 days after the public hearing.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to endorse the Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan. The next step would be to present the plan to the Middlesex County Planning Board at their meeting on October 13, 2015. After Planning Board approval, a public hearing would be held and a public comment period would be noticed. The Freeholders have 60 days to act on the plan after the close of the public comment period.

III. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan (continued)

- **Presentation of the Middlesex Energy Center FWSA Amendment – Block 56, Lot 1.01 & 1.02; Block 57.02, Lot 1; Block 57.04, Lot 1; Block 57.05, Lot 1; Block 58, Lots 6 & 7 – Sayreville**

This amendment was tabled and will be scheduled at a future meeting.

- **Presentation of the Industrial Property Trust (Zell) FWSA Amendment – Block 4401, Lot 8.05 -- Piscataway**

Ms. Becker presented the Industrial Property Trust (Zell) amendment. The property is located at Block 4401, Lot 8.05 in Piscataway. A staff report which explained the proposed amendment was distributed to the members for their review. Staff recommended approval of the amendment. A motion was made, seconded and approved to endorse amendment 2015-04.

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

Mr. Tufaro stated that plans for the project were submitted to NJDEP for approval over six months ago. FSCD follows up with NJDEP every two weeks. It is hope to have RFPs for construction out this fall.

V. Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP)

The Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP) is focused on the further implementation of its Fish Ladder Initiative. The organization has taken a lead role in the identification of the fish that transverse the dam in New Brunswick and have furthered the understanding of the health of the river.

VI. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP)

Ms. Becker informed everyone that the next WRA Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership which will be held on November 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Middlesex Water Company. The LRWP will be meeting on September 15, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Conference Room at the County Administration Building.

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

No report.

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**

Mr. O'Neil stated as far as the Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance, there was nothing new to report. In reference to the D&R Canal, NJWSA is working with NJDEP to reprioritize implementation efforts to include project which address the Raritan TMDL. As far as the Cedar Grove Brook Project, NJWSA will be seeking engineering services to evaluate potential improvements in the weir at Easton Avenue.

IX. Middlesex County Flood Control Commissions

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

No report. Ms. Mc Donald noted that Spotswood is a member of the Commission and it has not been active since 2012. Ms. Mc Donald expressed interest in having the Commission meet again since Spotswood has been affected by several floods in recent years. Mr. Ververides recommended that Ms. McDonald send a request to Mr. Pulomena, County Administrator, with a copy to Freeholder Director Rios.

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

Mr. Ververides stated that the project is moving forward, but the Army Corps of Engineers reported that there are a few details to work out in the Middlesex Borough portion of the Middlesex County. There are still some challenges in the upstream portion in Union County involving the communities of Scotch Plains and Watchung. 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.

X. Rutgers University's Green Infrastructure Initiative

Mr. Tufaro reported that all the impervious cover assessments have been done for all municipalities in the Lower Raritan. Thirty towns have looked for projects and about \$175,000 is available. Staff will be encouraging municipalities to seriously consider the plan and include it in their next stormwater management plans as a mitigation component.

XI. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence presented at today's meeting.

XII. Old Business

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

XIII. New Business

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

XIV. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

XV. Next meeting, date, time and place

The next regular WRA meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

XVI. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

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