

**MINUTES  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING  
HELD AS A VIRTUAL MEETING  
May 11, 2020  
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. A brief presentation on the TEAMS function buttons was also done prior to the start of the meeting.

**I. Roll Call**

Attendance was as follows:

Voting Members:

Wale Adewunmi	MCUA
Bryan Bidlack	South Brunswick
Ted Chase	Franklin Township
Kyle Clonan	NJ Water Supply Authority
Suzan Colon	Old Bridge
Heather Fenyk	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
Brandon Goldberg	New Brunswick
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District
Doriann Kerber	Milltown
Daria Ludas	Jamesburg
Bob Noel	Monroe Township
Steve Pospiech	Middlesex Water Company
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper
Alice Tempel	South Plainfield
Allan Williams	Highland Park
Ron Yake	Plainsboro
Ted Gassman	Middlesex Water Company
Les Varga	Plainsboro

Others:

Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County Department of Transportation
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County Office of Planning
George Ververides	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mirah Becker	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Laurie Sobel	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Nick Ganescu	Middlesex County Office of Information Technology
Alex Zakrewsky	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Lori Kahel	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Robert Byra	Bridgepoint South Plainfield, LLC
Michael Gross, Esq.	Bridgepoint South Plainfield, LLC
Amy Jones	Du Bois Associates
Sunny Lim	Kleinfielder for SUEZ Wastewater
Kristin Munoz	HDR Inc.
Gregory Oman	Menlo Engineering

**I. Roll Call (continued)**

Pilar Patterson	Kleinfelder for SUEZ Wastewater
Jason Schooling	PSS
Robert Shea	RC Shea
Mohammad Selimgir	SUEZ Water
Frank Visingardi	HDR Inc.

**II. Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2020 were distributed prior to today's meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Kerber, seconded by Ms. Colon and approved to adopt the minutes as distributed.

**III. Annual Meeting Activities**

- **Adoption of 2020/2021 Meeting Calendar**
- **Election of Officers**

The proposed 2020/2021 Meeting Calendar was distributed to the members prior to the meeting (attached). A motion was made by Ms. Kerber, seconded by Mr. Noel and approved to adopt the 2020/2021 Meeting Calendar as proposed.

No Election of Officers was held at this year's annual meeting. Bylaws indicate that elections are held every two years. Officers were elected in 2019.

**IV. Review of Proposed WQMP Amendment Application: Bridgepoint South Plainfield, LLC – Block 284, Lot 18 – South Plainfield**

Mr. Williams introduced Mr. Robert Byra representing Bridgepoint South Plainfield. Mr. Michael Gross introduced members of the Bridgepoint Development Team who made brief presentations. Mr. Gross thanked Ms. Becker and her staff for working with him and his team on this amendment request.

Mr. Byra thanked the members for accommodating this presentation at today's meeting. Mr. Byra explained that his presentation will include the same information that was distributed to the members prior to today's meeting. Bridgepoint South Plainfield is located on Block 284, Lot 18, on New Market Avenue in South Plainfield. Mr. Byra shared a NJDEP GeoWeb map that illustrated the property boundary, sewer service area, and roads. He also shared the existing flood hazard plan for NJDEP and wetlands plan for the project area. The application requested a slight modification of the sewer service area. The applicant proposed to construct an approximate 189,059 square foot warehouse building of which 9,000 square feet will be office space and the balance will be used for a warehouse. The development will incorporate a stormwater management system that is consistent with the Stormwater Management rules, as well as the flood hazard area and the wetlands regulations. The NJDEP Division of Land Use will not accept an application until the sewer service area amendment is completed. The application is scheduled to be heard by the Borough of South Plainfield Planning Board in the near future.

**IV. Review of Proposed WQMP Amendment Application: Bridgepoint South Plainfield, LLC – Block 284, Lot 18 – South Plainfield (continued)**

Ms. Amy Jones with DuBois & Associates made a brief presentation on the Habitat Suitability Determination & Impact Assessment for the project. Based upon an assessment of the existing land use both in the vicinity of the site, it was the finding that no portion of the project site to be included within the sewer service area exhibits characteristics consistent with the life history requirements of the bald eagle, loggerhead shrike, and/or wood turtle. The wood turtle was documented one mile from the site. The nearest bald eagle nest is located over seven miles from the site. The portion of the site subject of the WQMP site specific amendment does not contain any environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, wetland buffers, regulated waters or riparian buffers.

Ms. Becker presented the staff report for the proposed amendment. The staff reviewed the project in detail. The application is for approval of the 30 percent of the site that is currently not included in the sewer service area. The Middlesex County Utilities Authority confirmed acceptance of the 2,400 gallons per day of wastewater that would be generated by the project. Ms. Becker added that there are no wetlands on the project site. The applicant will be obtaining the necessary permits to facilitate the installation of a stormwater management basin. A letter of support was received from the Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield. Staff recommended that the WRA grant approval of the amendment with a condition that approval is received from the South Plainfield Planning Board. Mr. Gross stated that the applicant had no objection to the proposed condition.

Mr. Williams entertained questions from the members. Mr. Ververides expressed his hope that the application would come before the County's Development Review Committee for consideration. Mr. Gross responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hill representing Freehold Soil Conservation District also expressed that he hoped the applicant would submit to FSCD also. Mr. Gross also responded in the affirmative. Mr. Williams asked when the application would be heard by the South Plainfield Planning Board. Mr. Byra hoped that the application would be heard during the second meeting of May or in June.

A motion was made by Mr. Noel, seconded by Ms. Ludas and unanimously approved to grant conditional approval of the Bridgepoint South Plainfield WQMP Amendment application.

**V. Review of Proposed WQMP Amendment Application: SUEZ Water Princeton Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – Block 1801, Lot 117 – Plainsboro**

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Pilar Patterson, an environmental consultant with Kleinfelder, Inc. for her presentation on the SUEZ project SSA request. Ms. Becker gave the Office of Planning's staff report after Ms. Patterson's presentation.

Mr. Robert Shea, an attorney for SUEZ Water, thanked the members for consideration of this application during the COVID crisis. Mr. Shea introduced Ms. Patterson and members of his team who were available to answer any questions from the membership.

Ms. Patterson thanked the members for accommodating this presentation at today's meeting. Ms. Patterson explained that SUEZ Princeton Meadows is a private company that provided sewer service to approximately 15,000 residents and commercial customers in Plainsboro Township. In 2017, SUEZ was issued a NJPDES renewal permit which authorized the discharge of 1.64 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated effluent to Cranbury Brook, via an unnamed tributary which

**V. Review of Proposed WQMP Amendment Application: SUEZ Water Princeton Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – Block 1801, Lot 117 – Plainsboro (continued)**

immediately flows into the Millstone River. No expansion of the existing sewer service area is proposed. SUEZ is seeking an amendment for an expansion of the current capacity of 1.64 MGD to an increased capacity to 1.70 MGD, an increase of 60,000 gallons. Ms. Patterson shared a site plan of the proposed expansion. The expansion is not within the freshwater wetland limits, the NJ Flood Hazard area or the riparian zone. She shared a map which illustrated the future flow, existing sewer service area and existing discharge to groundwater.

Ms. Patterson stated that the original plant was constructed in 1971 and upgraded in 1978 and 2003. In 2017, NJDEP issued a NJPDES permit renewal which required the plant to meet significantly more stringent water quality effluent limitations for total phosphorus and ammonia. These new, more stringent limitations were required by the then recently adopted TMDL for the Non-Tidal River Basin. SUEZ authorized a comprehensive alternatives analysis to determine the most environmentally and economically feasible manner to meet these new water quality requirements. Based upon the results of the alternatives analysis, SUEZ determined the most feasible alternative was to construct a new treatment facility at the same location, to replace the current facility. The proposed new state-of-the-art facility will improve water quality for both Cranbury Brook and the Millstone River, with a reduction in total phosphorus and ammonia and elimination of chlorine and produced oxidants.

Once it was determined that a new treatment facility would be constructed, SUEZ authorized a build-out analysis to determine the appropriate sizing of the new plant. The build-out analysis evaluated current the projected wastewater needs in accordance with NJDEP regulatory requirements. Existing baseline flows at the plant were determined to be 1.477 MGD. Additional flow to the plant from properties within the existing sewer service area, but not yet connected to the plant was estimated to be 0.216 MGD. The project future flow, when added to the baseline flow, resulted in a build-out flow requirement of approximately 1.7 MGD. A draft NJPDES permit has been received from NJDEP which acknowledges the proposed flow of 1.7 MGD.

Ms. Becker presented her staff report. SUEZ Water Princeton Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant is seeking a site-specific amendment to the Lower Raritan Water Quality Management Plan to identify the expansion of the existing plant from 1.64 MGD to 1.70 MGD. No expansion of the sewer service area is proposed. The increased flow is to serve properties within the existing sewer service area, such as infill properties and existing homes on septic systems, as detailed in a buildout analysis that was submitted to the County and NJDEP. On January 21, 2020, the Plainsboro Planning Board passed a resolution of support of the new SUEZ Water Princeton Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff recommended that the amendment be adopted.

A motion was by Ms. Ludas, seconded by Ms. Kerber unanimously approved to grant approval of the SUEZ WQMP Amendment application.

**VI. Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership (LBWP) (Alan Godber)**

No report.

**VII. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP)**

Dr. Fenyk provided an update on some LRWP activities. In partnership with a Rutgers Graduate Planning Studio, LRWP just completed studio work that will supplement the resiliency grant work in conjunction with the NJDEP Resiliency Grant that Middlesex County is part of. The report will be released this week. The report will include piloting of the the Water Story tool developed by Sustainable Jersey. LRWP hosted a virtual tour of the Raritan Basin on May 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Registration was required through the LRWP website. LRWP was continuing planning for Summer 2020 pathogens monitoring. Volunteers were still being sought for the monitoring program. Please visit the LRWP website at: <http://lowerraritanwatershed.org> for more details on LRWP programs.

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

Mr. Hill reported that meetings of the South Jersey Resource Development Council were cancelled due to the COVID 19 crisis.

**IX. Middlesex County Flood Control Commissions**

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

Mr. Ververides stated the maintenance agreement between Middlesex and Somerset Counties is working out well.

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

No report.

**X. 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. Clonan reported that the basin retrofits in Somerset and Franklin Townships are underway. Some plantings have been completed. NJWSA was awarded a research grant in partnership with USGS and Montclair State University.

**XI. Raritan Riverkeeper**

Mr. Schultz reported that he had been busy dealing with a construction accident that allowed raw sewage to flow into the Raritan River.

**XII. Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE)**

No report.

**XIII. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative**

No report.

**XIV. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan**

Ms. Becker provided a brief update on the Wastewater Management Plan. The SUEZ Plant will have to be folded into the plan. Staff is working with Plainsboro Township to review flow calculations and methodology.

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

Mr. Rajvanshi provided a brief update on the NJDEP Resilient NJ Grant Program. NJDEP has made their consultant selections for this project. ARCADIS has been the consultant chosen to work on the Middlesex County project. Heyer, Gruel and Associates and SCAPE Landscape Architecture will also work on the project.

In reference to the CRS/MS4 Users Group, the County continued to support municipalities who are seeking re-certification of their CRS status. Due to the COVID19 public health emergency, the group has not met.

**XVI. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence presented at today's meeting.

**XVII. Old Business**

- **ANJEC Single-Use Plastics Reduction Ordinance**

No report.

**XVIII. New Business**

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

**XIX. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

**XX. Next meeting, date, time and place**

The next WRA meeting will be held on September 14, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. A determination will be made if a virtual meeting will be held.

**XXI. Adjournment**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

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