



**MINUTES**  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**  
**WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE**  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS MEETING ROOM**  
**September 11, 2017**  
**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 and a moment of silence to remember the lives lost during 911 were 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 Kenny	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
Margaret Drozd		Not present
Michael Hill	Freehold Soil Conservation District	Present
Brandon Goldfine	Middlesex Water Company	Present
Stephen Pospiech	City of Perth Amboy	Not present
Leigh Anne Hindenlang		Not present
Andrew Toth		Not present
William Kurzenberger		Not present
Donald Newton	Borough of Sayreville	Not present
Dawn Corcoran-Gardella	Township of Piscataway	Not present
Vincent Martino	Middlesex County Planning Board	Not present
Siegfred Hubak	Township of Woodbridge	Present
Alice Tempel	Borough of South Plainfield	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
Ron Yake	Township of Plainsboro	Present
Les Varga		Not present
John Katerba	Monroe Township Utility Dept.	Not present
Ryan Herkert		Not present
Doriann Kerber	Borough of Milltown	Not present

**I. Roll Call (continued)**

George Ververides Mirah Becker Laurie Sobel Nicholas Tufaro Lori Kahel Alex Zakrewsky Jessica Alvarez	Middlesex County Office of Planning	Present Present Not present Present Present Present Present
Sharon Martens Gary Rojek	Middlesex Cty. Dept. of Public Health – Environmental Division	Not present Not present
Richard Wallner Edward Kuchie	Middlesex County Office of Engineering	Not present Not present
Ken Klipstein Bob O’Neil	NJ Water Supply Authority	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	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
Sara Malone	Rutgers Sustainable Raritan Initiative	Not present
Suzan Colon	Old Bridge Twp. Environmental and Open Space Committee	Present
Heather Fenyk Brian Kempf	Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership	Present Not present
Bill Schultz	Raritan Riverkeeper	Present
Keith Jones	City of New Brunswick	Present
Joseph Meyer	SUEZ Water	Not present

**II. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – June 12, 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of June 12, 2017 were distributed prior to today’s meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved with an abstention from Mr. Yake to accept the minutes as presented.

**III. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan**

Ms. Becker asked Mr. Yake about the status of the Cranbury Dey Road project that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Yake stated that discussions on the project are still being held.

Ms. Becker presented an update on Wastewater Management Plan activities. PRIME Consulting has been named the consultant for the plan. The consultant has been very involved in the wastewater capacity analysis. Preliminary numbers look sufficient, with the exception of one facility that could be potentially over the 80 percent threshold which would trigger Union County’s need to provide a detailed analysis of their plans to expand capacity for the facility. Middlesex County only contributes six percent of the flow to this facility. The capacity analysis is

### **III. Middlesex County Wastewater Management Plan** (continued)

due to the NJDEP by October 31, 2017. Staff will report the findings of the analysis at the next WRA Meeting. The first deliverable for the plan will be the capacity analysis, followed by the nitrate dilution analysis, and finally the septic management plan. Ms. Becker introduced Jessica Alvarez who joined the staff to work on the plan. Mr. Zakrewsky spoke briefly on the build-out and capacity analysis. Mr. Tufaro spoke about some options that may be available to the towns to reduce nitrate dilution numbers.

### **IV. Proposed Revision and Amendment Procedures For All Sewer Service Applications Coming Before the WRA**

The members received a marked-up version of the rules that the WRA utilizes for the review of revisions and amendments to the sewer service area (SSA) map. The SSA map is a forever changing document, based on applicants coming before government bodies requesting that a property be placed in the SSA. Middlesex County is a Designated Planning Agency (DPA) and has responsibilities to review amendment applications.

Ms. Becker explained that for the past 17 years NJDEP did not have any process for reviewing revision and amendment applications to the SSA map. As a result, Middlesex County as a DPA, came up with their own procedures. In November 2016, NJDEP came out with its new rules for Wastewater Management Plans which included a process for reviewing amendments and revisions to the plans. The most important aspect of the new rules is since Middlesex County is a DPA, the Board of Chosen Freeholders must approve or disapprove all amendments to the Wastewater Management Plan before the DEP can adopt an amendment.

Middlesex County's current process for amendments includes staff review, WRA approval, Planning Board approval, holding a Public Hearing, and Board of Chosen Freeholder approval. All the other counties that are not DPAs, are following the new NJDEP regulations for their amendment and revision procedures whereby each county will receive a letter by certified mail from the applicant stating they need a determination on an revision or amendment from the county within 60 days. The applicant will also be responsible for sending a certified letter asking for a determination from the affected municipality and the sewerage treatment plant. The NJDEP will consider statements of consent and comments received within 60 days of receipt of the request.

Over time, Middlesex County's amendment procedures have gone through several revisions. However, the changes were not approved by NJDEP. NJDEP is now giving Middlesex County the opportunity to review their procedures to submit for NJDEP approval. Staff recommended that the procedure for reviewing amendments remain the same since Middlesex County is a DPA. Staff recommended adding the following to the amendment procedures:

Official endorsements will be requested from all affected municipalities and implementing agencies. The affected sewerage treatment plant must state that there is sufficient capacity to process the flow from the proposed project. Before the WRA and Planning Board can vote an amendment, endorsement letters from the affected municipality must be received by the Middlesex County Office of Planning.

**IV. Proposed Revision and Amendment Procedures For All Sewer Service Applications Coming Before the WRA (continued)**

In respect to revisions, Middlesex County's current procedures call for the same process as amendments with the exception of holding a public hearing. Many hours of staff time are used to review revisions that are really technical corrections to the map. NJDEP's new rules state that a letter would be sent to the Director of Planning, staff would review the revision request, and comment as needed within 21 days. There would be no WRA, Planning Board or Board of Chosen Freeholder review or approval needed. The information on revisions would be reported out at WRA Meetings.

Dr. Chase asked how the municipalities in the Lower Raritan that fall outside of Middlesex County fit into the new process. Ms. Becker stated that the plan and the amendment processing will only fit into the geography of Middlesex County. Even though the WQMP boundary does show towns outside of the county.

In summary, the amendment process will be changed to formalize local input. In respect to the revision process, revisions will be reviewed by the staff and comment will be made as needed within 21 days.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Hill, and unanimously approved to recommend adoption of the revised Amendment and Revision Procedures (attached). The procedures will be forwarded to the Planning Board and Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their consideration.

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

Mr. Hill stated that NJDEP has once again requested additional information on the project that was already provided in the Engineer's Report. Mr. Tufaro asked Mr. Hill if he could get back to the WRA on the loss of one of the floating wetland islands, the return to complete the construction work on the lakeside buffer and possible correction to the installations so they are closer to the water's edge. Lastly, NRCS is still waiting to hear about the next round of funding.

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

No report.

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

Ms. Fenyk provided an update of Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership activities. The LRWP is in the middle of developing a State of the Lower Raritan Watershed Report. A \$10,000 grant from the Watershed Institute was received for this effort.

A grant was received from Johnson and Johnson which will be used for Project WADES work. Project WADES is a K-12 school-based service learning curriculum developed in the LRWP in partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Project WADES speaks to two core goals of the LRWP: 1) fostering environmental appreciation and stewardship by cultivating a "culture" of science among residents of the Lower Raritan Watershed through community participation and collaboration in watershed research activities; and 2) communicating scientific findings about the

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

watershed to residents and established decision-making bodies for informed decision making about policy, land use and landscape change.

Ms. Fenyk mentioned a few events being planned. On November 17 from 8:30 to 4 p.m. A Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience Workshop will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The workshop is being sponsored by LRWP and NOAA. Ms. Fenyk offered the WRA the opportunity to join as a co-sponsor for this event. The only requirement would be just adding the WRA's name to the event flyer and outreach materials. The workshop will be limited to the first 50 registrants. Mr. Ververides indicated that he would have to speak with Mr. Anjum about joining this effort. A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mr. O'Neil and unanimously approved to support the WRA joining as a co-sponsor to the event subject to approval from Middlesex County Administration. The flyer for the event will be e-mailed to the membership and will be attached to the minutes of today's meeting.

A World Water Monitoring Day Picnic will be held on Monday, September 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Boyd Park. A flyer for this event will be e-mailed to the members. The Raritan River Festival will be held on September 24. LRWP is looking for volunteers to staff their table at the event.

**VIII. Sustainable Raritan River Initiative**

In the absence of Ms. Malone, Ms. Fenyk mentioned that the group is looking for indicators for a State of the Raritan Volume 2.

**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 on the projects listed above.

Mr. O'Neil stated that last fall NJWSA identified a very aggressive aquatic invasive weed in the D&R Canal called Hydrilla. It grows very fast and it is spread by tubers or cutting. It is suspected that it may have come from the Delaware River. Treatment with herbicide began over the summer. Mr. O'Neil encouraged the membership to keep an eye out for Hydrilla.

**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 work is continuing. Bound Brook has been completed. The project is moving into Middlesex Borough. Survey and testing work is being planned. However, access approval from the landowners is needed. Twenty million dollars has been budgeted for

**X. Middlesex County Flood Control Commissions** (continued)

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

this year. However, money may be diverted to help the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The maintenance agreements between the counties are working out well.

**XI. Correspondence**

There was no Correspondence presented at today's meeting.

**XII. Old Business**

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

**XIII. New Business**

Countywide CRS/MS4 Assistance Program Workshop

Mr. Tufaro announced that the Countywide CRS/MS4 Assistance Program Workshop will be held on September 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Fire Academy. He invited the members to the workshop. The agenda will be e-mailed to the membership and is attached to the minutes of today's meeting.

**XIV. Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment at today's meeting.

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

The next WRA meeting will be held on November 13, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Freeholder Meeting Room, County Administration Building.

**XVI. Adjournment**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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