

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP  
*Director of Planning*

MICHAEL FEDOSH  
*Council Chairman*



### Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Monmouth County Environmental Council

**Thursday, October 6, 2016, 5:00 p.m.**

Monmouth County Planning Board Conference Room  
Hall of Records Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One East Main Street  
Freehold, New Jersey

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fedosh called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

#### 2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members present: Mike Fedosh, Nicholas Huszar, David Kostka, Wilma Morrissey, Scott Thompson, France Karras.

Members absent: Ebru Altinsoy, Jennifer DiLorenzo, Barbara Horl, John Vig.

Staff present: Linda Brennen and Kyle Clonan.

Guests present: Alexis Bowman, NJDEP AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador, WMA 12

#### 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: September 1, 2016

Minutes from the September 1, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Karras reported errors in the draft minutes, regarding the New Jersey Natural Gas Southern Reliability Link. Mr. Huszar noted an error in the amount of money recovered from a Sustainable Jersey project by a summer intern for Howell Township. Mr. Kostka moved to approve the corrected minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Morrissey. The minutes were approved by voice vote pending necessary corrections, with Ms. Karras and Mr. Thompson abstaining.

#### 4. REGULAR REPORTS

Chairman – No report. The Chairman then welcomed Alexis Bowman, who was introduced to the Council as the 2016-2017 NJ DEP AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador. She will be serving until Summer 2017 and is housed within the Division of Planning. Alexis will be assessing the quality of local streams and providing environmental education and outreach throughout the WMA 12 Watershed. Alexis introduced herself and her goals to the Council.

Planning Board – Ms. Brennen reported the public comment period for the Monmouth County Master Plan ended September 16 and the final public hearing was September 19, 2016. Staff is considering all comments and making final adjustments to the Master Plan. A final draft of the Master Plan will be presented to the Planning Board for adoption at their October 17 meeting.

Staff –Regarding the Joint Land Use Study between the County of Monmouth and Naval Weapons

Station Earle, Ms. Brennen reported that bids have been received and a consultant has been selected for recommendation to the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Freeholders will vote on the selection during their October 27, 2016 meeting. Ms. Brennen also noted the NJDEP's new Wastewater Management Plan rules should be signed in the near future, which will give the Division of Planning 18 months to draft a new Wastewater Management Plan.

Mr. Clonan has reached out to Dennis Blazek of NWS Earle regarding an MCEC visit to the OHMSETT Oil-Spill Training facility, and will report back to the council with any updates. The Environmental & Sustainability Section published their first email newsletter, which was sent to members of the MCEC, municipal environmental commissions, local green teams, and other environmental group contacts throughout the county. The October newsletter is available for viewing online ([https://co.monmouth.nj.us/Documents/24/MCEC\\_Newsletter\\_1016.pdf](https://co.monmouth.nj.us/Documents/24/MCEC_Newsletter_1016.pdf)), and citizens can sign up for the newsletter as well ([https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NJMONMOUTH/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=NJMONMOUTH\\_37](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NJMONMOUTH/subscriber/new?topic_id=NJMONMOUTH_37)).

Legislation – Mr. Clonan reported US Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez of New Jersey were part of a group of fourteen senators who sent a letter to President Obama, urging him to permanently ban the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans from offshore oil and gas drilling under the power granted to him by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Mr. Clonan also reported updates on several NJ State Senate & Assembly Bills:

- S2525—Introduced to the Senate and referred to the Environmental and Energy Committee. The bill prohibits treatment, discharge, disposal, application to roadway, or storage of hydraulic fracturing byproducts in New Jersey.
- S2550— Introduced to the Senate and referred to the Environmental and Energy Committee. The proposed bill requires the Department of Defense and FAA to approve all offshore wind energy projects in New Jersey.
- S2490— The bill was introduced to the Senate and referred to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Robert Smith, seeks to provide protection of public's rights under the public trust doctrine. Mr. Thompson commented on the necessity of a law with a greater definition of the public trust doctrine and the role of the NJDEP in public access to New Jersey waterways, as well as his attendance at public meetings and workshops regarding public access rules. Ms. Karras and Chairman Fedosh noted past public access issues.
- A3671—No further progress has been made regarding the NJ "Plastic Bag Bill" introduced to the State Assembly on April 14, 2016.

5. **OLD BUSINESS-** Mr. Clonan updated the Council on the Transco-Williams Natural Gas Pipeline. The Council had submitted a letter on April 22 to the NJ DEP regarding an Individual Waterfront Development Permit Application for Survey Activities for the Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay Sediment Study. The study was completed over the summer, and now the proposed pipeline route has been modified to stay out of NJ waters in the Raritan Bay as it crosses to Brooklyn. The updated project, the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, has been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement and recently closed a public comment period regarding topics they should address in the EIS. The MCEC submitted a comment letter during this time period.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS-

Mr. Clonan gave a quick overview of the NJ Map project, which is an online mapping portal ([www.njmap2.com](http://www.njmap2.com)) designed for municipal stakeholders involved in environmental land use and sustainability decision making. Monmouth Conservation Foundation is working on the project, which also involves The Nature Conservancy, Rowan University, and other groups. NJ Map intends to make statewide GIS data relatable and easy to understand at the local level for environmental commissions, land trusts, municipal planning boards, watershed groups, and concerned citizens. Mr. Clonan gave an example of the Municipal Land Use Dashboard, which shows land use change by municipality from 1986-2012 with categories of Urban Lands, Agriculture, Forest, Wetlands, Water, and Barren Lands. The “Blueprint” section was viewed, which features different maps such as “Water”, “Ecological”, “Agriculture”, and “Urban”, each with applicable GIS data layers. The project is nearing completion and is still missing some information on land use in certain municipalities.

B. Chairman Fedosh opened discussion on possible Spring 2017 MCEC Roundtable Ideas, suggesting Hydroponic Farming in Monmouth County. Mr. Clonan contributed names of four hydroponic farms he received from Farmland Preservation staff and the Economic Development office. Ms. Brennen discussed a recent visit to conversation with staff at Allentown High School, which has a small hydroponic system. Mr. Thompson drew on his career with greenhouses to give a background on hydroponics, his contacts, and show pictures. Discussion ensued, focusing on venues, farms, topics, meeting logistics, and possible partners. Additional information will be collected and the 2017 MCEC Roundtable will be revisited at a future meeting.

C. Vice Chair Morrissey was contacted by the Wall Township Board of Education regarding solutions for geese problems and specifically an option on Geese Peace. Ms. Morrissey asked for opinions, or if any members of the council had experience dealing with geese. Mr. Huszar discussed “buffalo guns” previously used on the Cook Campus of Rutgers University, which shocked the ground and disturbed the geese but do not seem to be in use anymore. Ms. Karras discussed motion-activated sprinklers as an option for lawn pests.

## 7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

**North Coast:** No report.

**Bayshore:** Ms. Karras reported on the ribbon cutting of the Campo Trail, and the continuing initiative to connect Hartshorne Woods Park, Lenape Woods in Atlantic Highlands, and possibly the Bayshore Trail. The rebuilding of the Bayshore trail as well as restoration work on Many Mind Creek are being delayed as groups await results from a geological survey of the area being produced by the Army Corps of Engineers. Bayshore Watershed Council, NY-NJ Baykeeper, and Monmouth County Clean Communities are sponsoring a clean-up of Many Mind Creek in the Atlantic Highlands on October 15 from 10am-12pm.

**Mid-Coast:** No report.

**Pine Barren:** Mr. Huszar reported on the success of Howell Day, estimated 2500 people attended, and thanked the Division of Planning for the use of the Enviroscope and handouts.

**Navesink Valley:** Mr. Kostka reported that NJDEP’s changes to the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules have made it permissible for pipelines to cross streams and buffers, which organizations believe may lead to environmental problems. There is a continuing battle over the installation of turf fields in Holmdel. The issue is that money dedicated to open space from the Green Acre fund have been used to install turf soccer fields, bleachers, and lights in an area near Category 1 waters. The Hockhockson

Farm in Colts Neck has been purchased by new owners who wish to keep the farm running while adding an educational component to the farm for students to visit on field trips, and possibly for rescue animals. They have already met with the Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board, and will soon be meeting with the Colts Neck Planning Board. Mr. Thompson reported on his attendance at Rally the Navesink meetings.

**South Coast:** Ms. Morrissey's report is attached.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public were present.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM

**October 6, 2016**

**South Coast Region Report  
Wilma Morrissey**

**Asbury Park**

Orlando shooting victims were honored by the planting of 49 trees by Barlow Flower Farm, Sunshine Charities, and volunteers on September 17 at Liberty Park. There was a tree planted for each of the victims that were killed in their Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

**Wall Township**

Kids Day America. At the Kids Day America event, the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee used the interactive Enviroscape to teach children about non-point source pollution. Howell residents, Pippa Houli (3) Parker Houli (5) Lauren Clearwater (11) created a rain simulation and observed the pollution entering into the waterways. The WTEAC also distributed coloring books, environmental stickers, and literature.

2016 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award – The WTEAC received the award for the Environmental Posters, Poetry, and Essay Education Interactive Awards project. The WTEAC has been holding these contests for the past quarter century. The Poster Contest has run for 26 years while the Poetry Contest continually operated for 19 years, and the Essay Contest for 22 years in six Wall Township schools, from grades 1 through 12, with the goal of promoting environmental awareness for hundreds and thousands of students.

Proclamation. The Wall Township Committee honored the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee with an official proclamation on September 28 for receiving the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Environmental Champion Award. The WTEAC received the proclamation for their award winning book entitled, "Life in Wall Township: Past and Present."

The WTEAC/Green Team received a \$2,000 grant for the restoration of the Allenwood Park Native Garden, which was originally planted 12 years ago. Barlow Flower Farm, volunteers, and Wall H.S. Environmental/Horticulture teacher restored the garden. Public Works installed a fence and automated water control system.

The township is seeking bid proposals from developers for an 11 acre lot formerly known as Wall Auto Wreckers for a major redevelopment plan that failed to take off for nearly 20 years. This is a long planned West Belmar Gateway Development Project on Route 71.

**Bradley Beach:**

Bradley Beach has been awarded a Monmouth County Community Development Block Grant for upgrades to make Riley Park accessible to all who visit.

**Lake Como:**

The Lake Como Tourism Commission held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Lake Como Day on Saturday, September 12 with food, craft, and informational vendors as well as activities and crafts for the kids.

**Manasquan:**

The deadeye, a ship rigging device used in the early to mid 1900s was discovered under a resident's home following Superstorm Sandy. The artifact, which historians believe came from a shipwreck, is on display at the Manasquan Life Saving Station's museum.

**Spring Lake Heights:**

The borough council approved a resolution to create a mid-block crosswalk at the entrance of Bicentennial Park as well as to ban parking on two sections of Ocean Road.

Update: Questions were raised at a council meeting as to the lack of accepted bids for a project that is still in the works: the removal of an obsolete well.

**Spring Lake:**

Improvements are planned for Divine Park pending receipt of a \$250,000 Open Space Grant from NJDEP. If awarded the match grant, the borough is not obligated to pay the full amount. Should the borough spend less than anticipated, the Open Space Grant will match all monies spent, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000.

The borough council introduced an ordinance that, if approved, would allow residents to more easily renovate their unfinished basements. This would amend the Land Development Code.

The H. W. Mountz Elementary school will continue its proactive efforts to enhance water quality at the schools by installing filtration systems on all water sources. Mountz School will develop a plan for regular water testing by July.

**Sea Girt:**

Volunteers are needed for the Sea Girt Dune Planting on Saturday, October 29 at 8:45 a.m. at the Trenton Boulevard Beach, E-mail [drury7@verizon.net](mailto:drury7@verizon.net) for further information.

A floating classroom in the ocean was an idea that head lifeguard, Jim Harmon, pitched to the school. Fifth graders at the Sea Girt Elementary school test out the floating classroom and learned about health and safety in the water. Other ideas in the future include learning about tides or oceanography. The students used surf boards to paddle out past the breakers in the ocean and then circled around their teacher for a lesson.

The area around the monument dedicated to Clarence Cornelius in Crescent Park in Sea Girt is being cleared of weeds and overgrowth.

**Avon-By-the-Sea**

Avon is applying for \$129,000 FEMA funds for Hurricane Sandy costs to continue storm recovery. The application deadline is October 18.

The first of its kind “Know Your Zone” that labels different areas of the county so that residents will be more informed during coastal evacuation events. The Sheriff, Shaun Golden introduced the new emergency evacuation communication plan at Avon-by-the-Sea municipal pavilion on the boardwalk on September 27.

### **Brielle**

Brielle renews fuel sharing pact with Sea Girt and Manasquan. Any borough vehicle in all three towns, including police cars, garbage trucks, public works vehicles, or beach crew vehicles come to the Brielle Recycling Center to refuel.

Boy Scout Troop No. 63 of Brielle had its overnight on what is more commonly known as Treasure Island on Saturday, September 17. They spent the day clearing as much trash as they could from the island’s shores and inland trails. They did an overall general cleanup of the island.

The borough council accepted a bid from All Surface Asphalt Paving for various improvements to repave the parking lot in Brielle Park.

### **Belmar**

A Superior Court judge has ordered the borough to reimburse the beach utility, reduce Ocean Avenue parking fees to \$1 and pay attorney fees and costs for the case known as Susko v Belmar in which the borough was found to have violated the rights of beach goers.

Children of the annual Belmar Beach Bash caught some waves with the help of the volunteer surfers from Surfers Healing. The event was held at the Seventh Avenue beach on Sunday, September 11 by Autism Family Services. The event gave families impacted by autism a fun day at the beach.

Citizens are concerned about the state of Silver Lake Park as phragmites surrounding Silver Lake have become a source of concern for residents who find them unsightly and dangerous to native wildlife

The NJDOT resumed the Shark River dredge project, temporarily closing the state channel The project was threatened with a loss of funding due to delay, and is now remobilized.

### **Neptune City**

A semi-annual Shark River Cleanup was held on Saturday, October 1, at the Memorial Beach Park.