

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, November 3, 2016 5:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fedosh called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, Mike Fedosh, Barbara Horl, Wilma Morrissey, John Vig, France Karras.

Members absent: Ebru Altinsoy, Nicholas Huszar, Scott Thompson, David Kostka.

Staff present: Linda Brennen and Kyle Clonan.

Public present: Thomas Devine and Sean Williams, Brookdale Community College Environmental Politics Students.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: October 6, 2016

Minutes from the October 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Morrissey moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Fedosh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote, with Mr. Vig and Ms. Horl abstaining.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Chairman – no report.

B. Planning Board – Ms. DiLorenzo reported the Planning Board adopted the new [Monmouth County Master Plan](#). Staff is making final minor edits and the finalized document will be available online in the near future. She urged council members to review the approved document, and see how it aligns with their own municipalities and special interests.

C. Staff – Ms. Brennen noted staff has begun working on the Wastewater Management Plan (WMP), whose new rules will be published in the NJ Register on November 7 and take effect thereafter, leaving Planning Staff 18 months to complete a new WMP for the County. Ms. Brennen also worked on an amendment to the future wastewater service area map, which is on the agenda for the November Planning Board meeting. Another amendment will be on the agenda for the December Amendment Review Committee's agenda. Mr. Clonan has written multiple chapters of the Natural Resource Inventory, which will be brought to the Council once completed and reviewed by staff. Discussion ensued on what will be included in the Natural Resource Inventory and its purpose. Staff has also been visiting proposed Areas of Significant

Environmental Quality (AESQs) for documentation. Ms. Brennen described her visit to the Shark River dredging project. Please see attached document for a summary and photos from Ms. Brennen.

- D. Legislation – Mr. Clonan noted that there had been no movement on bills discussed during the October meeting. Two current bills of note include:
- a. A-2375 & S-981—This bill, in both its State Assembly and State Senate forms, seeks to reform certain provisions of the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act. This act currently requires manufacturers selling electronic products in NJ to develop and fund free e-waste recycling programs for TVs, Computers, and monitors. Since its enactment, manufactures have found ways to circumvent the law, leading to a decline in funding for e-waste programs in NJ and the elimination of such programs in 13 counties. A previous version of this updated bill (A-4763) was passed by the House and Senate in 2015 but pocket vetoed by the Governor.
 - b. S227—a bill under consideration by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee which would require NJDOT, NJ Transit Authority, and South Jersey Transit Authority to use only native vegetation for landscaping, reforestation, and habitat restoration activities.
 - c. Additionally, the comment period regarding proposed changes to the NJDEP Public Access Rules ended November 5. The County Division of Planning has worked with the Division of Engineering on a comment letter, which has been submitted by Planning Board Chairman Paul Kierman.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. JLUS Study Update--The Freeholders have passed a resolution selecting a group of consultants for the JLUS Study. The group is led by MASER Consulting P.A. in Red Bank and includes AECOM, HR&A Advisors, and Rutgers University for climate science/data and technical assistance. A meeting between the County, military representatives, and the consultants will take place in mid-November. Discussion ensued regarding topics the consultants may investigate, such as sea level rise, transportation corridors, and micro-grids.
- B. MCEC Hydroponics Roundtable—The Council continued discussion on a Spring Roundtable concerning hydroponic farming opportunities in Monmouth County. Chairman Fedosh, Ms. Brennen, and Mr. Clonan toured Kula Farm in Asbury Park and described their impressions with Kula Farm’s role not just as a commercial facility but as part of a social cause with Interfaith Neighbors and the Kula Café. Mr. Fedosh added that Middletown South and Allentown High School have hydroponic systems. Possible dates in late March were discussed. The possibility of having the event at the Monmouth County Agricultural Building was discussed, with the intention of showing a film showcasing hydroponics in Monmouth County. Possible speakers were discussed, with the intention of having one representative who uses hydroponics as an educational platform, one representative from a non-profit/social platform, and another representative from a commercial farm.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Expiring MCEC Terms and Reappointments—Mr. Clonan noted that Mr. Huszar, Mr. Kostka, and Ms. Karras’s terms on the MCEC will expire 12/31/2016. Mr. Clonan will contact them to ascertain if they would like to be considered by the Freeholders for reappointment. Ms. DiLorenzo, the Planning Board representative, would need to be reappointed by the Planning Board to serve on the MCEC in 2017. There remains a vacancy due to Mr. Woolley’s

resignation.

7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

- **North Coast:** Ms. DiLorenzo reported the American Shore and Beach Preservation meeting in Long Branch included a visit to the Monmouth Beach Dune Restoration Project. Dredging from the Shrewsbury River has been placed east of the seawall in Monmouth Beach, north of Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club. The dredge material was planted with dune grass to establish the dune. Other vegetated flat areas of Monmouth Beach are habitat for Piping Plover and were left alone. The project is funded by a competitive grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as Superstorm Sandy recovery funding from the Department of the Interior. Besides habitat construction, the project is meant to help with storm resiliency. A second part of the project yet to be started will aim to restore marsh areas in the Shrewsbury River to revive the native plant community and restore river edges from erosion through the installation of living shorelines.
- **Bayshore:** Mr. Fedosh reported Middletown Township has won a planning grant and is looking to explore redevelopment options for the Belford Ferry Area, an area featuring County-owned wetlands, residential housing, the Belford Ferry Terminal, and the TOMSA (Township of Middletown Sewage Authority) plant. The plan may explore topics such as housing, bike lanes, and restaurants for the area. Mr. Fedosh also reported on his attendance at a Navesink River municipalities meeting, which included a presentation from the NJDEP regarding their ongoing testing procedures and results related to bacteria in the Navesink River. Discussion ensued.
- **Mid-Coast:** No report.
- **Pine Barren:** No report.
- **Navesink Valley:** No report.
- **South Coast:** Ms. Morrissey's report is attached.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**—The students in attendance asked questions regarding the MCEC's role in the County and the environmental aspects of the Monmouth County Master Plan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

November 3, 2016

South Coast Region Report
Wilma Morrissey

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 Planning Board again denied the second WRAT radio tower (553 feet) application.

The Lake Como Environmental Commission held their last planting of the year and planted purple asters and Montauk daises in their Butterfly Garden which was funded in part with a grant from ANJEC. The commission also enlarged the garden by 60 square feet.

Manasquan:

The borough's \$4.4 million bulkhead reconstruction is on schedule and the borough engineer says "in water" portions of the project will be done by year's end. This included dredging, pilings, and dock work on top of the bulkhead.

Manasquan recently rejected the only bid received for a water treatment plant lime slurry chemical feed system at \$484,000 because it was more than the borough had budgeted for. The lone bidder on the project was Allied Construction Group, Inc. based in Parlin. Manasquan will rebid the project as soon as possible.

Spring Lake Heights:

A group of Girl Scouts from Troop 478 renovated the rain garden at Spring Lake Heights Elementary School for their Bronze Award project.

Lack of a water hose hookup is holding up the Fletcher Park project for a community garden. The garden will not move forward without the water hookup.

Spring Lake:

The borough will construct a living shoreline around the bank of Wreck Pond at Shore Road to improve water quality in the pond. The grass shoreline will not obstruct views or access to Wreck Pond. The borough will plant a 900 linear foot living shoreline comprised of vegetation.

Sea Girt:

Over the summer, Sea Girt Elementary School added a fish tank in one of their classrooms in preparation for participation in a program called “Trout in the Classroom.” The eighth graders placed the eggs into their 55 gallon tank. The eggs will grow into brook trout, the state fish of New Jersey, at which point, the students will release them into the Manasquan River. Over the course of the growth, students from kindergarten through eighth grade will learn about the life cycle of the fish.

Brielle

Brielle Park is expected to be completed by January. Upgrades including work on the tennis courts, parking lots, basketball courts, fences, and some reseeding have begun. The upgrades are being funded through a combination of funds from Brielle Recreation’s fund and the borough.

Brielle Elementary School officially registered with Sustainable Jersey. One of their goals is to become more energy efficient with lighting. The science classes hope to work with the borough’s volunteer community garden. They would like to grow fruits and vegetables as science projects. Part of the learning process is to learn how to grow their own organic vegetables without the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

The Bayberry Garden Club of Brielle discusses bats to educate the community. 70 percent of all bats can ingest tons of insects nightly, thus, reducing the use, cost, and detriment of pesticides. Many bats pollinate flowers and fruit, disperse seeds for trees and agave, and bat droppings are used to fertilize gardens, while antitoxins from bat saliva are used to treat heart patients. Bats vary in size from a penny to the size of a turkey vulture. Bats have a lifespan of 20 to 40 years and are an endangered species. To learn more about bats, contact batconservationinternational.org or phone 512 327 9721, or batcom.org.

Shark River Dredging Summary for MCEC
Linda Brennen, PP/AICP

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) issued a \$7.6million contract to dredge state channels in the Shark River basin to Mobile Dredging and Pumping, Co. of Chester, Pennsylvania, in September 2015. Funding for this project came from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). Approximately 102,000 cubic yards of silt and sand is being hydraulically dredged and dewatered through a rapid dewatering process. Project oversight comes from the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources.

Dewatering is currently taking place on a small section of the Belmar Marina parking lot, off NJSH Route 35, near L Street. The rapid dewatering process separates out even fine sediments allowing a quick return of the water to the river, while the sediment is moved through centrifuges, recessed chamber filter presses, and belt filter presses, to quickly create a dry sludge cake, suitable for disposal by land application or land fill. The silty material is being trucked to the County Reclamation center for use as daily cover. Reclaimed sand is being used to expand the Neptune City riverfront beach. Without the need for long-term onshore dewatering, the footprint of disturbance appears to be significantly less than in other dredging projects of a similar size that did not use a rapid dewatering process.

The attached photos were taken on site in October 2016.



Figure 1: Dredge in operation in Shark River basin



Figure 2: Water return area



Figure 3: Mobile dewatering and filtering equipment in use on-site (side view)



Figure 4: Press view (front) of the on-site equipment



Figure 5: Silty material leaves the presses in thin sheets



Figure 6: Dry sandy material exiting the presses.



Figure 7: Front end loaders move the dewatered sediment from the presses to a holding area before being trucked off-site for reuse.