

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning

WILMA MORRISSEY
Council Chairman

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Via Webex

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, David Kostka, France Karras, Wilma Morrissey, Scott Thompson, John Vig

Members Absent: Paul Johnson, Ashley Reese

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Harriet Honigfeld

2. REORGANIZATION-

A. Election of Chairperson- Ms. Mallm asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Kostka made a motion to nominate Ms. Morrissey as Chairperson, Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. Ms. Mallm asked for a motion to close nominations, Mr. Vig made a motion to close nominations and Mr. Kostka seconded the motion. With a voice vote, Ms. Morrissey was appointed Chairperson.

B. Election of Vice Chairperson- Ms. Morrissey thanked the Council and asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson, Mr. Vig nominated Ms. Karras and Mr. Kostka seconded the motion. Mr. Kostka then made a motion to close nominations, and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. With a voice vote, Ms. Karras was appointed Vice Chairperson.

C. Approval of 2022 meeting schedule- Mr. Kostka made a motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. With a voice vote the schedule was approved.

- 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES-** The Council reviewed the December 2021 minutes. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Kostka seconded the motion. With no objections the minutes were approved.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Chairman- Ms. Morrissey shared information on an Arbor Day Foundation tree seedling giveaway for municipalities. Interested municipalities may apply to receive up to 1,000 tree seedlings for distribution. Ms. Morrissey and Ms. Honigfeld then recalled their recent conversation focused on upcoming Division of Planning efforts that the Council can be involved in as part of its mission as an advisory council. Further discussion will be held during new business.

B. Planning Board- Ms. DiLorenzo provided an update on the January Planning Board meeting. Ms. DiLorenzo said the meeting was largely focused on reorganization but there was also a discussion focused on the replacement of the Rumson Sea Bright Bridge led by Monmouth County.

C. Staff- Ms. Mallm shared the Dates to Remember including a Rutgers Cooperative Extension series led by the Monmouth County Agricultural Agent. Ms. Mallm said staff also learned about the Pay Up Climate Polluters initiative to file lawsuits against fossil fuel companies for contributions to climate change.

D. Legislation- Legislation will be discussed under new business.

OLD BUSINESS

A. JLUS III Update/REPI Update- Ms. Mallm provided an update on the Coastal Resilience Study. Ms. Mallm said they are planning on holding a technical advisory committee meeting this spring. Ms. Honigfeld provided an update on the Next Steps to Compatibility Study, focused on land use surrounding NWS Earle in Howell, Wall, Tinton Falls, Colts Neck, and Middletown. Ms. Honigfeld said the consultant prepared a draft report and staff have been reviewing the document and providing comments.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Division of Planning Efforts 2022-Seeking MCEC Input- Ms. Honigfeld provided a summary of upcoming Division of Planning projects that staff will share with the MCEC for review and comment. First, Ms. Honigfeld discussed Samantha LaRocca's upcoming Host Agency project which will be a Story Map identifying watershed protection and enhancement projects throughout Watershed Management Area 12. Next, Ms. Honigfeld mentioned a Floodplain Species Assessment and Plan Division of Planning staff are preparing that identifies protection efforts undertaken by municipalities participating in the Community Rating System (CRS). CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Ms. Honigfeld then mentioned the Monmouth County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan update, which the Division may be seeking Council comments in the Spring. Ms. Honigfeld then mentioned a study to identify locations to install public electric vehicle charging stations on County owned properties. Ms. Mallm said Samantha will be reaching out to the Council to gather points of interest for the Story Map. The Council then discussed electric vehicle charging stations

B. NY/NJ Watershed Protection Act H.R. 4677- Ms. Mallm said Meredith Comi from NY/NJ Baykeeper brought this bill to the County's attention. The bill would establish a fund for watershed restoration projects in watersheds and estuaries that drain to the New York-New Jersey Harbor such as the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan, Passaic, Hackensack, and Bronx River Watersheds and the Hudson River Estuary. The bill was introduced in July 2021 and in January 2022 it was discussed at a meeting of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water Oceans and wildlife.

Ms. Morrissey asked the Council if they had any questions or had anything to add to today's discussions. Mr. Vig asked for more information on the electric vehicle charging station project. Mr. Schmetterer explained that the County was awarded a grant from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) to install level 2 electric vehicle chargers on county property. Mr. Schmetterer said staff have taken a preliminary look at County properties. Ms. Morrissey asked the Council if they had any other comments. Ms. DiLorenzo commended the Monmouth County Park System and its winter activities. Mr. Thompson expressed concern that the electric vehicle charging stations should be accessible. Ms. Karras said Save Coastal Wildlife is circulating a petition for the NY state legislature to support a bill that would set stricter regulations on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs.

MEMBER REPORTS:

- Ms. DiLorenzo recommended including the Monmouth Beach rain garden in the watershed protection story map. Ms. DiLorenzo said there has been some controversy over proposed residential developments that may affect wetlands in Monmouth Beach.
- Mr. Kostka said Colts Neck meetings are still being held virtually. The Environmental Commission is continuing to work on the environmental resource inventory. Mr. Kostka said they are also discussing how they may educate businesses and citizens on the plastic bag ban. Mr. Kostka said Colts Neck did not successfully earn its Sustainable Jersey certification, but they will apply again this year.
- Mr. Vig said he had nothing to add to Mr. Kostka's report.
- Mr. Thompson expressed concern with how the Rumson Sea Bright Bridge replacement may impact traffic.
- Ms. Karras said she did not have anything additional to add.
- Ms. Morrissey said the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee will be distributing reusable bags. Ms. Morrissey said the Wall Township Green Team is working on their Green Business Recognition program.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Morrissey opened for public comment. Upon seeing no members of the public, the public comment period was closed.

6. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Ms. DiLorenzo made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Vig seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.