

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PAUL KIERNAN, JR.
Planning Board Chairman



MICHAEL FEDOSH
Council Chairman

Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thursday, June 2, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

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

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Fedosh called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
 2. **ROLL CALL-ATTENDANCE:**
Members Present: Michael Fedosh (left 6:30), David Kostka, Wilma Morrissey, Matthew Woolley, France Karras, Nicholas Huszar, John Vig
Members Absent: Ebru Altinsoy, Jennifer DiLorenzo, Barbara Horl, Scott Thompson
Staff Present: Linda Brennen and Kyle Clonan
Guest(s) Present: Dennis Blazek, NWS Earle
 3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Chairman Fedosh moved to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Morrissey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all present on a voice vote.
 4. **REGULAR REPORTS:**
 - a. **Chairman** - Chairman Fedosh congratulated Ms. Morrissey for her recent recognition as Chairwoman of the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee in receiving an NJ Environmental Champion by the EPA and as the NJ DEP 2015 Environmentalist of the Year. He then offered a Resolution Recognizing Wilma Morrissey's Contributions to the Monmouth County Environmental Council. The Chairman moved for the adoption of the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Kostka and approved by all on a voice vote. Absent members Ms. Horl and Ms. DiLorenzo had each voiced their vote in the affirmative before the meeting.
 - b. **Planning Board**—Mr. Clonan reported that the Council's Resolution "Recognizing the Need for Clean Water Supplies and Urging an Update to the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan" was commended by the Monmouth County Planning Board and Freeholder Burry at the May MCPB meeting. The MCPB will vote on a similar resolution at their June 20, 2016 meeting. A similar resolution will be a suggested agenda item for the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders at their June 23, 2016 meeting.
 - c. **Staff**—Ms. Brennen reviewed the May 10 Master Plan Open House and thanked the Council members who attended. Mr. Clonan will participate in an ANJEC organized conference call for NJ Trash Free Waters on June 8. There will be a Sustainable Jersey Monmouth County Hub Event at the Whole Foods of Marlboro, where the movie *Bag It!* will be shown from 6:30-8:30 on July 12.
 - d. **Legislation**—Mr. Woolley reported that the Governor conditionally vetoed Senate Bill S969, which would implement 2015 constitutional dedication for CBT

revenues for certain environmental purposes and revise the State's Open Space, Farmland, and Historic Preservation programs. The Governor wishes to see the "Blue Acres" program added to the Bill, and suggested other changes. The Senate was set to vote on June 2 regarding a revised version of Bill S1734, which would ban smoking on all NJ State Beaches, State Parks, and Forests after being previously vetoed by the Governor. Mr. Wooley also noted the NJ State Assembly has voted on the Flood Hazard Area Control Act and that the non-profit organization Clean Water Action is planning a rally outside the NJ State Courthouse.

5. **OLD BUSINESS: Spring Roundtable/HEP Event**—Various members noted the success of the MCEC Spring Greentable and the quality of discussion from audience members. Ms. Karras was thanked for organizing the venue with the Atlantic Highlands Senior Center.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Joint Land Use Study Grant Proposal**—Ms. Brennen presented on a Department of Defense (DOD) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Grant proposal she is pursuing for the MCPB in coordination with NWS Earle. Ms. Brennen noted the importance of NWS Earle to the residents of Monmouth County. She discussed the application timeline and noted that, if funded, the study would focus on compatible land use, climate adaptation planning, and maintaining accessibility to NWS Earle facilities in light of sea level rise and significant storm events. Ms. Brennen noted the anticipated roles of the municipalities within the Military Influence Area, and those located within the Raritan Bayshore & Navesink/Swimming River watersheds in the development of the JLUS Study, which includes invitations to join advisory committees for the study. Various technical advisory committees would be developed as needed and public involvement would be encouraged through public forums and document comment periods. Ms. Brennen has been working closely with the DOD on the draft proposal, as the DOD expressed their wish to use the Monmouth County JLUS Study as a model for future climate adaptation studies. Ms. Brennen noted that the Scope of Work has been drafted and is ready for submission. She also noted that this JLUS could potentially be a first phase of a climate adaptation planning for the county, with related implementation studies to follow long-term.
 - b. **NWS Earle Environmental Initiatives**—Mr. Blazek of NWS Earle began his presentation with a background of NWS Earle, including its importance to the US Military, the base's 2.9 mile long three finger pier complex in Sandy Hook Bay, and its strategic location for the Atlantic Seaboard. He noted the issues of sea level rise and climate change exposed by Hurricane Sandy, which caused approximately \$50 million in damage to the Military Base, largely to utility service. The need for climate adaptation planning and joint land use planning were also highlighted by a drainage ditch dredging project on NWS Earle grounds, which alleviated flooding in a nearby Leonardo (Middletown Township) neighborhood. He also summarized the Navy's plans for developing unused lands for solar energy fields, and the NY-NJ Baykeeper's oyster reef restoration pilot study taking place off the Navy's protected Bayshore coastline.

- c. **JCP&L Monmouth County Reliability Project**—Mr. Clonan discussed notification from JCP&L on a proposed new transmission line and substation enhancements. The transmission line would be constructed along the NJ Transit North Coast Railroad line, and is identified as a “necessary” project by PJM Interconnection.
 - d. **MCEC Summer Events Ideas**— The Council discussed possible outings for a summer meeting in August or September.
7. **REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS:**
- a. **South Coast**—Ms. Morrissey gave her report (see attached).
 - b. **Mid-Coast**—Mr. Woolley reported the Ocean Township Environmental Commission hosted a GreenFair at the township’s library which featured significant public attendance. He also reported that the installation of a living shoreline project on the northern end of Sylvan Lake has been approved by Avon-by-the-Sea Borough and is being reviewed by Bradley Beach Borough. Mr. Wooley further noted that a housing development planned across eighty acres of Ocean Township would include the destruction of 2000 trees. Lastly, he reported that the DLC and the Asbury Park Environmental Commission (APEC) are objecting to an NJ DOT proposal to remove trees near the Route 66/Route 35 traffic circle in Asbury Park. The DOT is planning to remove trees they believe to be rotting and/or storm damaged. The DOT has proposed replanting the trees they remove. DLC and APEC disagree with the DOT’s assessment of the condition of the trees.
 - c. **North Coast**—No report.
 - d. **Navesink Valley**—Mr. Kostka reported there will be an event on Sandy Hook to watch nesting and shorebirds on June 9th at 6pm, hosted by the Audubon Society. Colts Neck, Lincroft, Holmdel, and multiple other municipalities hosted an annual clean-up of public parks with much involvement of local community groups. The Monmouth County Park System’s Dorbrook Recreation Area is upgrading their popular Sprayground with new features as well as an improved water filtration and pumping system. Mr. Kostka also noted various “Ask a Naturalist” and Butterfly walk events to be hosted by the MCPS this summer.
 - e. **Pine Barren**— Mr. Huszar reported that Howell has been Blue-Star Certified by Clean Ocean Action. He also spoke of a new technology called SmartValve, which reduces air bubbles in the incoming water pipes to reduce the water bill and has already been successfully installed in a nearby hospital. Howell will also be hosting a town-wide “Stuff -Swap” this summer.
 - f. **Bayshore**—Ms. Karras reported that the Atlantic Highlands is participating in a feasibility study for an Army Corps of Engineers project to reduce flooding around Many Mind Creek. The northern Henry Hudson/Bayshore Trail has a construction start date for September. The proposed trail will reconstruct Superstorm Sandy damaged areas along the Bayshore from the Atlantic Highlands’ Municipal Harbor to Popamora Point.
8. **OUTREACH:** As a result of some discussion during the legislation and regional reports, Vice Chair Morrissey commented with appreciation on the emails staff sends out to keep all Council members informed of newsworthy topics, such as water quality testing results, et al, and upcoming events. The membership noted they sometimes forward these

emails to their local councils and broached the subject of possibly compiling them into one email sent out with some regularity (weekly, monthly, etc.). Staff will look into the possibility of an e-newsletter.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public were present.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by Vice-Chair Morrissey.

June 2, 2016

**South Coast Region Report
Wilma Morrissey**

Wall Township:

The Wall Township Environmental Committee was awarded the **EPA Champion Award** on May 13 in New York City for their project on producing a pictorial book entitled “Life in Wall Township: Past and Present”, which is a 35th Year Commemorative Heritage book. The book includes over 350 photographs, maps, documentation and illustrations covering all of the icons of Wall Township, including local plants and animals, water bodies, gardens, farms, and historic natural sites.

WTEAC Environmental Awards Ceremonies

26th Poster Awards Ceremony, Sunday, May 22, at Wall Municipal Complex at 12:30 p.m.

19th Poetry Awards Ceremony, Monday, May 23 at Wall Intermediate School at 9:15 a.m.

22nd Essay Awards Ceremony, Monday, May 23 at Wall High School at 12:40 p.m.

The Environmental Poster Competition covers grades 1 through 5 in four elementary schools; the Poetry Competition covers grades 6 through 8 at the Intermediate School; and the Essay Competition covers grades 9 through 12 at the High School

WTEAC Arbor Day Program on Saturday, May 14, 2016, , at 10:30 a.m.at **Sunnyside Manor.** The program included playing the piano board, singalongs, and book signing . A Cherry Tree, donated by Barlow’s was planted by Kevin Thompson, Shade Tree Commission, assisted by Freeholders Arnone and DiMaso, Wall Mayor Conte, Committeeman Hoffman and WTEAC members.

Lake Como:

The Lake Como Environmental Commission was awarded a **grant for the purchase of plants and shrubbery for a Butterfly garden.** The 2016 Open Space Stewardship Project is awarded in the amount of \$1,100 by ANJEC.

Manasquan:

Tide flood valves were installed by Public Works on Main Street near the bridge. The valves keep water from coming up through storm drains to help relieve flooding in the borough. This is a pilot project to see how well it works before the borough decides to put the additional valves in other areas of town.

Belmar:

The borough hosted Senate President Stephen Sweeney in an appearance for **promoting a bill that would ban smoking on all state beaches and parks** while establishing fines up to \$1000

for multiple offenses. Since 2014, Belmar has a ban on smoking on their beaches. The press conference was to discuss the proposed state ban which was vetoed by Governor Christie in September 2014.

Spring Lake:

Some 5th grade students appeared before the Spring Lake Council in May after having found some dead turtles in the lake and even more with hooks in their mouths. The **boys requested signs** be put up in the areas of the lake heavily populated with turtles warning fisherman of the turtle population and asking them to safely remove hooks from the turtles mouths if they do hook one. The Council agreed to post a sign warning fisherman about turtles due to a request by the boys to strive to save the lake's turtle population.

Navy plans 227-acre solar facility at Earle



[Shannon Mullen](#), @MullenAPP 4:20 p.m. EDT April 11, 2016

Facility would be larger than the one planned for Six Flags in Jackson.



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(Photo: file photo)

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The U.S. Navy intends to build a 32.8-megawatt solar facility at Naval Weapons Station Earle spanning 227 mostly wooded acres in Colts Neck and Tinton Falls, an ambitious energy plan that has caught environmentalists and some local officials off guard.

The size and output of the facility, which are only estimates at this point, dwarf the 21-megawatt solar array [recently approved for a 90-acre site at the Six Flags theme park](#) in Jackson. That project ran into a buzz saw of protests from environmental groups [opposed to the clear-cutting of nearly 15,000 trees](#) on the property.

EPA Region 2 Environmental Champion Awards

May 13, 2016 – Ted Weiss Federal Building

290 Broadway, New York City

Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee Award Winner



US EPA Region 2 Champion Award presented to Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey on behalf of the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

Left: Murray Fisher, Guest Speaker, Founder New York Harbor School; Secretary Ellen Smith, Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey and Judith Enck, Regional Administrator



Left:
Murray Fisher, Guest Speaker,
Founder New York Harbor School

Below:
Judith Enck (Regional Administrator)



"These individuals and organizations from across New Jersey are an inspiration, encouraging us to do our best to protect the environment every day."

Judith Enck



Plaque



Program



Committeeman Clint Hoffman, Chair Wilma Morrissey, Ellen Smith, and Judith Enck, Regional Administrator



Committeeman Hoffman, Wilma Morrissey, Ellen Smith

**Award Winning Book
Lobby Sign**

