

Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission
February 27, 2013
Meeting MINUTES **draft 3-5-13**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the ‘OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT’, because adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying the Manville News, the Courier News and the Star Ledger, and by posting notice of such meeting in the Borough Hall on a bulletin board reserved for such announcements and by filing of said notice with the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Manville. Formal Action may be taken at this meeting.”

ROLL CALL

Municipalities Present: Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County

Municipalities Absent: Bridgewater, Hillsborough, South Bound Brook

FLAG SALUTE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTION – Overview – Notes – Mr. Jurewicz

- The 2013 MEETING TIME: All meetings will start at 7:00pm.
- Workshop meeting March 16th at RVCC.
- Subcommittee meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm at the Manville Borough Hall.
- New Email address :
 - o rmrfcc <rmrfcc@manvillenj.org>
 - o rmrfcc <rmrfcc@gmail.com>
- Added to Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/RMR FCC>
- John Clydo and Councilman James Vassanella welcomed the Commission and thanked them for holding the meeting in Franklin Township.

PRESENTATION AND SPECIAL GUEST

Somerset county grant writer Denise Katula presentation and opportunities for the commission to go for grant funding:

Denise A. Katula, Grants Coordinator 
Somerset County Administrator’s Office
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262
T 908-231-7517
F 908-231-1740
www.co.somerset.nj.us

Denise gave a power point presentation, entitled, "Grants Overview" (see attached) which outlined a strategy plan for RMRFCC. The key points include the 3 Rs (Relationships, Research and wRiting).

Contacts & Relationships: include who is giving funds, ex: Corporate Giving Plans, Websites/Search Engines, such as Google.

Research: You can't get a grant if you don't know about it. Denise suggests someone be appointed to the research of available grants. Also, Funder's Priorities, or a "match" when researching for funds.

wRiting: She strongly urged the Committee to hire a Professional Grant Writer. Also, she suggested hiring one Grant Writer, not one per submission. Chairman F. Jurewicz noted that the Committee needs to be Grant Ready by preparing the many pieces of information required for an application. Also, some grants have a 30 day window to apply, so preparedness is essential.

Angela S Clerico of (*Natural Systems Utilities*) included additional ideas for potential funding sources.

Angela reflected on the last year for RMRFCC and agreed with Denise Katula that the Committee needs a sustainable plan. She suggested there be a defined Mission and a List of Projects, both as a group and for the individual towns. She also suggested web research to find resources and noted the Green Infrastructure Task Force of NJ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes: January, 2013 meeting. Minutes edited with the following changes:

1. The June meeting will be in Millstone, not Manville.
2. David.T.Gentile of the Army Corps of Engineers changed the numbers reported in his update. The funds received to date were 2.85 million, not 3.7 million with a remaining unspent balance of \$400,000.

Motion to approve based on the above changes: moved by Rocky Hill, 2nd by Manville. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Minutes Approved 7 – 0

Correspondence:

Email and Mail sent to the Commission from:

- Email to and from DEP about meeting.
- Email to and from RVCC about Workshop
- Email to Somerset County for Grant writing and OEM.

Note: Senators and Assembly are CC'd on these emails.

TRESURER'S REPORT (Kevin Sluka)

- 1) Claims for Payment: (none)
- 2) Income: \$250.00 Manville: Dues
- 3) Budget Encumbrances (RVCC encumbrance for 3/16 event- additional \$250.00 total \$1,000)
- 4) Donation of Gift to RMRFCC (none)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (Kevin Sluka)

The balance of the account as of February 26 is \$7,131.98. The February statement has not been received as of yet therefore this is not a reconciled balance.

Gail Smith has been added as a signatory to the account, as requested by the auditing firm.

Purchase Orders from Hillsborough & South Bound Brook has been received, payments pending:

2013 Payments or Purchase Orders are due from Montgomery, Rocky Hill, and Somerset County.

The following are paid: Bridgewater, Franklin, Manville, Millstone & Somerville

Motion to approve the Finance Report moved by Manville, 2nd by Franklin. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Approved 7 - 0

ANNUAL DUES

Checks or purchase orders can be sent to:

Mail checks to:
P.O. BOX 8736
Somerville, NJ, 08876

BUDGET REVIEW

The bank register has been e-mailed to all members on the Finance Committee and an updated spending budget has been e-mailed. The funds for the March 16th Workshop has been increased from \$750-\$1000.

Note: There will be a budget review approximately September 2013.

Motion to approve the updated spending budget moved by Rocky Hill, 2nd by Franklin. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Approved 7 - 0

RESOLUTIONS 2013 (see attached)

Motion to approve Resolution 13.2.1 support the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission that it does hereby request all State and Federal representatives with jurisdictions along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers assure the Commission that the necessary funding to complete the Millstone River Basin, N.J., Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study will be accomplished through the use of Super Storm Sandy assistance funds.

The Commission will review paragraph 6 of the resolution for accurate funds spent and still available. David.T.Gentile stated Federal funds at 1.362.281 and State at 1.491 million. Motion to approve with the review of funds information: moved by Manville, 2nd by Franklin. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Approved 7 - 0

Commission Secretary - LEGISLATIVE and COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(Dan Dixon)

Support

Status of letter to be sent to Federal and State representatives to encourage them to support the flood commission and the funding for the study by the Army Corps of Engineers with the funding from Sandy

Status on the creation of a letter template that can be used by residents to send to their Federal and State representatives to encourage them to support the flood commission and the funding for the study by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Status on setting up Meetings with our Congressmen and Senators in Washington to go over our needs and ask for their support to get funding for the study by the Army Corps of Engineers.(target date May/June)

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT (Carl Andreassen (not present))

Review the topic of interest to commission for the view of engineering:

Setting up overview presentation of count master plan and how it fit with the flood preparative plan. Setup up some point in 2013 (target May). Invite OEM to talk at the same meeting.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT - ARMY CORPS of ENGINEERS (7:30 pm)

Update and status report on study - David Gentile

David Gentile

Email: David.T.Gentile@usace.army.mil

Mail: 26 Federal Plaza, 21st Floor, Room 2127, New York, NY 10278.

David Gentile communicated that the NJDEP has no objection with him sharing information with the RMRFCC and providing the Committee with a working schedule of the year. There should be milestones by March 16th meeting, if he is available to attend the RVCC Workshop meeting. The Executive Committee communicated some information from the Feb. 12, 2013 meeting with a select group of representatives from the NJDEP. A good hour of the 2 ½ hr. meeting was spent on the Zarephath levee. Notes of importance: In 1947 the levee was 41 ft. In the year 2000, a survey also showed a height of 41 ft. The levee presently varies between 38 and 42 ft. Also, after a study by the County Board of Health, Zarephath was required to remove all dirty dirt and replace with clean dirt. They are also required to abandon a road that is on the property. There are 2 more phases. 1 is for planting which requires replacing removed trees, etc. with flood friendly trees and grass. 2. A final survey showing an exact height (consistently) at 41 ft. exactly. The DEP is open to a meeting with the executive board and hopefully with Army Corps in order to get questions answered and clarification on discrepancies in information received from the two entities. The Committee looks to review all minutes from previous meetings to verify information communicated and for its accuracy. Chairman Jurewicz asked that the minutes be voted on to confirm agreement or disagreement. The committee recognized the public concerns as to their witness of the Zarephath levee and wanted to communicate the DEP findings as well as regulations required for the levee. The committee shared that there is documentation of all activity on file with the County for public review.

OLD BUSINESS

- State creation of a flood task force updated to vote for approval. Motion to approve moved by Manville, 2nd by Franklin. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Approved 7-0
- Status of Raritan to join the Commission in 2013.
Committee asked if there was an official invitation based on an email to Chairman Jurewicz. Motion to invite Raritan Township as members of the RMRFCC moved by Manville, 2nd by Franklin. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 7 Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County. Nays 0. Approved 7-0
- Webpage – Setting up meeting with the county, host our webpage and email accounts? The site needs a backend server. The meeting with the county is to get it at no cost.
- Funding – alternate funding for the commission (Grant writer). Chairman requested a volunteer to act as lead for a Grant Writing Committee. He requested a response by March 16th.
- Work shop overview at RVCC. The 1st draft for the Workshop Agenda was provided by the Chairman. See attached copy.
- Goal and objectives for 2013
 - To be official
 - Have official stationary.
 - Letter head with address and representatives of the Commission.
 - Envelopes with return address.
 - Official business cards for executive board.
 - Official website.
 - Official phone number.
 - Official spokesperson for the Commission. This way we can send one message. Example would include press releases and interviews.
 - What is our objective for 2013?
 - How to implement our plan to accomplish our objectives?
 - What is our message?
 - How do we get our message heard?
 - Can we get people to act from our message?
 - Build a working relationship with our representative.

Chairman Jurewicz requested ideas for logo, letterhead and business card designs. Looking ahead to the future, the Committee will plan ahead for larger events and hope to have bigger draw, such as a Weather Channel Representative.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recommendation for appointments
 - Web page
 - Grant writer?
 - Committee members

PUBLIC PORTION: 9:27 pm - Motion to Open Public Comment; moved by Manville 2nd by Rocky Hill

1. Mike Chavra, Manville, N.J. Questions why the \$9 billion designated for flooding events is only going to Sandy.
2. Bob Kaminski, 10 Liberty Street, Manville, N.J. Voices his concern of the weir causing low water flooding, which leads to high water flooding.
3. Russ Skirkinsak, Manville, thanked the commission for their efforts and is sending Congress a letter as a citizen in support of the Committee's goals.
4. Rich Onderko, 921 Louis Street, Manville, N.J. Asked for more specific information on the NJDEP meeting of 2/12/13. He also wanted to offer photos of the Zarephath levee over the time that he has witnessed the events on the property.
5. Danny Grecco, Manville, N.J., Offered concerns about corrugated pipes that were being installed on the Zarephath property. Committee explained they existed on the 1947 information source.
6. Linda Kellner, Manville, N.J. Expressed concerns as to the Zarephath activity and the DEP's awareness of everything occurring on the property.

Public Comment ended 9:33 pm.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

John Clydo thanked the Board for having Franklin host the meeting. The goal of the committee moving forward is to reach as many people as possible and work toward be prepared to acquire grants through a Grant Writing Committee.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to Adjourn moved by Franklin, 2nd by Manville. Unanimous 7 Aye vote to Adjourn 9:35 pm

CJShaw
Carmella Shaw
Recording Secretary
RMRFCC

Date: _____2/5/13_____

**RESOLUTION OF THE
RARITAN AND MILLSTONE RIVERS
FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, as a result of the record flooding on the Raritan and Millstone Rivers caused by Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commenced a Reconnaissance Report; and

WHEREAS, the Reconnaissance Report recommended that a larger, more detailed study of flooding be done; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002 commenced a \$6,800,000 study called, Millstone River Basin, N.J., Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, there has been seven (7) disaster declarations due to flooding in the Raritan and Millstone Basin; and

WHEREAS, four of the top six floods of record on the Raritan and Millstone Rivers have occurred in 1999, 2007, 2010, and 2011; and

WHEREAS, the study commenced in 2002 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now 11 years in progress and only \$3,846,719 has been funded to date of the original cost of \$6,800,000; and

WHEREAS, communities along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers were also declared disaster areas as a result of the Super Storm Sandy and are eligible for funding assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is extremely important that the Millstone River Basin, N.J., Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study be completed before other studies are funded with Super Storm Sandy Aid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission that it does hereby request all State and Federal representatives with jurisdictions along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers assure the Commission that the necessary funding to complete the Millstone River Basin, N.J., Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study will be accomplished through the use of Super Storm Sandy assistance funds; and

RMR FCC

Resolution 13.2.1

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to: Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Rush Holt, Congressman Leonard Lance, Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman, Assemblyman Jack M. Ciattarelli, Assemblywoman Donna M. Simon, Senator Bob Smith, Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula, Assemblyman Joseph V. Egan, Senator Mike Doherty, Assemblyman John DiMaio, and Assemblyman Eric Peterson.

Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control
Commission

By: _____
Frank Jurewicz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Workshop on Flood Mitigation & Hazard Reduction Now

Raritan-Millstone Flood Commission
Saturday March 16, 2013
Raritan Valley Community College
Conference Center Rooms A/B/C
118 Lamington Road
Branchburg, New Jersey
Directions and Map: <http://www.raritanval.edu/about/directions.html>

A light lunch will be provided, so RSVP!

RSVP

Email to: Sara Malone: simalone@ejb.rutgers.edu

Or Call: Judy Shaw: 848-932-2711

Flood Mitigation and Hazard Reduction Now

Panelists will address:

- All aspects of flooding and how to reduce impacts in the region
- How to integrate natural systems into flood hazard reduction
- Why we need to implement low-tech solutions
- Setting regional goals

Program:

9:00-9:30 Registration & coffee (courtesy of the Commission)

9:30 Introduction of the Flood Commission
 The Physics of Water, a demonstration by Dr. Paul Leath, Rutgers

9:45 Panel #1: Before
 Dr. Judy Shaw, Rutgers, Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy

Planning and Public Engagement in Flood Mitigation

Dr. David Robinson, State Climatologist

Weather in New Jersey – what it is, what it means

John Miller, PE, CFM, Association of Floodplain Managers of New Jersey

Support Your Local Code Official – the Key to Mitigation

Jim Waltman, ED, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association

What Your Neighbors Are Doing to Reduce their Flood Risk

10:45

Panel #2: Low Tech Solutions

Mark Gallagher, VP, Princeton Hydro, Moderator

Bill McDonnell, FEMA

Why and How the FEMA Community Rating System Matters to You

Dr. Chris Obropta, PE, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

The Low-Tech Track to CRS

Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco PE, CFM, Tetra Tech

Community Role in Developing the Somerset County Hazard Plan

Alec McCartney, NJDEP Forestry Program

Trees: the Best Friends a Flood-Prone Place Ever Had

12:00

Lunch and movie

1:00

Panel #3: Partnerships

Joe Ruggeri, NJDEP, Moderator

Alicia Gould, PE, US Army Corps of Engineers

USACE Timeline and Federal Perspectives

Michael Foley, FEMA

Partnering with FEMA

Clay Emerson, PE, Princeton Hydro

Managing Stormwater Part II

Kerry Miller, ANJEC

Partnering with your Environmental Commission

2:00

Q&A

2:45

Flood Commission Wrap Up

3:00

Adjourn