

**MINUTES
RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2014**

Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Secretary McCarthy read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

“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.”

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

Municipalities Absent: Bridgewater, Raritan, South Bound Brook

Everyone present participated in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence led by Chairman Jurewicz.

INTRODUCTION - OVERVIEW NOTES

Chairman Jurewicz announced the current contact information for the Commission.

He announced the March meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2014 in Rocky Hill at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Jurewicz announced the 2014 Commission Officers:

Frank Jurewicz (Manville)	Chairman
Dan Dixon (Millstone)	Vice Chairman
Kevin Sluka (Somerville)	Treasurer
Alison Whitman (Millstone)	Commission Secretary
Scott Thomas (Franklin)	1 st Trustee
Gail Smith (Montgomery)	2 nd Trustee

Chairman Jurewicz announced the 2014 Paid Positions:

Ann Marie McCarthy	Recording Secretary/Webpage Administrator
David Singer	Board Attorney

2014 CALENDAR

Chairman Jurewicz reviewed the 2014 Calendar:

Month	Date	Location/Time	Topic
January	01/22/14	Manville/7:00 p.m.	Reorganization Meeting
February	02/26/14	Hillsborough/7:00 p.m.	Army Corp/NJDEP
March	03/26/14	Rocky Hill/7:00 p.m.	Web Page/Public Relations
April	04/23/14	Manville/7:00 p.m.	NJDEP Presentation
May	05/28/14	Hillsborough/7:00 p.m.	Dukes Farms
June	06/25/14	Franklin/7:00 p.m.	
July	No Meeting		
August	No Meeting		
September	09/24/14	Manville/7:00 p.m.	Year/Project Plan Overviews
October	10/22/14	*Raritan/7:00 p.m.	Target Hits & Misses
November	No Meeting		
December	12/17/14	Somerset Cnty. /7:00 pm	Budget Meeting

2014 BUDGET

Chairman Jurewicz referred to the adopted 2014 Budget, as adopted at the December 2013 meeting:

Proposed Budget 2014	2013	2014
Date 12/5/13		
Total Surplus Anticipated	3,500.00	5,020.00
Miscellaneous Revenues:		
Dues	6,500.00	6,500.00
Interest	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues:	10,000.00	11,520.00
Appropriations:		
Salaries	0.00	0.00
Secretarial Services/Doc. Writer	1,400.00	2,800.00
Office Supplies	50.00	150.00
Legal Advertising	350.00	250.00
Audit	300.00	600.00
Legal Services	800.00	800.00
Educational Seminars	750.00	750.00
Meeting Expenses	100.00	100.00
Copies	50.00	120.00
Mileage	50.00	50.00
Postage	150.00	200.00
Contingency	200.00	200.00

	Public Relations	500.00	1,000.00
	IT/Computer	0.00	0.00
	Web	1,300.00	250.00
	Subscription & Dues	0.00	0.00
	Grant Projects (Grant Writer/Lobbyist)	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Insurance	0.00	250.00
	Prior Year Bills	0.00	0.00
Total:		10,000.00	11,520.00

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Hillsborough, seconded by Montgomery to approve the January 22, 2014 minutes of the Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission. Said motion carried as follows upon call of the roll:

Ayes: Franklin, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Somerville, Somerset County
 Nays: None
 Abstain: Rocky Hill
 Absent: Bridgewater, Raritan, South Bound Brook

Correspondence Received:

The following correspondence was received by the Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission via email and/or regular mail:

- Email received from the Army Corp of Engineers
- Correspondence sent to Senator Cory Booker dated January 29, 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sluka reported there was no Treasurer's Report at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Finance Committee Report:

- The balance of the account as of February 21, 2014 is \$6,827.75
- 2013 Tax Documents 1099 Misc & 1096 submittals were sent. Contractual entities were sent required forms.
- Invoices have been sent to all participating municipalities.
- Please touch base with your municipality to ensure that membership invoices were received and are being processed.

- A funding request will be sent to Somerset County.
- Proposal for Auditor will be drafted and sent out.

A motion was made by Rocky Hill to accept the aforesaid Finance Committee Report. Said motion was seconded by Franklin and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

VICE CHAIRPERSON/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice Chairperson Dixon presented the following Legislative Committee Report:

- Primary Goal is to get legislators to listen to Commission (Senator Booker, Local and State Representatives, ACE and NJDEP)
- The Commission will continue correspondence with supporting Legislation and seek further contact with our Senators and Governor. The board is open to meeting in Washington to express their dedication to the completion of the US Army Corps of Engineers study and to mitigate the flooding in Somerset County.

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following members were nominated for appointment in February to be on the Engineering Committee: Scott Thomas (Franklin); Tom Belanger (Hillsborough); and Gail Smith (Montgomery); Carl Andreassen (Somerset County).

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Whitman presented the following report:

- Website is coming along. The Commission lost the intern and is now asking for volunteers for writing the content. Pictures are needed for the webpage. The launch date is tentatively May.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT - ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Robert Greco, Project Manager presented the following monthly status report:

- NJDEP requested additional information on the project on January 2, 2014 in order to present the information to NJDEP Commissioner Martin. I am not certain when the meeting with Commissioner Martin will be held.
- As I stated in my prior email status sent to your attention on December 9, 2013, the plan sheets for each alternative, summary write-up for each alternative, economic analysis and costs were previously sent to NJDEP on December 3, 2013 for review.
- I will do a status review at the project plans sent to the NJDEP at the February meeting.

- The NJDEP is still reviewing plans and the internal NJDEP meeting is scheduled for March 4th. It is at that time the economic analysis, specifications and the cost of each plan will be released. At that time, it will be sent to the Governor's Office.

PRESENTATION AND SPECIAL GUEST

Kevin Watsey, Bob Schaeffer and other representatives of NJ American Water made a presentation regarding flood control measures to protect the reliability of water service for more than 1 million people in seven counties:

The Need

- Resiliency measures are needed to protect NJ American Water's largest water treatment plant against flooding from extreme weather events.
- The Raritan Millstone Water Treatment Plant (RMWTP) is a regional source of water supply serving more than one million people in seven counties.
- Water supply is also provided to five large Public Water Systems and two Critical Regional Emergency Interconnections for the cities of Newark and Trenton.

The Challenge

- The existing earthen berms and flood wall were installed in 2001 following the inundation from Tropical Storm Floyd (September 1999),
- The elevation of the existing earthen berm and flood wall are 48 feet NAVD88.
- The plant endured two major storm events within a 12-year period.
- Hurricane Irene was a one in 100-year recurrence interval storm. The RMWTP operated during Hurricane Irene's flooding (August 2011) with less than an inch to spare.
- Tropical Storm Floyd was a one in 130-year recurrence interval storm.

Proposed Solution

- NJ American Water proposes to raise the existing earthen berm and flood wall perimeter by four feet to an elevation of 48 feet NAVD88 to protect against the one in 500 year storm.
- If the flood wall were raised four feet, the impact to the surrounding water surface elevation during a 500-year flood would be minimal (approx. 1.3 inches).

Key Milestones/Project Costs

- Detailed design commenced: October 2013.
- Anticipate construction start: November 2014.
- Target completion of construction: October 2015.
- Total estimated project cost: \$25 million.
- Total estimated regional economic losses if RMWTP is inundated: greater than \$1.8 billion.

There was a question and discussion period by the Commission. Chairman Jurewicz spoke of proposed grant projects to work with in conjunction of NJ American Water regarding a

cleanup of the Raritan River from the Finderne Bridge to the Point and to set up a live cam, water meter and weather station at the Point.

OLD BUSINESS

- Go over Goals and Objectives for 2014.
- Setup a meeting with the County for the yearly funding request (tentatively set for April 22, 2014).
- Reach out to Branchburg to join Commission.
- Status on the State Flood Commission

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to appoint Public Relation Firm

Chairman Jurewicz proposed the awarding of a contract for a public relations firm, Rebecca Perkins, The Perkins Partnership to create a presentation/script (4 types) to be presented to Mayors, State/Federal Legislators, the Public and the County. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the process to award a contract and the contract details.

A motion was made by Somerville to award a professional services agreement to The Perkins Partnership for public relation services in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Said presentation will have four scripts: Mayors; County; Public and State/Federal Legislators. Said motion was seconded by Rocky Hill and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

- Present to Freeholders on April 22nd.
- Letter to Federal Representative for funding project for 2014.
 - Setup a meeting to talk to our representatives in Washington.
- Letter to Representatives on the Sandy relief funding for buyout. Cindy Randazzo (Director - Office of Local Government Assistance)
- Setup meeting to present our point of view of the 3 plans with our State Representatives, NJDEP and Army Corp of Engineers.
- American Water Grants
 - Cleanup Raritan River (Finderne Bridge to the Point)
 - Setup live cam, water meter and weather station at the point.

PUBLIC PORTION

A motion was made to open the meeting to the public by Rocky Hill. Said motion was seconded by Somerville and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Chairperson Jurewicz announced that the meeting was open to the public.

Richard Onderko, Manville, asked several questions regarding proposed NJDEP plans and they were addressed.

Jeff Baldwin spoke of elevation shots throughout the County. The Quarry in Hillsborough was discussed in regards to being a flood storage site, the impact it could have on flooding. There are proposed plans to donate 60 acres to Hillsborough and to sell the remainder to a developer. It is scheduled to be discussed at a Planning Board meeting.

There being no further comments from the public, a motion was made by Rocky Hill, seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

RESOLUTION

Chairperson Jurewicz presented the following resolution for consideration by the Commission:

RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission is a significant coordinating agency for this region as people deal with the challenges of change; and

WHEREAS, the Raritan River is a CRITICAL asset to the region and to the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission; and

WHEREAS, stormwater runoff poses a significant contribution to flooding, solid waste and pollution in the streets of the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member county and municipalities, and further damages the Raritan River; and

WHEREAS, practices to reduce stormwater runoff and prevent future pollution are known and could be applied for the benefit of the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member management operations, and the residents of its communities; and

WHEREAS, properties that are deemed brownfields because they are contaminated, abandoned or underutilized, detract from the economic vitality of active businesses, and need attention to be remediated and returned to valued uses; and

WHEREAS, redevelopment should provide economic benefits without further damaging and, ideally, restoring the ecology of the Raritan River and the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member county and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the overall restoration and protection of the watershed area that provides water to the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member county and municipalities and the Raritan River should be promoted; and

WHEREAS, the goals of restoration, rehabilitation and regeneration of compromised areas of publicly owned land will benefit present and future residents of the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member county and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the best management practices for habitat enhancement in the maintenance and management of open space are available and when applied would benefit many departments of the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member governments, and the quality of life of all its constituents; and

WHEREAS, protecting and preserving habitat and biodiversity in the Raritan River ecosystem will provide recreational and natural assets to the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission's member county and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, upgrades to the Raritan River public access points are desirable and the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission values planning and development of future public access points and recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, it would benefit the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission and its constituents to increase awareness and use of the Raritan River via local access points and trails; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Raritan River Action Plan encourages improvements in all of these areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the members of the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission that the Raritan Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission supports in concept the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, and will work as an active member of the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative to promote efforts to restore and protect the Raritan River in accordance with the goals as outlined in the Sustainable Raritan River Action Plan.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by Manville, seconded by Somerville and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Millstone to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Montgomery and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Recording Secretary

March 29, 2014