

**MINUTES**  
**RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION**  
**September 30, 2014**

Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Secretary McCarthy read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Meeting of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission was made by the posting on the bulletin boards in the participating municipalities and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers, a list of dates, annually, indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Manville Borough Hall, Council Chambers, 325 North Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835 on Tuesday, September 30, 2014. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk in the Township of Franklin.”

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

**Municipalities Absent:** Bridgewater, Raritan, Rocky Hill, 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 location of the October meeting scheduled for October 22, 2014 has been changed to Montgomery Township, 2261 Van Horne Road, Route 206, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 at 7:00 p.m.

NJ American Water presented a \$10,000 Environmental Grant to the Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission to be used for a flood webcam and weather station.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Franklin to approve the June 25, 2014 minutes, as submitted. Said motion was seconded by Somerville and carried as follows upon call of the roll:

Ayes: Hillsborough, Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Somerville, Somerset County

Nays: None  
Absent: Bridgewater, Raritan, Rocky Hill, South Bound Brook

**Correspondence**

Chairman Jurewicz reported on a press release dated September 30, 2014 regarding the Superstorm Sandy Blue Acres Acquisition Meeting to be held on October 14, 2014 for more than 100 homeowners in the Borough of Manville who have been approved for the state’s Blue Acres Acquisition Program. It is an informational meeting, open only to invited homeowners who will be provided with details on the buyout program and be matched with case managers who will work with them throughout the process.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Treasurer’s Report:

- 1) Claims for Payment:
  - a) Vella, Singer, Martinez - \$160.00 – Check #138
  - b) Ann Marie McCarthy - \$600.00 – Check #139 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
- 2) Income: \$5,250.00 (\$5,000 from Somerset County, \$250 from Franklin Township)
- 3) Budget Encumbrances: None
- 4) Donation of Gift to RMR FCC: None

The aforesaid Treasurer’s Report was accepted upon motion by Hillsborough, seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Finance Committee Report:

The balance of the account as of September 29, 2014 is \$9,706.05.

All dues are paid.

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

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Dixon made the following report:

- Recommended the Commission be more aggressive in setting up a meeting with their representatives. He stated help is needed to confirm a meeting with Senator Booker. It was noted that they are close to getting on his calendar.

## ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

No report was given at this time.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commendations were presented to be sent to Congressman Holt and State Senator Bateman for their support over the past three years in helping the Commission attain its goals.

Ms. Whitman asked for volunteers for committees to help in attending local events, such as Canal Fest in East Millstone.

Chairman Jurewicz suggested a poll question be posted on the Commission's Facebook page. He spoke of reaching out to Rutgers for additional interns to help with the flood data from each municipality.

## YEARLY STATUS REPORT – ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Robert Greco and staff from the Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the alternatives in connection with the Millstone River Basin Flood Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration Study in response to the flooding from Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999. The following alternatives were immediately ruled out as options: Levee/Floodwall in Manville, NJ and Channel Modifications to the Raritan River as their benefit/cost ratios do not meeting the requirements for federal funding.

An overview was provided regarding the Non-structural Plans – 50-year flood plain and 10-year flood plain. Even though these two alternatives also do not meet the required benefit/cost ratio, the Army Corps of Engineers is continuing to review these plans and divide them into 8 smaller categories with the results being presented at the December Commission meeting.

John H. Mole, P.E., NJDEP, Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control spoke on the following press release:

### **"IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 30, 2014

**Contact:** Lawrence Ragonese (609) 292-2994

Lawrence Hajna (609) 984-1795

Bob Considine (609) 984-1795

Joe Seldner (609) 984-1795

## **CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES SUPERSTORM SANDY BLUE ACRES ACQUISITION MEETING IN MANVILLE**

*BUYOUTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED SO FAR BY 320 HOMEOWNERS IN SIX TOWNS, WITH 175 CLOSINGS COMPLETED*

**(14/P106) TRENTON** – The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold a kickoff meeting for more than 100 homeowners in Manville who have been approved for the state’s Blue Acres acquisition program, Commissioner Bob Martin announced.

The informational meeting, open only to invited homeowners, will be held on October 14. Residents will be provided with details on the buyout program and be matched with case managers who will work with them throughout the process.

The Superstorm Sandy Blue Acres Program, which was launched in May 2013, purchases homes from willing sellers at pre-Sandy market values and allows participants the opportunity to rebuild their lives after the devastation of the storm outside of flood-prone areas. The homes identified for purchase in Manville include some which were flooded by Hurricane Irene and other storms prior to Sandy.

“The Christie Administration is very happy that the Blue Acres buyout program is expanding to Manville,” said Commissioner Martin. “The Governor’s pledge to help residents in flood-prone neighborhoods move out of harm’s way and restart their lives is being realized in several communities throughout the state. Our goal remains to get as many families out of harm’s way as possible.”

Manville joins Sayreville, South River, Woodbridge, East Brunswick, Lawrence, Newark, Old Bridge and Linden as a flood-ravaged community that will benefit from the Christie Administration’s federally funded buyout effort, which is seeking to purchase as many as 1,300 homes in flood-damaged and flood-threatened areas, to get residents out of harm’s way and create natural buffers to protect against future storm events.

So far, 320 homeowners have accepted buyouts offered in the Blue Acres program. DEP has closed on purchases of 175 homes, and 71 homes have been demolished.

Manville Blue Acres home buyouts will be funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, administered by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the DEP Blue Acres Program.

In addition to FEMA, post-Sandy Blue Acres buyouts are funded through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery grants, with additional funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service and the state Green Acres Program

The DEP has created a special team for its Blue Acres Buyout Program to work closely with sellers and process their applications as quickly as possible. The team reaches out to individual homeowners personally and guides them through the acquisition process.

Homeowners interested in selling their homes or who have questions about the buyout program may contact the DEP’s Blue Acres Program at (609) 984-0500.

For more information on the Blue Acres Program, visit: [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/blue\\_flood\\_ac.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/blue_flood_ac.html)

For information on Sandy Recovery, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/>."

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

A motion was made by Millstone, seconded by Somerville to open the public portion of the meeting.

The following residents spoke on their concerns regarding flooding as it related to their property and their municipality:

- Dan Greco, 704 Lincoln Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Rich Onderko, 921 Louis Street, Manville, NJ 08835
- Bruce Gillette, 125 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Olga Zacharko, 1324 Gress Street, Manville, NJ 08835
- Sandy Charneski, 1302 Gress Street, Manville, NJ 08835
- Frank (inaudible), 622 Boesel Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Angela Martin, 663 Huff Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Kevin Kellner, 631 Boesel Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835

A motion was made by Millstone, seconded by Somerville to close the public portion of the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

David Singer, Attorney for the Commission, explained the need for the Commission to apply for a 501(c)(4) non-profit status. This was discussed with Somerset County who approved the moving ahead of said designation. Mr. Singer explained the application process which will result in the Commission having its own tax id number, bank account, resulting in its independence. A vote on this matter will take place at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on the need for Senator Booker to attend meeting and to tour Manville in order to really see the Borough's needs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Sluka spoke on the current Rain Garden and Barrel programs and the need in 2015 to expand these programs to municipalities outside the initial towns in the program.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

A motion was made by Millstone, seconded by Hillsborough to open the public portion of the meeting.

Additional comments and concerns regarding flooding problems in Manville were spoken by the following:

- Sandy Charneski, 1302 Gress Street, Manville, NJ 08835
- Linda Marshalek, 59 Boesel Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Benedict Pankowski, 402 Huff Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835
- Rich Onderko, 921 Louis Street, Manville, NJ 08835

A motion was made by Millstone, seconded by Somerville to close the public portion of the meeting.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Jim Waltman, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association commented on the open space referendum question on the upcoming November ballot.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Montgomery to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy  
Recording Secretary