

**MINUTES**  
**RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2015**

Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 on December 16, 2015. 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 and 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 reviewed the contact information for the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission. He announced the next meeting is the 2016 Reorganization Meeting on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> in Manville.

Chairman Jurewicz asked that letters be sent to Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, Assemblywoman Donna Simon and Senator Christopher Bateman thanking them for their support of the Commission.

**PUBLIC PORTION – Agenda Items Only**

A motion was made by Somerville, seconded by Hillsborough to open the meeting to the public. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Somerset County Freeholder Patricia Walsh asked the Commission if they have redeveloped their mission statement and asked for the status of their goals moving forward. She stated that it is difficult to ask the municipalities and the County for funding when the Commission is unclear of its future. She suggested a moratorium of dues until the Commission’s vision and mission statement have been redeveloped.

Chairman Jurewicz replied the Commission’s mission statement is the same without the Army Corps of Engineers project. He stated that the Commission’s mission is to assist in preventative flooding measures and to be proactive in obtaining grants in the elevation of homes and to educate the residents of these grant programs.

Mr. Sluka spoke on his shared concern with Freeholder Walsh, stating that the governing bodies of the participating municipalities are beginning to question what they are receiving for the dues memberships. He spoke on the assistance of elevation of homes in Manville, noting that it is a role of local government. He questioned if the Commission has become an advocacy group. He also questioned the need of next year's funding. He stated that if the County becomes uninvested with the Commission, the municipalities will follow. He stated this will be a hard discussion and noted that the Commission has value as an advocacy group. He questioned Manville's need and suggested they may need a grant writer. He stated that the Commission could serve a similar function to the Somerset County Business Partnership and provide letters of support to municipalities applying for grants in connection with flooding.

Chairman Jurewicz stated the goals and vision are the same in regards to flooding. He stated they may not have millions of dollars, but they can move forward with smaller projects. He suggested lowering the dues to its original amount. He stated the Commission needs to get more focused on small projects similar to Duke Farms and Rutgers, for example rain barrels and education. He stated they need to find ways to help those who want to elevate their homes, put a how to apply for these grants; how to prevent flooding; what to do when flooded on the website. He spoke of the concept of collecting flood data and providing it to local and county OEMs.

Freeholder Walsh stated that some of these programs are already being done by other organizations. She asked what is the Commission doing to distinguish itself from other organizations and commissions. She noted that the Commission is not a non-profit organization.

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on river flooding, OEMs and mirroring other Flood Commissions. He spoke on more in-depth data provided through Rutgers' system software that can be provided to OEMs. Mr. Sluka added that the gauge and its data are tangible and the Commission needs to find tangible projects to continue.

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on smaller municipalities not having the same resources as larger municipalities. He spoke on the purpose of the Commission shall be to foster the design, construction and long-term mitigation for the effective flood control measures for the prevention and alleviation of flooding within the basins of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, State of New Jersey through actions in the following priority areas: **Communication:** Maintain a system for the collection of information on history of flooding in the basins. A program for promoting the necessity for effective flood control measures shall be developed and include both the written and verbal form; **Legislation:** The Commission shall promote, review and comment on legislation affecting the basins and flooding issues in general and **Policy:** The Commission shall encourage and assist the appropriate public, private, federal, state and local agencies to develop in all areas affecting flooding including, but not limited to the following: standards, program, funding and organization.

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on the Commission's two-year audit and in clarifying its tax status. He stated that over the next 12 months the Commission will be defining its goals and objectives and looking at smaller projects rather than a large project. He stated that the Commission will be working on cameras & gauges; proper resources for flooding and how to help people in elevating their homes. He stated that they will be working with the contacts, such as Rutgers, RVCXC, local OEMs and tying all their information together. He asked that the Commission be given one year to see if they will move forward or have run its course. He thanked Freeholder Walsh and Somerset County for their support.

A motion was made by Somerville, seconded by Franklin to close the meeting to the public. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Franklin to approve the minutes of October 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Montgomery and carried upon voice vote.

**Community Survey Non-Response**

Ms. McCarthy spoke on the non-response of governing body members in regards to the Community Survey. She noted that only Franklin has responded and the reason why is because she put them in their meeting folders and they gave them back to her at the meeting. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to re-send it out to the officials in January. Chairman Jurewicz added that the Commission can update its presentation and go to the participating municipalities to present to them what the Commission is and distribute to survey in connection to the presentation.

**Vote on Approving 2016 Meeting Schedule**

The following proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule was discussed and will be formally adopted at its Reorganization Meeting:

<b><u>Month – 2016</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
January	01/27/16	Manville – 7 p.m.	Reorganization
February	02/24/16	Hillsborough – 7 p.m.	Audit, Tax Review
March	03/23/16	Franklin – 7 p.m.	Army Corps. Report
April	No Meeting	*****	*****
May	05/25/16	Town – 7 p.m.	
June	06/18/16 (Sat.) or 06/22/16 (Wed.)	Town – 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.	Water Conservation Day (Rutgers)
July	No Meeting	*****	*****
August	08/24/16	Town – 7 p.m.	
September	09/28/16	Manville – 7 p.m.	Yearly Review
October	10/26/16	Town – 7 p.m.	
November	No Meeting	*****	*****
December	12/14/16 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.)	County Bldg. – 7 p.m.	Budget/End of Year

The February location in Hillsborough was contingent on hearing back from Hillsborough as to the availability of the meeting room. Chairman Jurewicz asked for locations for the May, August and October meetings.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Treasurer’s Report:

- 1) Claims for Payment
  - a) Vella, Singer, Martinez - \$200.00 – Check #160

- b) United States Post Office - \$159.00 – Check #158
- c) Ann Marie McCarthy – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - \$600.00 – Check #159
- 2) Income – None
- 3) Budget Encumbrances – None
- 4) Donation of Gift to RMR FCC (None)

A motion was made by Hillsborough to approve the aforesaid Treasurer’s Report. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Finance Committee Report:

- The balance of the account as of approval of the aforesaid payments is \$8,921.14 as of December 16, 2015. Mr. Sluka noted that payment has not yet been received by Montgomery Township and Somerset County. He noted he would follow up.
- A motion was made by Hillsborough to authorize payment to Suplee, Clooney & Company to complete the Commission’s 2-Year Audit for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Said motion was seconded by Manville and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.
- The motion regarding sending out 2016 Invoices was held until further discussion.
- A motion was made by Millstone to authorize payment to Nick Stefano for the installation of the weather station for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. Said motion was seconded by Manville and carried unanimously upon call of the roll. It was suggested that a flyer regarding the installation be send to local police departments and OEM offices.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

It was directed that an invitation to Assemblyman-Elect Andrew P. Zwicker be sent inviting him to the Commission’s Reorganization Meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that the Commission as it moves forward become more aggressive in obtaining funding through grants.

**ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Jurewicz stated that when the Army Corps of Engineers Report is received, it will be sent to the Engineering Committee for their review.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Jurewicz stated the Commission needs to be more proactive with its website. He stated that in regards to publicity, the Commission needs to reach out to the towns with an updated presentation. Mr. DeRochi stated he could update the presentation.

**PRESENTATION/SPECIAL GUEST**

Dr. David A. Robinson, Professor, Department of Geography, NJ State Climatologist, Rutgers University made a presentation regarding the on the concept of Raritan Basin wide weather stations database to help with alerting during heavy rains and the proposal to put up two more station on the Raritan and Millstone rivers in 2016 to start the process of basin wide view for weather and rain.

The presentation included how weather data is collected. If the Commission works with Rutgers is would be an asset to have centralized data. A discussion ensued regarding what to do in an event; who gets notified and who monitors the gauges. Somerset County stated the data from the rain gauges helps to see what is happening, what the climate is and how to prepare. The River Forecast Center is available to the public. There is a working relationship with the National Weather and the State Climate groups.

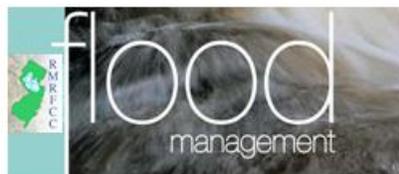
### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 2016 Goals & Objectives

Chairman Jurewicz made the following presentation:

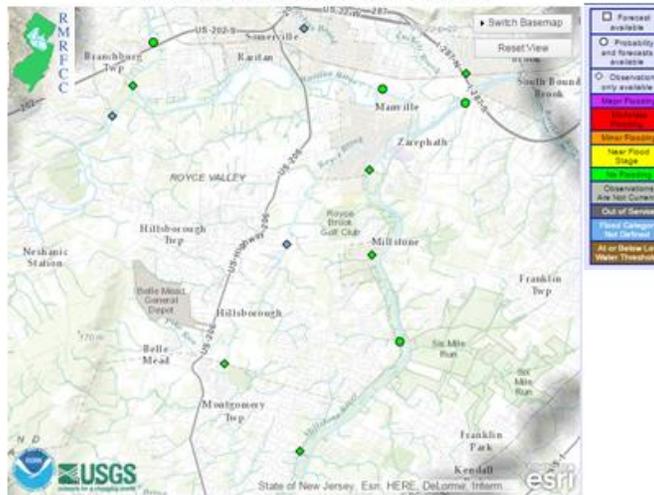
### Raritan Basin Sensor & Monitoring Project

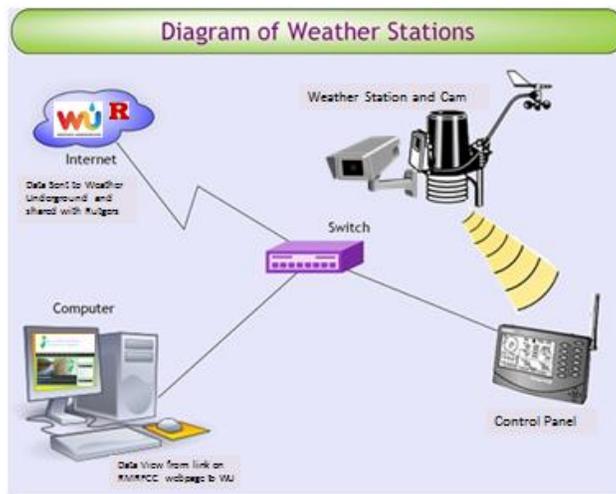
Monitor, Alert & track Basin-wide the:





River Level gauges location along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers





View from our first camera and weather station  
At the confluents of the Raritan & Millstone Rivers  
The Point



### Cost per s

- The cost for each station including Weather station
- The cost of installation is based on how close you add solar power the cost will go up.
- The quotes that were given to us show the cost station setup. To do the first 6 stations, we would \$20,000



The additional option is to work with Rutgers to look into deploying River and stream sensors on bridge along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers.



The first stream sensor developed by IFC researchers and students was installed on Raiston Creek in Iowa City.

The sensor is placed on the side of bridges and uses a sonar signal to measure the distance from the water surface to the sensor. The sensor battery is charged with a solar panel and data is transmitted via a cell modem to the IFC website where the data is publicly available. Data from the sensor, and other known parameters at each site, are used to determine stream flow and thus flood stage.

This was deployed in Iowa after devastating flooding in 2008. One of the lessons learned from this was current gauging stations do not provide sufficient data for real-time flood forecasting. Traditional stream gauges are expensive — with costly infrastructure, equipment, and maintenance — and it is not feasible to place them on all of the many small streams and rivers. This stream sensor project has helped mitigate this problem with the development of an affordable monitoring system to supplement data from other sources and to collect up-to-the-minute data on numerous streams and river bridge crossings.



## The Goal of the Raritan Basin River and Stream Sensor and monitoring project:



### Monitoring The Raritan Basin's Rivers and Streams in Real-time

The severe flooding in the Raritan Basin over the past 15 years demonstrated the need for more extensive monitoring of the state's rivers and streams in real time. To address this, the RMRFCC and Rutgers need to develop and maintain a statewide network of river and stream stage sensors designed to measure water height and weather conditions transmitting data automatically and frequently to a central data base at Rutgers and NJ State Climatology Center (A Flood Information System ) <http://climate.rutgers.edu/stateclim/> and provide information to the County and Municipal OEM Systems to alert possible flooding and track trends to help prevent flooding.



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A discussion ensued regarding this presentation and the need to coordinate with the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management. Freeholder Walsh suggested that this concept should have been discussed with Somerset County and Somerset County OEM prior to this presentation. She stated the Commission is not able to do this concept on its own. Freeholder Walsh recommended the Commission reach out to the County before moving forward.

Carl Andreassen, Somerset County Engineer offered to discuss this with Somerset County OEM Director Douglas Vornlocker and put together a wish list collectively between Somerset County and OEM.

Chairman Jurewicz stated the Commission has a lot to discuss in 2016. He spoke of obtaining more grants like the one they received from New Jersey American Water. He asked that if anyone was interested in the 2016 Executive Board or Committees to email him or the Recording Secretary.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

A motion was made to open the meeting to the public for any matter of concern by Franklin. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Franklin to close the meeting to the public on any matter of concern. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Jurewicz asked that the presentation with Mayor Heck and the elevated homes in Millstone be rescheduled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Jurewicz recommended reducing the dues back to the original amount of \$200 from municipalities and \$2,000 from the County or a moratorium.

Mr. Sluka recommended deferring this discussion until the representatives go back to their municipalities and discuss with the governing bodies.

Mr. Thomas recommended that discussion regarding goals and objectives wait until January so that the representatives can go back to the governing bodies and discuss with them what they want from the Commission.

Freeholder Walsh stated the Commission needs more direction. She stated the Commission has not moved forward over this past year. She recommended the Commission get the report from the Army Corps of Engineers; readjust its mission and put a moratorium on the dues.

## **COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Belanger suggested the Commission get assistance of a grant writer to help obtain grants.

Mr. Thomas stated the Commission should focus on the Corps report and they will find other solutions throughout the report – smaller projects that can be done such as retro fitting detention basins. He stated the Commission can be an advocacy group to towns and help them find solutions.

Ms. Whitman read the Commission's mission statement.

Mr. Sluka thanked Chairman Jurewicz for his work on the Commission; thanked the professionals and wished all happy holidays.

Chairman Jurewicz thanked the Commission and wish all happy holidays.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Somerville to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy  
Recording Secretary