

**MINUTES
RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MAY 25, 2016**

Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 Bridgewater Township Municipal Building, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 on May 25, 2016. 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: Bridgewater, Franklin, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County

Municipalities Absent: Raritan, Somerville 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 reported that Facebook has been updated with daily pictures and weather forecasts. He noted the County also sends weather forecasts.

He announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at Dukes Farm, 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ. There will be a rain barrel presentation.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Approval of Minutes:

No minutes were submitted at this time.

Correspondence

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on the various press releases, articles and letters written regarding the displeasure of the Commission of the USACE Flood Study Report.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz presented the following Treasurer’s Report:

- 1) Claims for Payment – Vella Singer - \$100.00 – Check \$165
- 2) Income – None
- 3) Budget Encumbrances – None
- 4) Donation of Gift to RMR FCC – None

A motion was made by Montgomery to approve the aforesaid Treasurer's Report. Said motion was seconded by Franklin and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz read the following report:

- The balance of the account as of approval of the above payments \$13,144.07
- Audit has been conducted by Suplee, Clooney. A review of all checks and contracts and minutes are complete. The management letters and legal document is complete. Treasurer awaiting the written report and comments.
- Montgomery processed payment for 2015 but check never received the Township of Montgomery was notified.
- Upon completion and delivery of Audit, Invoices for 2016 to be mailed.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on reaching out to representatives/legislators and make presentations to groups. He provided a listing of dredging bills to be reviewed by the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Dixon spoke on a Front Line episode regarding an investigative report on Super Storm Sandy regarding the fraud that occurred after the storm.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on his review of the USACE Report looking for areas saved or forgotten during the process, asked if there was something they missed. He spoke of going back to the USACE and stating that the report is flawed and challenging the report and its process. Mr. DeRochi stated the USACE never answered his questions and noted there are flaws in the report and he doesn't see the Corps backing down.

Chairman Jurewicz announced the scheduled special guest/presentation – EKO Flood USA – Flood Protection/Flood Mitigation District would not be presented this evening. He stated that flood districts are used on the west coast and are not legal in New Jersey. This is something they should discuss with NJ legislators to enact legislation on this matter.

Chairman Jurewicz and Commission Attorney Singer presented four options in regards to the Commission's response to the flood report:

1. Draft letter requesting reconsideration related to issues with cost/benefit calculation;

2. Formal appeal of final agency action of the Army Corps of Engineers;
3. Alternative Funding from Army Corps discretionary flood control funding and/or partnership with FEMA;
4. Do Nothing
5. Lobby Federal Representatives to fund whole project

After a lengthy discussion regarding these options by the Commission, a motion was made by Manville to draft a letter regarding the flaws in the process, wanting to work a better way and go with Option 3. The letter would be drafted by Attorney Singer, Mr. DeRochi, Mr. Andreassen and Chairman Jurewicz. The letter would be sent to the participating municipalities' governing bodies for their support before being sent to the USACE. Said motion was seconded by Montgomery and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

After the motion, it was noted to incorporate the following into the letter: need to show why situation is unique and the BCR doesn't apply; projects ready to go to benefit the residents and a working amount of funding.

PUBLIC PORTION

A motion was made by Franklin, seconded by Millstone to open the public portion. Said motion carried upon voice vote.

Bob Kaminski, 10 Liberty Street, spoke on the USACE process and the many things the report did not include. He spoke of the many people that did not have flood insurance and spoke on issues not taken into consideration in their process, noting the expenses not included in their calculations. He noted that according to Rutgers, anything regarding the raising of the river is detrimental. He stated there has been no response data from USACE on the Island Weir. He spoke of a new report regarding the removal of the Weston Causeway dam that would lower water levels and create a larger floodplain.

Mayor Richard Onderko, 921 Louis Street, Manville, noted that tonight's discussion was good and they cannot forget flood walls/ levees and buyouts. He asked what can be done to lower water levels to save future homes. He stated USACE needs to remove restrictions in waterways and to dredge as soon as possible.

A discussion ensued regarding removing weirs and its impact to fish life and the impact to homeowners.

Mayor Onderko also spoke on new flood insurance which was increased to 25% and it will continue to rise until it reaches market value. He stated that USACE is not part of their scope.

Brenda Stern, 311 Pope Street, Manville noted that the letter needs to contain language to move those who read it. Ms. Stern spoke on flood mitigation, dredging and the the report did not take into consideration. She asked the Commission to reach out to other agencies for help and collaborate with them on projects. She stated the Commission needs more volunteers and people to help them.

A motion was made by Montgomery to close the public portion. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried upon voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Jurewicz asked the Commission members to take the surveys to their towns and return them as soon as possible.

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on working on smaller projects with Rutgers.

A motion was made by Hillsborough, seconded by Millstone to appropriate up to \$500 on a display ad in the Courier News regarding their June meeting at Duke Farms and the giving away of a rain barrel. Said motion carried. Also discussed were Mycentraljersey.com; nj.com and participating towns' websites.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Millstone to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Franklin and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Recording Secretary