

**Watershed Management Area 4  
Public Advisory Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2001  
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**Attendees:** Peter Weppler, NJDWSC; Thess Prince, Watessing Heights Neighborhood Association; Jon Carlson, Americorps; Veronica Hurst, PVSC; Joseph Labriola, Clifton Env Com; Susan Mullins, Bloomfield LWV; Elli Gruber, Ridgewood LWV; Jerry Mitchell, CAMCE; Joan Coan, Ridgewood LWV; Don Hirsch, NJDEP; Paul Russo, Bloomfield College; Pat Mancuso, NJDWSC; Glen VanOlden, HEP Soil Conservation District; Jack Meyer, NBCUA; Cristin Conrad, NJ Community Water Watch; Laurie Virostek, NJ Community Water Watch; Richard Pardi, WPU; Susan Golz, Mahwah Env Com; George Nestory, Resident; Leland McGee, East Orange Water; Tom Thompson, Sierra Club; Russ Furnari, PSEG; Ron Farr, NJDWSC; Kim Cenzo, NJDEP and Becky Jones, NJDEP.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM. The September minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Committee Reports:**

*Education and Outreach:* Hurst reported that the WMA 4 Bus Tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Passaic Valley Water Commission is longer on the tour due to security considerations. The next newsletter is due out in December. On the next agenda are Action Items for the following year. At the last meeting it was discussed that the committee along with WMA 3 and 6 E and O Committees would apply for an EPA grant through the Passaic River Coalition for \$100,000 for the production and distribution of a video which will used as an educational tool for all age groups in the watershed. The concept of a watershed is difficult to conceptualize for the general public. At the meeting there was discussion of a survey of municipal officials who were surveyed and 75% answered that they did not live in a watershed. It will focus on the entire Passaic River Basin and then focus on the three watersheds that make up the basin. The Education and Outreach committees would get together and work on the script. The Committee would like the endorsement of the PAC to strengthen the application. Russo moves that we endorse the project. It is second by Labriola. The motion was approved by the PAC.

*Open Space Committee:* Farr reported that the Open Space Committee saw a presentation by Chet Mattson of the Bergen County Planning Board. There was discussion about the Bergen County Open Space Plan and areas they are focusing on. Businesses are moving to population center where in the past people moved to where the jobs were. Paramus is the retail capital of the world. As industry moved out of Bergen County and it became more of a service industry area the traffic patterns changed and became the nightmare that they are today. The criteria for prioritizing open space was briefly discussed. At the next meeting there will be base maps with aerial photography on which the open space areas in this watershed will jump out and become pretty obvious. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> at NBCUA in Waldwick from 2:30-4:30 PM. There was debate about making the meetings earlier or later to encourage participation and possibly moving the meetings to different locations within the watershed.

*Technical Advisory Committee:* Farr distributed and presented the WMA 4 TAC mission statement to the PAC for approval. The mission statement was approved by the PAC as follows: **“The TAC will facilitate the development of a comprehensive, holistic watershed management approach for the protection and restoration of Watershed Management Area 4 by providing technical leadership and guidance on all scientific and technical issues. The TAC will act in An advisory capacity on technical issues to the PAC. The TAC will identify, evaluate and assess relevant scientific data and information to the best of our ability in order to meet the goals of the PAC.”** The TMDL workgroup meeting was briefly discussed. It left many questions unanswered than before. The next meeting will be held on October 31 at Passaic Valley Water Commission in Little Falls. The TAC also saw a presentation by Hurst from PVSC concerning their Water Quality Sampling Program. The next meeting is October 25 from 8:30 – 10:30 AM at NBCUA. There was debate about making the meetings earlier or later to encourage participation and possibly moving the meetings to different locations within the watershed.

**319(h) pre-proposal prioritization:**

There were 9 pre-proposals submitted for WMA 4. One other proposal was submitted in WMA 4 but actually fell in WMA 3. Each PAC member present voted for their top five and their votes were tallied.

Below are the rankings:

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|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Wigwam Brook Clean-up, Bloomfield<br>13 votes   | Watessing Heights NA    | \$45,000  |
| 2. Restoration of Riparian Corridor along the Goffle Brook, Goffle Brook Park, Hawthorne<br>12 votes | County of Passaic       | \$ 92,500 |
| 3. Restoration of Riparian Corridor, Passaic River, Lyndhurst<br>10 votes                            | Passaic River Coalition | \$ 74,000 |

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| 4. Verona Park Lake Bioengineering Shoreline Restoration Project, Verona<br>9 votes                            | Essex County DPW      | \$ 40,000 |
| 5. Restoration and Shoreline Stabilization of Race Track Pond at Memorial Park, Clifton<br>8 votes             | Clifton Health Dept   | \$ 68,000 |
| 5. Baseline Assessment of Water Quality and Quantity in tributary streams of the Lower PassaicWMA 4<br>8 votes | William Paterson Univ | \$ 59,000 |

The committee suggested funding the top three at \$45,000, if funds are limited to \$150,000 for the WMA, but will submit the top 5. The remaining projects were as follows:

Saddle Brook Stormwater Management Plan	\$299,500
Elmwood Park Stormwater Management Plan	\$299,000
Pesticide Application Record Keeping Program	\$ 91,337

Cenno stated that the proposals will be reviewed by a Technical Committee and the Team Leaders and Engineers. They will look at the findings and how it will advance the clean and plentiful water goal. Mancuso requests reasons why projects were not funded and notification to all those submitting proposals which proposals were funded. Russo suggested an ad hoc grant writing committee to fund the remaining projects since they all have merit.

**Facilitation discussion:**

Becky Jones from NJDEP discussed that everyone comes to watershed management with a different piece of the puzzle. Through the process we hope to pick up the pieces of the puzzle and put it all together. You will not get what you want until you know what you want and a facilitator will help this process. Facilitator you chose should have knowledge of environmental issues. Some from the outside should be chosen since they won't have an agenda and does not have a stake in the process. Visioning could help us determine where we want to be in five years and serve as the basis for writing the plan.

Cenno introduced Jon Carlson the Watershed Ambassador for WMA 4. He will be doing community outreach, improve awareness and work to improve water quality and monitoring through the RATS and BATS programs. He can be contacted at [jcarlson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:jcarlson@dep.state.nj.us).

**Future Presentations:**

Future presentations for future meetings included presentations by Green Acres and the Infrastructure Trust to see where they fit in and what funds are available to watershed management.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at Fair Lawn Borough Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Handouts:**

Agenda	Invitation and direction for Trenton GIS trip
Minutes from the September Meeting	Registration Forms for PAC members

**Action Items:**

Submit your registration sheet  
Elect Chair and Vice-Chairs