

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

**February 14, 2002
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Attendees: Pat Mancuso, Basin Coordinator; Laurie Virostek, NJCWW; Cristin Conrad, NJCWW; Ron Farr, NJDWSC; Minna Greenberg, Bergen County LWV; Jerry Mitchell, CAMCE; Veronica Hurst, PVSC; David Soo, Friends of the Great Falls; Ellie Gruber Ridgewood LWV; Joan Coan, Ridgewood LWV; Frank Moritz, Ridgewood Water; David Baker, NJWEA; George Nestory, Elmwood Park; Don Hirsch, NJDEP; Joan Abel, U.Penn; Paul Russo, Bloomfield College; Christie Wyssenski, Boro of Hillsdale; Mark Newell, Verona; Richard Pardi, WPUNJ/Hawthorne Env Com

The minutes were accepted as distributed.

Committee Reports:

E&O: Virostek reported that the committee has been working on New Member tool kits, a lesson plan for where you are in your watershed, a letter to parents about watershed issues. Conrad noted that they would like to produce a brochure similar to that in the Raritan Basin Project Educational Brochure. Virostek noted that May 11-18th is River Clean up week and the committee is working to bring multiple communities together on a single waterway. There will also be a tree swap with the Clifton Tree Farm, where large trees will be planted on a new park and seedlings will be planted at the tree farm and given time to mature for future plantings. Nestory requested a planting in Elmwood Park.

Open Space: There was a map presented at the meeting showing multiple layers combined to reveal scoring. Farr distributed the current criteria which have been developed by WMA 3 and were suggested for WMA 4. Rector noted that NJ Geologic Survey had electronic coverages of recharge areas. She also suggested that there were 7 people at the last meeting only one of which was a stakeholder. She felt it necessary to look at the time and location of the meeting place before the criteria are adopted with limited input. Russo felt that they should emphasize urban areas. Soo suggested that the County Tax Assessor may have tax maps digitally that will show vacant land. Zoning could be an important criteria as well. Nestory mentioned the Garfield Wellfield in Elmwood Park. Farr informed him that most undeveloped areas showed up clearly on aerial photographs. Greenberg noted that the County of Bergen is accepting applications for their open space funding but it would require a council resolution. It was also suggested that he contact the Passaic River Coalition or Amy Goldstein from the Environmental Federation or NJ PIRG.

TAC: John Hroncich from United Water discussed the concerns of a surface water supplier. At the next meeting the TAC will begin to look at selecting chemical monitoring sites for Existing Water Quality. Baker noted that the number of sites will be determined by the funding available.

DEP Update: February 21st, 1-4 PM will be a 319h grant presentation of criteria for the next round of funding. There will also be a discussion of successful past projects and land use permit requirements.

Ambassador: No report.

Visioning Process: Mancuso noted that he has received three proposals and will make a recommendation at the next meeting. The visioning process will help determine the goals and objectives for WMA 4. At the March meeting the consultant will be doing a presentation on the characterization. There will be a link from NJDWSC to the consultants site where GIS maps will be made available. They will discuss the scope of work and the responsibilities of each. We will also revisit the priorities of the PAC.

Future Presentations:

Mitchell suggested Stan Cash present the Stormwater Regulations and CSO's in April. May would be better for the PAC. Joan Abel will be doing her presentation in April to the PAC on the Third River.

There was a suggestion to have a combined meeting with WMA 3 and 6 for Cash's presentation so he doesn't have to come up here 3 times.

Mancuso noted that according to the By-Laws the annual meeting is in March which includes election of chairs and vice-chairs. Mancuso opened the floor for nominations. The interim officers are interested in the positions. No other nominations came from the floor. Nestory motioned to move ahead with the three interim chairs. Dave Baker

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second. There was a discussion about increasing membership and involvement and a concern of not having enough voting members as laid out in the By-Laws.

There was a discussion about the drought.

Baker announced the New Jersey Water Environment Conference the first week of May in Atlantic City. There will be a day or two dedicated to watershed management.

The February TMDL meeting has been cancelled.

There was a lengthy discussion about Land Use Regulations and zoning and its affect on future watershed conditions. Soo noted that under current zoning Paterson (which currently has 150,000 residents) could be built out to a population of 440,000. Baker noted that despite this huge drain on natural resources, the watershed management process is a public participation process and we can only make recommendations to the state and municipalities and governing bodies have to buy in for the process to be successful.

Pardi mentioned the impact of land use practices on the watershed should be on the TAC agenda as well as build out based on current zoning.

There was a suggestion about having a joint meeting between the PAC, TAC and Open Space Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.