

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

**March 14, 2002  
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**Attendees:** Laurie Virostek, NJCWW; Cristin Conrad, NJCWW; Ron Farr, NJDWSC; Veronica Hurst, PVSC; Mike Sebetich, WPUNJ; Jack Meyer, NBCUA; Jerry Mitchell, CAMCE; Paul Russo, Bloomfield College; Walter Ash, Saddle River; Peter Weppler, NJDWSC; David Baker, NJWEA; Gert Howell, Upper Saddle River; Don Hirsch, NJDEP; Rob Genetelli, NBCUA; Susan Golz, Mahwah Env Com; Vajira Gunawardana, Najarian Associates; Ellie Gruber, LWV Ridgewood; Joan Coan, LWV Ridgewood; Mark Newell, Verona; Pat Rector, NJDEP, Richard Pardi, WPUNJ/Hawthorne Env Com; Russ Furnari, PSEG; Peter Kortright, Bergen County Planning Dept; Joseph A Chesonis, Urban System Concepts Group; Joan Abel, U Penn; Frank Moritz, Ridgewood Water

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

The minutes were adopted as distributed.

**Committee Reports:**

*E & O:* Conrad reported that there will be a clean up in Fair Lawn on May 1<sup>st</sup> along Wagaraw Road. Hurst motions that approximately \$250 be made available for refreshments for the clean up. The committee will work on soliciting donations as well. Genetelli seconds the motion and it is approved by consensus. There will be a tree swap in Clifton where seedlings will be planted in the Clifton Tree Farm and they will use larger caliper trees to plant in the newly constructed skate park. The committee reviewed the Raritan Brochure and feels it is a good idea to produce one for the Passaic River Basin. There will be approximately 4000 copies printed at an estimated cost between \$1,000 and \$1,200. The cost for printing will be shared by all three WMA's. A steep slope and open space section will be added to the brochure and new map inserted. Conrad motions to approve the printing, Baker seconds that it will be left up to the Executive Committee if there area funds available.

*Open Space:* Rector distributed the criteria from WMA's 4, 5 and 6 for review. It was suggested that the WMA 3 and 6 open space criteria be put on the list serve.

*TAC:* Genetelli reported that Tom Vernam from NJDEP requested additional Existing Water Quality Sampling locations for WMA 4. There would be approximately 6 new sites which will start being sampled in October and will be done quarterly for a two year period.

*Executive Committee:* Hurst reported that the committee planned for the agenda and there was a discussion of increasing voting membership. Membership applications were available at the meeting.

**DEP:** Rector distributed the Executive Order outlining the current drought restrictions. The njdrought.org site was discussed for further information and updates on reservoir conditions. Rector also had available a book of minutes from all the meeting since the committees began.

**319h:** The guidelines should be on the web shortly. Copies of the draft criteria were distributed and there was a list of contacts on the back page. They are currently due to DEP by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Visioning:** Weppler reported that a facilitator for the visioning process has been chosen, Natural Resource Options. It is tentatively scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-9PM. It was noted that Stan Cash was scheduled to come to the May PAC meeting. Mitchell will contact him to see if he can come in June instead. Cash requested that there be a joint meeting between WMA 3, 4, 5 and 6 so he can make the presentation to all four areas at once.

**Drought:** Moritz noted that the drought remains serious. The companies are currently sharing water and it is a situation that has to be addressed. The static water levels are dropping in Ridgewood.

**NJWEA Conference:** Baker noted that May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be presentations concerning watershed management at the New Jersey Water Environment Association in Atlantic City. Brochures for the meeting were distributed.

**Passaic River Basin Conference:** The conference is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30AM -12:00 noon. It will be held at Silas Condit Park in Kinnelon.

There was a brief discussion about Garden State Environet. To subscribe go to GSEnet.org

**Current Watershed Conditions and Ongoing GIS Mapping of the Passaic River Basin: Role of the Consultants:**

DeStefano introduced the team of consultants and the basis for hiring the team to complete a characterization and assessment which will serve as the basis for moving forward in the watershed management planning process. The team has a long history in

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the Passaic River Basin and includes Killam Associates, Najarian Associates and Ecosystem Consulting Service, with Killam serving as the Project Coordinator.

Coakley presented the process and each member of the team did a brief discussion of each one's experience and roles. The phases of watershed management include:

Phase 1 Characterization and Assessment:

- Characterize the current water resource conditions of the watershed
- Assess current versus desired conditions
- Identify issues to be addressed through the watershed management process

Phase 2 Planning Phase

- Development of a Basin Management Plan

Scope of Project – Phase 1

Task 1

- Acquire and compile existing data
- Document/catalog Historic and existing conditions in the watershed
- Identification of Data Gaps
- Identification of Watershed Stressors

Task 2

- GIS Mapping of WMA 3, 4 and 6

Task 3

- Provide technical information/explanation/expert analysis concerning waterbody health & management analysis
- Determination of water quality objectives
- Water Quality Management Options Identification and Assessment

Task 4

- General consulting and project oversight
- Provide professional/technical guidance to support informed decisions

All maps created through the watershed management process will be available through a link on the Passaic River Basin Website.

Coakley presented Moritz with a new survey to gauge the concerns of the active stakeholder in the process. A similar survey was distributed at the kick-off meetings last year. The characterization and assessment will be completed by September.

Dr. Kortmann discussed the water quality parameters and waterbodies to focus on. The committee should identify critical water resource areas and why it is a critical resource. The management goals of the process are to protect the current uses and non-impaired waterways and restore impaired waterways. There are four components that should be considered:

1. Water Supply
2. Ecologic integrity
3. Assimilative capacity for diluting point source dischargers
4. Recreation utility

Critical resource should be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Moritz requested further clarification for the non-technical people who may be in attendance. Kortman added that there should be 6-12 sites in each watershed that has a level of importance for a particular water resource. Newell noted that there is a problem with representation and whether we should do so on the local level or the whole basin. Kortman felt the entire watershed should be considered. There will be different goals and criteria for different uses. It should cover the freshwater portions of the Saddle and Third Rivers. Golz is concerned with errors in the DEP database. The inaccuracies will make planning difficult. Coakley added that DEP is working on updating their coverages and should be done by May. There was a discussion on sharing data and security concerns. The only information on the maps will be that which is found on DEP sites already.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.