



**Meeting Minutes
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission
July 18, 2018**

TIME: 10 a.m.
DATE: June 20, 2018
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

Attending Commissioners:

Vice Chairman John Loos, Commissioner Bruce Stout, Commissioner Mary Leck, Director Oliva Glenn, and Commissioner Julia Allen (by telephone)

Staff : Executive Director John Hutchison, Review Officer Joseph Ruggeri, DAG Melissa Abatemarco, Ms. Colleen Christie Maloney

Guests: Superintendent Patricia Kalleser; Mr. Michael Sellar, NJWSA; Mr. Robert von Zumbusch, DRCC Master Plan Advisory Committee; Mr. Robert Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Mr. Jim Gallagher.

Vice Chairman Loos announced that this was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and that all provisions of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act" had been met with regard to the scheduling of the meeting.

Administrative Items

Vice Chairman Loos confirmed the next month's meeting date, August 15, 2018.

Minutes

June 20 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Loos requested a motion on the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Stout moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

April 18, 2018 and May 23, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

Vice Chairman Loos requested a motion on the minutes of the executive sessions at the April 18, 2018 and May 23, 2018 meetings. Commissioner Stout moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review Zone Projects

Review Zone A Projects

- 18-4305B Ssquare GSquare Carport Solar Installation (Franklin)
- 18-3945B Hopewell Homes (Hopewell Twp)
- 18-5247 Lower Ferry Road Bridge (Ewing)
- 18-4696A Lambertville Library Exterior Renovations
- 18-0518A 58 South Main Street (Stockton)
- 18-3766B Lambertville City Hall Front Porch Reconstruction

Vice Chairman Loos asked for comments on any of the Zone A projects. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Commissioner Stout moved to approve the Zone A projects, including the conditions recommended in the staff report for Hopewell Homes and Lambertville Library Renovations. Director Glenn seconded the motion. The projects were approved unanimously.

Review Zone B Projects

- 18-3228A Greenbrook School Solar (So. Bruns.)
- 18-5156 Indian Fields School Solar (So. Bruns.)
- 18-3159A Constable School Solar (So. Bruns.)
- 18-5104 Plant Food Company Building Addition (Cranbury)
- 18-5168 17 Research Road (Montgomery)
- 17-5133 Princeton Ascend Properties (West Windsor)
- 18-3541C Firmenich Nature Trail Extension (Plainsboro)

Vice Chairman Loos asked for comments on any of the Zone B projects. Commissioner Leck and Mr. Ruggeri discussed the DRCC# 18-5168 17 Research Road project. Vice Chairman Loos requested a motion on the Zone B projects. Commissioner Stout motioned to approve the project and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The projects were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported on workload, fee collections for the month of June and the total fees collected by the Commission in Fiscal Year 2018. Total deposits for Fiscal Year 2018 were \$439,050, exceeding the Adjusted FY 2018 appropriation of \$387,000.

The director reported that the Commission will be retaining its engineering staff for Fiscal Year 2019 at the overtime rate set in the "special project blanket" established by the Civil Service Commission.

The director thanked DEP/OIRM for the installation of a wireless WiFi router in the Commission office. The router will allow Commission staff to use remote devices in the office.

Director Hutchison noted significant meetings held by the Commission staff. The director reported on his meeting with representatives of the governing body of the Borough of Stockton, who wished to discuss their efforts to provide greater access to the Stockton municipal playground from the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park multi-purpose trail, as well as their concerns over the Stockton embankment.

Director Hutchison reported on that the office roofing project was complete, and that the next steps would involve renovation of the building windows and exterior sheathing.

The director reported that the file boxing project being undertaken by Tiffany Bennett was proceeding successfully. Miss Bennett has completed the cataloging and boxing of 184 file boxes for transfer to the DEP central warehouse in Trenton by the General Services Unit along with 11 five-drawer file cabinets. Considerable strides have also been made in cleaning up the Microsoft Access database of projects.

The director noted that the DCA Division of Fire Safety had inspected the Commission office, and that park staff were working on addressing deficiencies noted in the inspector's report.

The director thanked the DEP graphics shop for their design of a model Commission stream corridor marker. The design reflects the conversation at the May Commission meeting and includes the information noted at that time.

Director Hutchison reported on a meeting held at the request of the Department of Transportation (NJDOT) regarding the I-95 Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement project. NJDOT is engaged in discussions with the Delaware Joint Toll Bridge Commission on the coloring of the MSE walls and abutments to the bridge. As Commissioners will recall, the Commission gave the project 2 approvals: one for the bridge and one for the "abutments" that were part of the pedestrian/bike lane. In the case of the bridge, the Commission's approval referred to the "piers" and noted they must be gray in color and in an "aesthetic finish." However, the Commission's approval was also conditioned upon DEP/SHPO approval of the project. With regard to the abutments (MSE walls) the approval for the pedestrian/bicycle lane said that they shall be "tinted grey with a stone pattern." Director Hutchison noted that DOT to ensure that a single color finished is uniformly applied to all the surfaces (piers, abutments and MSE walls) in a color that SHPO determines to be appropriate. All the agencies are working cooperatively to arrive at an appropriate color scheme, which they will place on samples for SHPO and Commission staff review.

The director noted that the Commission staff has received two inquiries regarding the proposed reactivation of the Black River and Western Railroad from Ringoes to Lambertville. The director was conferring with DEP Division of Land Use Regulation and the Federal Railroad Administration Regional Office in Cambridge, Massachusetts,

on the scope of the Commission's review authority. He noted that there may be issues of federal preemption, especially with respect to safety issues, and that much would depend upon the scope of the project that the railroad proposed, especially in Commission Review Zone A.

D & R Canal State Park Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kalleser reported on park matters, including managing heavy volume of park users over the July 4th week, a drowning in the Delaware River, and the status of repairs at the Mapleton Road Office.

NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported on the status of the dredging project, the wastegate construction in Griggstown, hydrilla management, clean up, and a request for proposals for the Six-mile Run culvert.

Old Business

DRCC Stream Corridor Easement Signage

Director Hutchison presented a design for a sign which would be posted to mark commission stream corridor easement boundaries. There was discussion related to the text, design, color, size and placement of the signs. Vice Chairman Loos requested a motion to approve the sign and discuss standards next month. Commissioner Stout moved to approve the design of the sign, and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bulls Island

Director Hutchison reported on a site visit to Bulls Island with Superintendent Kalleser, Director Glenn, and forestry staff to explore a plan for the northern end of the island. Director Glenn reported that the department was reviewing the matter related to a risk management analysis with consideration to public use, enjoyment, and safety.

DRCC# 16-4954 NJ Transit County Yard Mitigation

Director Hutchison described the project, the waiver granted for compelling public need, and the mitigation plan, which would provide \$425,000 in funding for water quality improvements for NJWSA projects within Watershed Management Area 9.

Public Forum

There was no public comment.

Executive Session

Vice Chairman Loos stated that the commission would enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Stout moved to enter executive session and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. At 10:55 a.m., the commission entered executive session.

Post Executive Session Meeting

At 11:30 a.m., the commission returned to public meeting. Vice Chairman Loos stated that the commission discussed a personnel issue related to engineer compensation.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Loos called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stout moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Leck seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Hutchison
Executive Director