

New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Mitigation Council Meeting

August 5, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Claudia Rocca called the meeting to order, read the Sunshine Law statement and stated that public notice for the meeting was given on May 20, 2014 to the Secretary of the State's Office and written notice was sent to the following newspapers: The Newark Star Ledger/Trenton Times, The Camden Courier Post, and the Atlantic City Press.

Review and approval of the June 3, 2014 Council meeting minutes.

Susan Lockwood motioned to approve the minutes. Patricia Burns seconded the motion. Yang Deng, Claudia Rocca, Patricia Burns and Susan Lockwood voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Update on the Mitigation Fund.

Jill Aspinwall stated as of April 30, 2014, the balance of the fund is \$8,866,451.40. Since the last report, the Council received two contributions one for the 0700-12-0001.1 in the amount of \$105,048.00 and the second was unexpended funds from the Seager grant in the amount of \$225.00. The Council also expended funds for Quakertown Preserve, Lenape, and Skillman Lake Projects in the amount of \$157,264.65.

Ms. Aspinwall commented that the Union County project was removed from the category of the outstanding approved projects. Ms. Aspinwall stated that on June 6, 2014 she sent Union County a letter closing the project. On July 31st the Department received a letter from the County stating that they had met the requirements of the grant and requesting to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Council's decision to close out the grant. Ms. Aspinwall stated that they would be placed on the October agenda and that she would prepare staff comments. In addition, she would send a response letter to the County.

Ms. Aspinwall stated that the Pin Oak Conservation Area, Thompson Park Conservation Area, and Jamesburg Park Conservation Area restoration projects in Middlesex County were included in the "Outstanding Approved Projects with remaining balance" section of the fund update.

Ms. Aspinwall stated that she added a new category to the fund update: "Project approved and awaiting available funds." This category currently includes the Deep Run Preserve Project in Middlesex County. Funds are now available to move that project forward to contract.

The Council inquired as to the status of the remaining projects in the category of "Outstanding Approved Projects with remaining balance." Ms. Aspinwall stated that Walnut Brook and Cadwalader Park projects are in the last year of monitoring. She stated that the Quakertown Preserve project is also in the monitoring period, and they have asked for a budget modification, which will be on the Council's October agenda.

Review and approval of a resolution funding in the amount of \$2,093,000 for Kittatinny Valley State Park-Kenco Acquisition, Block 29, Lot 28; Independence Township, Warren County.

Patricia Burns motioned to approve the resolution. Claudia Rocca seconded the motion to approve the resolution. Susan Lockwood, Patti Burns, Yang Deng and Claudia Rocca, all voted in favor of approving the resolution for funding in the amount of \$2,093,000 for Kittatinny Valley State Park Acquisition.

Review and approval of a resolution approving funding in the \$3,856,136.66 for wetlands enhancement activities on the Deep Run Preserve-Block 8004, Lots 7.1, 7.11,8,9 and 10, Old Bridge Township; Thompson Park Conservation Area-Block 20, Lots 28.06 and 28.08, Monroe Township; Jamesburg Park Conservation Area, Block 18, Lots 5, 6, 6.05 and 7, Helmetta Borough; and Pin Oak Forest Conservation Area, Block 1020.01, Lot 1.03, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County.

Patricia Burns motioned to approve the resolution. Claudia Rocca seconded the motion to approve the resolution of the funding in the amount of \$3,856,136.66. Patricia Burns, Yang Deng, Susan Lockwood and Claudia Rocca voted in favor of approving the resolution.

Public Comment

Mark Renna stated that he has applied to be a member of the Wetland Mitigation Council. He asked the Council the status of the appointments. There was a discussion by the Council that they are not part of the process for nominating members and only know members once appointments are announced. Jill Aspinwall stated that she has submitted the paperwork and is still waiting to hear the status.

Mark Renna asked the Council for the status of the In Lieu Fee document. There was a discussion on the status of the document. Patti Burns said that the Council reviewed the document and had no opinion to share on the document, since it was read a while ago. Claudia Rocca stated that she was supportive of the ecoregion approach and having projects ready to go when money is available. Jill Aspinwall stated that the document was currently under attorney review and she should have more of an update for the October Council meeting.

The next meeting date has been tentatively scheduled for October 7, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: Claudia Rocca motioned to adjourn the meeting. Patricia Burns seconded the motion. Susan Lockwood, Patricia Burns, Yang Deng and Claudia Rocca voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.