

New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Mitigation Council Meeting

October 7, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Claudia Rocca called the meeting to order, read the Sunshine Law statement and stated that public notice for this meeting was given on September 23, 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 August 5, 2014 Council meeting minutes.

Ms. Susan Lockwood motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. David Roth seconded the motion. Ms. Claudia Rocca, Mr. David Roth, Ms. Patricia Burns and Ms. Susan Lockwood voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Update on the Mitigation Fund.

Ms. Jill Aspinwall stated that as of August 31, 2014 the balance of the fund is \$8,863,996.44. Total amount of outstanding in contracts is \$7,091,638.61. Total of outstanding approved conceptual proposals is \$2,290,000.00. There was a discussion by the Council on what happens if and when the conceptual proposals do come in. Ms. Aspinwall stated that it would work in a similar manner to the fourth Middlesex County project, in which there was not enough money in the fund to fully cover the costs, so the Council approved the project subject to the availability of funds. Once the funds became available, the Council entered into a contract with the applicant.

Old business

Ms. Aspinwall stated that Mr. Yang Deng had resigned from the Council.

New Business

Review of proposed budget modification for the Quakertown Preserve property.

Ms. Aspinwall stated that Quakertown Preserve project is requesting budget modification where the requested modification is greater than the 10% that is allowable for staff to process. Ms. Aspinwall stated that after completing the restoration project and budgeting for 5 years of monitoring, they currently have a billable grant balance of \$26,067.92. They are requesting to move \$5,762.82 from "Other Costs" to "Consultants and Subcontractors", and \$15,067.92 from "Other Costs" to "Personnel Costs/Salaries." The total unexpended balance in "Other Costs" is currently \$24,530.74. Their request to modify the current project budget is in order to maximize the use of remaining funds to improve project outcomes. Staff is recommending the approval modification. Ms. Patricia Ruby of Hunterdon Land Trust was present and explained the how the money will be used.

Ms. Patti Burns asked if there was an anticipated need for additional consultants. Ms. Ruby stated that there is no anticipated need for additional consultants and no additional budget modifications anticipated as 2015 is the final year of monitoring.

Mr. David Roth asked whether the Council would be approving salary rates or consulting fees. Ms. Aspinwall stated that they usually estimate what they need based on the staff assigned to the project.

Public Comment

Mark Renna stated that one of the problems with the site is the less than 85% survivorship rate. Mr. Renna asked how, besides planting resistant shrubs, would the new plants be protected from deer. Ms. Ruby stated that they generally installed fence around the entire area and allowed hunting on the property.

Ms. Claudia Rocca motioned to approve the budget modification. Ms. Patricia Burns seconded. Susan Lockwood suggested a roll call vote.

Roll call was taken

Susan Lockwood	yes
Claudia Rocca	yes
Patricia Burns	yes
Dave Roth	yes

Request by Union County for reconsideration of the closure of their grant agreement.

Ms. Aspinwall stated that Union County emailed her with the request to be removed from the agenda because they needed more time to respond to the Council's staff comments. Ms. Aspinwall stated that she told the County that the agenda item could not be removed because notice of the Council meeting agenda had already been published, but that their request would be brought before the Council. Ms. Aspinwall further stated that she did not believe that the County could offer any new response to the staff comments, as the staff comments were simply a summary of communication between the Department and the County over the last 10 years.

Ms. Susan Lockwood suggested that the Council uphold its June decision to cancel the project adding that 10 years was a sufficient amount of time to allow the County to respond before closing out this project.

Ms. Aspinwall stated that she would prepare a formal resolution upholding the Council's June decision to cancel the project.

Ms. Claudia Rocca motioned to uphold the Council's June decision to cancel the project.

Ms. Patricia Burns seconded the motion.

Ms. Susan Lockwood suggested a roll call vote.

Roll Call

Susan Lockwood	yes
Claudia Rocca	yes
Patricia Burns	yes

