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JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Roxbury Water Quality Committee
From: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director
Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2015
Date: June 11, 2015

A Roxbury Water Quality Committee meeting was held on Thursday, May 1, 2015 at the Highlands Council office in Chester. Committee Members present: Committee Chair Dressler, Committee Members Francis and Richko.

Visiting Attendees from NJDEP: Robert Hayton, Senior Project Manager, Publicly Funded Response Element, Bureau of Site Management; Patricia Gardner, Director, Division of Water Monitoring & Standards; and Leslie J. McGeorge, Administrator, Freshwater & Biological Monitoring, Division of Water Monitoring & Standards.

Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, Chris Danis, Chris Ross, and Annette Tagliareni.

Also present: Michael Collins, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit, and Matt Kelly, DAG.

Committee Chair Dressler opened the meeting at 1:48pm.

Highlands Council

Committee Chair Dressler reported that this committee was formed by the Highland Water Protection and Planning Council (the Council) to gather as much information/data as possible regarding water quality. The committee asked NJDEP representatives to attend this meeting to begin the information gathering process.

NJDEP Data Presentation

Robert Hayton, NJDEP, provided an overall history of the Fenimore landfill. Approximately 60 acres were utilized as a sanitary landfill from the early 1950s through 1979. Ownership of the landfill has changed several times since 1981 and the property is currently owned by Strategic Environmental Partners, L.L.C (SEP). Starting in 2012, SEP began accepting construction debris as a way to cap the site but it began emitting hydrogen sulfide odors that affected nearby neighborhoods. The NJDEP seized control of the property in June 2013, at which point SEP had filled approximately 19 acres of the landfill. NJDEP Commissioner Martin issued an order to have these 19 acres sealed with a concrete-like vapor barrier. Mr. Hayton provided ground water data to the committee.

Committee Member Richko commented that the Council on October 13, 2011, approved a Highlands Redevelopment Area Designation to permit solar panel use on the Fenimore site under the condition that the landfill be properly closed and capped by the NJDEP. Committee Member Richko added that the Council over the past several months has received many complaints even though remediation is under the purview of the NJDEP.

Patricia Gardner and Leslie J. McGeorge of the NJDEP provided Ambient Macroinvertebrate Network (AMNET) data that is maintained by the Bureau of Freshwater and Biologic Monitoring. Ms. Gardner added that the bureau's responsibility is to look at the health of the watersheds in the state. Ms. Gardner provided data to the committee on the chemical and biological monitoring in Drakes Brook/Ledgewood Brook watershed.

Member Richko added that the data provided by NJDEP is good baseline data. The committee asked if new data may be collected. NJDEP representatives present at the meeting will bring this request back to the Department.

Plan Conformance

Chris Danis, Director of Planning & Science, commented that the Council does not collect data, however, we do empower those that do collect data and use that data for our stakeholders. Ms. Danis also spoke about Highlands Plan Conformance Stream Corridor protection study and plan to evaluate existing water quality and habitat conditions and the means by which these functions may be improved in the future. The Council has guidelines posted on our website for Stream Corridor protection. Roxbury Township has \$35,000 in grant funding available for a municipal-wide study. Ms. Nordstrom added that the scope of work for this study can be a joint effort between the Highlands Council, NJDEP, and Roxbury Township.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 3:00pm. Representatives from Roxbury Township will be invited to this meeting.

The committee adjourned at 3:00pm.