



State of New Jersey

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MEMORANDUM

To: Roxbury Water Quality Committee
From: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director
Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2016
Date: February 4, 2016

A Roxbury Water Quality Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the Highlands Council office in Chester. Committee Members present: Committee Chair Dressler, Committee Members Francis and Richko

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

On-phone: Lisa LeBoeuf, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit; and Matthew Kelly, DAG

NJDEP Representatives: Bruce Freidman and Dean Bryson

Roxbury Township Representatives: Chris Rath and Richard Blood

Raritan Headwaters Association: Bill Kibler, Kristi MacDonald, and Angela Gorczyca

Committee Chair Dressler opened the meeting at 2:36pm.

Committee Chair Dressler reported that this committee was formed by the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (the Council) to gather as much information/data as possible regarding water quality conditions in Roxbury Township. The committee met separately with NJDEP, Roxbury, and Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) representatives and are now meeting as a group to review any new updates and come up with some solutions.

Raritan Headwaters Association

Bill Kibler, Director of Policy at Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) provided the committee with an updated PowerPoint and updated 2015 Stream Monitoring Report: Conference Summary. The data presented in the report were from stream macroinvertebrates samples collected in June, 2015. Mr. Kibler gave an overview of RHA's report and noted that the Ledgewood Brook Site 1 score dropped from 18 (moderately impaired score) in 2014 to 15 (also moderately impaired score) in 2015. Mr. Kibler noted that RHA expects to see a New Jersey Impairment Scoring system of 27-30 in a stream this high up in the headwaters. Ms. Gorczyca of RHA noted that the score needs to drop 9 points to be severely impaired. Regarding Flanders Brooke Site 1, which is within the same subwatershed as Ledgewood Brook Site 1, Mr. Kibler noted that the data shows moderate impairment which is not surprising in that the site is adjacent to Route 206.

Committee Chair Dressler asked Mr. Kibler for his overall assessment regarding Ledgewood Brook Site 1. Mr. Kibler responded that the results of the stream monitoring indicate that the water quality of Ledgewood Brook Site 1 is impaired and has shown no improvements since the prior year's monitoring. When asked what he believes next steps should be, Mr. Kibler suggested that further testing be taken to characterize the extent of impairment, which could include groundwater, surface water monitoring, and chemical monitoring. Mr. Kibler also suggested that it would be useful to review NJDEP historical records regarding the materials found within the former Fenimore and Combfill North and South landfill sites.

Mr. Blood of Roxbury Township noted that changes in the impairment score might occur from 2015 to 2016 since the landfill has since been covered and capped.

Mr. Friedman commented that there are lots of stressors that impair streams and the integrity of streams. Mr. Friedman added that the landfill is also a stressor. There are four years of data that points to a scoring of moderately impaired and the Department looks at all the scores.

Mr. Kibler added that he is of the opinion that the landfill is not the only stressor but a primary stressor.

Committee Chair Dressler asked Roxbury representatives if there is any evidence of benzene in monitoring wells. Mr. Rath responded that no benzene has been evident in surface water quality. One out of four wells has been tested and private drinking wells have been tested with additional testing per requests from residence.

Representatives from Raritan Headwaters Association left the meeting at 3:43pm.

Highlands Council Stream Corridor Guidance – Grant Funding - Scope of Work

Ms. Nordstrom then gave an overview of Highlands Stream Corridor Protection/Restoration Study which was awarded to Roxbury Township as part of its Plan Conformance Petition approval on May 16, 2013. The grant funding is for \$35,000 and additional funds may be allocated for a municipal-wide plan and it would be best if surrounding Highlands conforming municipalities partnered with Roxbury Township on this effort. The guidance provided is intended to be used by technical planning and science professionals to collect and analyze stream corridor data. Mr. Rath responded

that this would be a great regional opportunity to get a bigger picture of the area. Mr. Rath asked for a copy of the Stream Corridor Guidance document. Staff referred him to a link within the “Draft Scope of Work Outline – Working Document” which was provided to all attendees present at the meeting at this time. Committee Chair Dressler commented that a regional partnership is a good idea, but do not lose sight of why we are here. Committee Chair Dressler added that if there is a potential health issue in the area we need to know about it. Mr. Friedman added that we need to protect the residents and ensure there are no health issues. Ms. Nordstrom emphasized that remediation is not the Highlands purview. Ms. Nordstrom noted that the first thing that needs to be developed is a scope of work. Highlands staff will work with Roxbury to develop a scope of work.

Committee Chair Dressler asked Mr. Friedman if new data may be collected by the Department. Mr. Friedman responded that he will bring this request back to the Department.

The committee adjourned at 4:03pm.