

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2017  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:37P.M. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

**Notice Requirements**

**Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on February 2, 2017, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 25, 2017. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 25, 2017.**

**In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Commission, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Debbie Kratzer  
Lois Voronin  
Gail Ashley  
Timothy Cahalin  
Sandra McNicol  
David Posey  
Thomas Ciacciarelli

**Absent**

Cynthia Niciecki  
Joseph Zgurzynski  
Willard Reasoner

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Dr. Glen Gabai came to the Environmental Commission to talk to the Commission about his concerns of what may be in the ground water and the history of MEL. He explained he is interested in a piece of property and before purchasing the property he would like to know more about it.

David Posey gave a brief history of MEL and what the Environmental Commission has been working on to communicate with the representatives from MEL and Environ.

David Posey explained there is no information at this time and he is waiting to hear from the State DEP regarding a letter he sent to them with a signed petition from 35 of the homeowners/employees surrounding MEL.

2.

They are requesting additional public outreach with William Kraft, Licensed Site Remediation Professional for the site (MEL) through a public meeting held by Kingwood Township Environmental Commission. They are also requesting the provision of information regarding the salt plume at the MEL site.

Dr. Glen Gabai noted that he is concerned about what is in the water and how it will affect his well. He is looking to buy a home on Muddy Run Road, which is about 2 miles from MEL. He wanted to know if the Commission knew which direction the water flows from MEL. The Commission noted that the water is most likely flowing west towards the Delaware River.

The Environmental Commission talked about how they would like to have all the reports and correspondence regarding MEL put in a file for the public to review them, which would be available on the township's website.

The Environmental Commission explained how the residents who live within a certain radius of MEL were receiving water to drink from MEL. This happened years ago, and they do not know if they are still receiving the water.

Dr. Glen Gabai gave the Environmental Commission Chairwoman his e-mail so they can keep him up to date with incoming information regarding MEL. He thanked the Environmental Commission for their time to speak to him. The Commissioners thanked him for coming and noted they will be in touch.

### **Minutes**

(1). Approval of April 25, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the April 25, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

Corrections/Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Posey
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Cahalin
	Absent	- Niciecki

### **Correspondence**

(2). Letter from ANJEC – Thank you for Membership Renewal – List of Benefits

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(3). Article from the Washington Post - Ohio Pipeline – 2 Million Gallon Spills

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission commented on the spill and talked about their concerns, and if this was to happen in Kingwood with the proposed PennEast Pipeline that may be coming.

3.

**Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates -**

(4). Flyer from Raritan Headwaters – Sign Up – “Watershed Tools for Local Leaders”

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Recycling News and Update**

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

(5). Memo from the Township Committee – Re: Recycling Center

Committeeman Tom Ciacciarelli who is the Liaison for the Environmental Commission noted he explained to the Township Committee Members at their last meeting what the Environmental Commission’s concerns were and why they have recommended eliminating the township’s Recycling Depot. He suggested that the Environmental Commission send comments in a memo to the Township Clerk for the Township Committee to review.

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol explained that the Township Committee has forwarded a memo to the Environmental Commission Members explaining they received their recommendation to close the recycling depot. The Township Committee has decided to add cameras, do improvements by getting signs made near the surroundings of the Depot. They feel that it is important to keep the Recycling Depot open and available to the public.

The Commission discussed wording for signs to be made and put up at the Recycling Depot. Sandra McNicol noted that she would like to have a sign put up that states “Residents Only”.

Sandra McNicol noted that the County has taken it upon themselves to help out all the businesses this year regarding recycling. She feels that the township will have low numbers this year. She explained that the township is paying \$12,000 for recycling and they received a grant, which is paying \$6,000 towards the disposal of the recycling collected from the Depot.

Sandra McNicol noted that she is now working on the tonnage report.

**Carried Over from Last Month - Ordinance Requiring Disposal Companies Providing Recycling Disposal in the Township**

N/A

**Reports**

(6). Update on the Drought Condition for New Jersey – May 2017 Chart

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that this is mainly regarding the central part of the State near the reservoirs, which she noted are still low.

(7). Suspected Hazardous Discharge Notification – MEL Chemicals – 500 Barbertown Pt. Brz. Rd

The Environmental Commission reviewed.

(8). Letter form Firstech Environmental Inc. – Re: Bl 7, Lot 14.04 Underground Storage Tank Closure Receipts

4.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Right to Know Surveys**

N/A

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

N/A

**New Business**

(9). Environmental Commission – 2016 Annual Report Draft

No report this month.

(10). Notice from the NJDEP – Re: Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank System – Block 7, Lot 14.04

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(11). Memo from the Parks and Recreation Committee – Re: HBP Field and Management Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she reviewed the Horseshoe Bend Park Management Plan to the Parks and Recreation Committee at their last meeting. She stated that they approved the Horseshoe Bend Park Field Management Plan in 2014 and feel that there are no changes that need to be made to the plan, but that it needs to be implemented. She stated they discussed the need to get lease agreements with those individuals who use the fields to farm on the Horseshoe Bend Park grounds. She noted that Richard Dodds suggested gathering a subcommittee together to meet and talk about the need to have formal leases on municipal owned farmland. He would like to start the process by having a representative from the Open Space Committee, a member from the Environmental Commission and a member from Parks and Recreation Committee gather to discuss a plan for a lease agreement to create for those that will use the fields. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the goal is to manage the fields for diversity of native plants and pollinators and so that everyone might have an opportunity to use the fields. She asked the members to let her know if anyone would be interested in joining the subcommittee.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated she and Sandra McNicol met Deputy Mayor Dodds at the Pollinator Meadow to decide where to put up the new sign, which is a description of the Meadow.

(12). Draft Letter to (DRBC) Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel – From EC – Re: Permanent Ban on Natural Gas Drilling and Fracking in the Delaware River Watershed

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and explained that there is a petition going around to encourage the (DRBC) Delaware River Basin Commission to have a ban on fracking permanently. She thought that since Kingwood Township has a ban on fracking that it would be a good idea if the Environmental Commission write a letter to the (DRBC) informing them of the ordinance Kingwood Township has adopted regarding the ban on fracking. The Environmental Commission would like to encourage them to have a permanent ban to cover the entire basin.

5.

The Environmental Commission suggested the letter should come from them, and that the Township Committee should write a cover letter with their support to accompany it.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to submit the letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission from Chairwoman, Debbie Kratzer and the Environmental Commission and to have a cover letter accompany the letter from the Township Committee.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Posey, Cahalin</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- Niciecki</b>

(13). NJDEP – Water Supply Plan Draft 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer let everyone know that the NJDEP released the draft New Jersey Water Supply Plan 2017 -2022.

Lois Voronin commented on the draft NJWS Plan and noted table A.11.4 presents data on the available groundwater in the Locketong and Wickecheoke watersheds. She noted the table shows current groundwater withdrawals equal the groundwater recharge rate in the Locketong and Wickecheoke watersheds. Wells with groundwater withdrawals greater than 100,000 gallons per day are permitted by the NJDEP and are given a maximum allocated groundwater withdrawal. Not all wells within the Locketong and Wickecheoke watersheds are using all of their allocated withdrawals. If current groundwater allocations within the watershed are considered, groundwater withdraws will exceed groundwater recharge by 1.3 million gallons per day. She gave an analysis of what was in the plan. She noted she will send her comments on the draft NJWS Plan to the NJDEP.

Lois Voronin feels that this should be put on the Planning Board agenda for them to discuss. Secretary Keller will forward the Water Supply Plan Draft 2017 to the Planning Board for review.

**Old Business**

Update on Chris Citgo

Sandra McNicol noted the last time she spoke to someone from JM SORGE Inc., they said that they would be contacting the local people who would be affected, and to have their wells tested. She noted trying to reach out to a business nearby, but just left them a message. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer would like the neighbors to be aware what is going on around them and hopes they have their water tested.

(14). Copy of Memo to Twp. Committee – Re: Recommendation to Phase out Recycling Center

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

6.

**Action Items:**

Township Committee EC Liaison – Monthly Report

Township Committee EC Liaison, Thomas Ciacciarelli explained the Township Committee discussed the suggestion received from the Environmental Commission regarding radioactive materials spills at MEL. He suggested the township attorney send a letter to the NJDEP Bureau of Radiological Monitoring to request information on what materials are at the site and why they are there. Also request that they notify the Emergency Management Coordinator in Kingwood Township immediately when there are spills.

Draft a letter to Businesses to find out how much water they use

This was suggested to put under “Action Items” for future discussion.

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Timothy Cahalin noted he has no updates at this time.

**MEL – Update**

Update from David Posey – Petitions Re: MEL

David Posey suggested that if the representatives that were sent the petitions and letters respond to the township, that the Environmental Commission should have some dates in mind to work with to meet with them.

The Commission had a discussion regarding MEL, the radioactivity and who is in charge. Township Committee Liaison, Thomas Ciacciarelli feels the EC should wait to see what the township hears back from the NJDEP Bureau of Radiological Monitoring regarding MEL.

Update from Gail Ashley

(14a). Copy of two Letters - NJDEP – Re: Request for Salt Plume info - Letter to Office of Community Relations Re: Petition for Substantial Public Interest for MEL Chemicals

The Commission Members reviewed.

(14b). Letter from Twp. Atty. To NJDEP – Re: Radioactivity Materials - Public Interest for MEL Chemicals

The Commission Members reviewed.

7.

Commission gave instructions for the secretary to give William Kraft from ENVIRON. The Commission suggested inviting him to the September Environmental Commission public monthly meeting to answer questions they have regarding MEL.

**Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.**

**Update**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that Attorney David Pierce went to the last meeting. She noted at the last meeting they spoke about different options for getting rid of the waste by diluting and disposing separately.

There was a discussion regarding what the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems has planned.

**PennEast Pipeline: - Update**

(15). Draft Letter to FERC – From Environmental Commission

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she did not have time to complete the draft letter for this evening, but if anyone would like to meet and help draft the comments, she would appreciate it. Sandra McNicol and Lois Voronin offered to help and review comments.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer named several topics the Commission needs to ask FERC about.

(16). New Letter from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation of May 12, 2017 Re: Updates on Efforts to stop the PennEast Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(16a). Article from NJCF- Arsenic – Pipeline 5.2017

Sandra McNicol reviewed the article she received from New Jersey Conservation Foundation regarding arsenic and the PennEast Pipeline. She sent this letter to Kingwood (CAP) Citizens Against the Pipeline.

**Horseshoe Bend Park – Update**

**Pollinator Meadow Project – Update on Sign**

This was discussed earlier in meeting.

**Site Plan Review**

(17). Class II Minor Subdivision – Tumble Partnership Block 32, Lot 11.02  
Tumble Idell Road

8.

Sandra McNicol noted speaking to the Planning Board Secretary regarding the submission of the Class II Minor Subdivision. She noted that there is not much new for the Commission to review and that this has already been approved and no need for comments.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she would like to see the Planning Board work on green infrastructure in the township. She feels that there needs to be an update in the Master Plan also.

**Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting – No Meeting in May – Update from Sandra McNicol**

Sandra McNicol noted there was no meeting last month.

Debbie Kratzer wanted to mention to everyone that one of the proposed pipelines that is going through Massachusetts just withdrew its application. She noted that strong public opposition was cited in the article.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Vois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:55P.M. All Voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary