

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning

WILMA MORRISSEY
Council Chairman

Notes of a Meeting of the
MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thursday, November 4, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
Via Webex

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, Wilma Morrissey, Ashley Reese, John Vig

Members Absent: Paul Johnson, France Karras, David Kostka, Scott Thompson

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, David Schmetterer, Samantha LaRocca- AmeriCorps
Watershed Ambassador

- 2. REVIEW OF MINUTES-** The Council reviewed the September 2021 minutes. Ms. DiLorenzo made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Vig seconded the motion. With no objections the minutes were approved. As there was not a quorum at the October meeting, the Council reviewed October meeting notes prepared by staff and no action was taken.

- 3. PRESENTATION-** Nature on the Move, Chris Lanza- Mr. Lanza introduced himself to the Council as the Principal Park Naturalist at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center and as manager of staff and nature programming throughout the southern parts of the county. Mr. Lanza explained that the Nature on the Move van is a mobile nature center. It has captivating nature photos on the exterior with educational equipment for staff inside. It's stocked with nature program boxes, tent, tables, and chairs, power station, tv sound system. The Park System currently offers the van at schools, community events, and as a drop in activities at parks. They offer three themes: forest, pond, and ocean.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Chairman- Ms. Morrissey referenced articles that she shared with the Council via email. She reported that a portion of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act goes into effect today which requires restaurants to only provide plastic straws upon request. Ms. Morrissey also said the State released the final Climate Change Resiliency Strategy and Clean Water Action released its Legislator Report Card. Ms. Morrissey said Audubon is asking for support to ban neonicotinoids. Wall Township is considering installing plastic bag collection bins at dry cleaners.

B. Planning Board- Staff said Captain Callahan from NWS Earle gave a presentation outlining NWS Earle's activities and partnerships with Monmouth County including the

recent shared service agreement, JLUS, and REPI projects. Capt. Callahan also provided information on the history of the Base.

C. **Staff-** Ms. Mallm shared the Dates to Remember. Ms. Mallm reported that a recent piece of legislation (S-3995) previously discussed at a Council meeting that was signed into law creating the School and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program Fund has now commenced. As directed by the Act, the BPU has launched a website for schools and small businesses to apply for a grant to purchase HVAC system upgrades and water efficient appliances.

Ms. LaRocca shared the dates of her upcoming clean ups scheduled for November 21 at Leonardo Beach and December 18 at Flat Creek in Union Beach. Ms. Reese said she works with high school student volunteers and students are looking for volunteer opportunities to meet National Honor Society requirements. Ms. Reese asked how Ms. LaRocca promotes the event, Ms. LaRocca said Save Coastal Wildlife recruits volunteers and NJWAP uses a Facebook page. Ms. Reese suggested reaching out to National Honor Society advisors at local high schools.

D. **Legislation-** Ms. Mallm said A-1625/S-2854 was signed into law. The law directs the creation of a "Save the Pollinators" license plate, generated funds go to Conserve Wildlife Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

JLUS III Update/REPI Update- Ms. Mallm provided an update on the Next Steps to Compatibility Study, focused on land use surrounding NWS Earle in Howell, Wall, Tinton Falls, Colts Neck, and Middletown. Ms. Mallm said the consultant has been working on the draft report that will suggest tools to limit less compatible development in the areas immediately surrounding the Navy base.

Ms. Mallm provided an update on the Coastal Resilience Study. The project consultant is still collecting data from monitoring wells in Whale Creek in Aberdeen and Flat Creek in Union Beach. Ms. Mallm reported that staff and the project consultant team met with Aberdeen officials at the project site.

5. MEMBER REPORTS:

- Mr. Vig said a previous NWS Earle captain attended a Colts Neck Environmental Commission.
- Ms. DiLorenzo reported that Monmouth Beach is having deer and fox sightings on the beaches. Ms. Morrissey said people should watch out for deer while driving this time of year.
- Ms. Reese said she has noticed that organizations hold volunteer events and complete great projects but interested volunteers are often unaware of the opportunities. Ms. Reese asked if there are existing platforms directing volunteers to opportunities or if there is a way the Council could work on compiling volunteer work, Ms. Morrissey said she wasn't sure, but we can look into it. Ms. Mallm said she has

seen a website that houses volunteer opportunities, but organizations need to participate in it.

- Ms. Morrissey said Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee received an ANJEC Achievement Award for the wooden dragon “Anabelle the Dragon” installation at the Wall Township Self-Guided Nature Trail.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Morrissey opened for public comment. Upon seeing no members of the public, the comment period was closed.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Ms. Reese made a motion to adjourn and Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motioned meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.