

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting September 7th, 2022 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Mike Hogan-Vice Chairman

Members Present - Dan Crum, Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Lisa March, Belinda Chester, Ken Sooy

Members Absent - Heather Warburton

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -present

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W. - present

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. – present

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM and a flag salute was conducted. The minutes from our June 1, 2022 meeting were approved as well.

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Emma Witt, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Stockton University was the guest speaker for the evening. Dr. Witt's discussion focused on groundwater pollution plumes in Atlantic County. She spoke at length on the types of subsurface soils and geology in the region as well as groundwater movement in Atlantic County. It was noted that the majority of Atlantic County's water is obtained from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer or the Atlantic City 800-foot sand.

Several slides were shown depicting various levels of contamination throughout the county, many of which were identified as Superfund sites. Dr. Witt also spoke about various resources one could use to garner information relating to possible groundwater pollution including NJDEP's Imap program. Discussion was had on how much contamination is enough to trigger monitoring or the designation of "polluted". One of the most common tactics is to dilute pollutants. The example used to illustrate this point is when groundwater is pumped out of a well, treated, and then pumped back into the aquifer, thus continually lowering the level of contamination and concentration of pollutants.

Discussion then turned to the topic of monitoring wells and Egg Harbor City's water supply being converted to public wells operated by American Water. Dr. Witt noted the sale of property triggers most site investigations. She showed several historic USGS aerial photographs dating back to the 1930s and some more recent LIDAR mappings that commonly serve as investigative tools to map sources of groundwater contamination.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Eric Husta mentioned the progress at Lake Lenape Park East and noted the lake level has returned to dam height after recent rains.

Commissioner Parker discussed some concerns of limited visibility along portions of Bikeway East. He also made inquiries regarding the possibility of installing emergency call stations along the bike path along with "tool stations" to help patrons maintain or repair their bicycles.

Lisa March updated the group on a recent coyote attack near Hidden Creek Golf Course where a pig was killed and a dog was attacked near Asbury Road in Egg Harbor Township.

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Mike Hogan mentioned the possibility of introducing a trash incinerator as a potential solution to the ACUA's space issue. Discussion was also had regarding the proposal to increase the size of a new potential transfer station as well as a variety of new technologies and alternatives. He also mentioned the concept of having a guest speaker every other month and stated he would try to line up some possibilities for future meetings.

Mike also updated the group on his work in the Oldman's Creek and Raccoon Creek Preserves and the \$180,000 grant received. He also showed the group a very interesting fossil display from the Oldman's Creek area and concluded his round table update by noting we have a vacancy to fill with the departure of Bill Reinert.

Steve Fiedler updated the group on Galloway Township's new bamboo ordinance and outlined some common issues with containment. Discussion was had regarding the way in which other townships are handling bamboo along with other know invasive plants.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:26 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Diana Rutala, Deputy County Administrator
Maureen Kern, Chairperson - Board of County Commissioners
Andrew Parker, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members