

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
February 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Christine Marion.

Members present:

Julie Baron Tom Pepe
Gary Large Laura Szwak

Members with an excused absence

Louise Davis
Joe Pawelczyk

Also attending:

Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Coordinator, Flood Mitigation Program (FMP), Planning & Preservation Division

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Christine Marion announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

- **Election of Officers** – On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee elected Louise Davis to be FMC Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Tom Pepe, the committee elected Laura Szwak to be FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. Vice-Chair Szwak assumed control of the meeting at this point.
- **Member Roster [doc. A]** – FMC members were provided with a roster of current members and Freeholder liaisons. Ms. McCulloch welcomed Joseph Pawelczyk to the Committee.
- **2015 Meeting Dates [doc. B]** – Meetings will held on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey. There are two exceptions: meetings will be held on the 4th Monday in November 2016 and January 2017. The meeting schedule will be as follows:

March 21, 2016	August 15, 2016	<i>January 23, 2017</i>
April 18, 2016	September 19, 2016	
May 16, 2016	October 17, 2016	
June 20, 2016	<i>November 28, 2016</i>	
July 18, 2016	December 19, 2016	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Gary Large, which was seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (p-FIRMs) Status** – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to release Morris County’s revised p-FIRMS on February 26, 2016. The p-FIRMS will be available on-line at FEMA’s Map Servicing Center; hard-copies editions will be mailed to each municipality for its review and retention.

FEMA will be holding a ‘Roll-Out Meeting’ at the MC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on March 1st from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Ms. McCulloch is coordinating the event, including invitations to municipal administrators, engineers, OEM coordinators and floodplain managers. FEMA and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ-DEP) will discuss MC’s p-FIRMS and review the map adoption process.

- **FEMA–Disaster Deductible - Rule Proposal** [*doc. C*]– MC has received an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking fact sheet; FEMA is considering a new approach to mitigation that would require states to make a pre-determined financial commitment (deductible) prior to receiving post-disaster funding. The goal is to incentivize pre-disaster mitigation efforts in order to reduce the cost of disasters for the federal government and facilitate planning and budgeting for disaster response.

Ms. Szwak asked if flood acquisition efforts by Green Acres, Morris County and municipalities would be considered as contributions towards this deductible; Ms. McCulloch responded that the fact sheet did not address this possibility.

- **Monmouth County Community Rating System (CRS) User Group meeting** – as part of a continuing effort to research the feasibility of a creating a Morris County CRS Assistance Program, Ms. McCulloch attended Monmouth County’s CRS User Group meeting earlier this month. Monmouth has a mature CRS Assistance program, which is driven by the efforts of this CRS User Group.

There were 26 attendees, including 2 FEMA representatives (CRS and Acquisitions) who gave updates to their respective FEMA programs and answered questions. Participating CRS municipalities gave reports of their efforts; each one was spearheading a CRS point category for the overall group, i.e. high water mark signage, ordinances, etc. There were some Monmouth County municipalities in attendance to explore joining the CRS program.

Two educational presentations were given by Rutgers Cooperative and the American Littoral Society. It was a very impressive meeting, providing support, vital information and education on key issues. FEMA strongly encourages the formation of a CRS User Group to create efficient synergies between municipalities participating in the CRS Program.

Ms. Szwak asked how many MC municipalities were participating in the CRS program. Ms. McCulloch is aware of 5 municipalities: Denville, Pequannock and Riverdale are current participants. Parsippany and Lincoln Park have had their membership rescinded and are potentially trying to get back in to the program. Initial research indicates a CRS Assistance

Program would significantly increase the CRS points that MC towns could garner, and encourage new municipalities to join the CRS program.

- **State Legislation**

- **P.L. 2015, Chapter 270** – recently passed into law, amends the Flood Hazard Control Act, in which NJ-DEP’s delineation of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) differs from FEMA’s delineations. State Congress is requiring that NJ-DEP match FEMA’s delineations of SFHAs, and also that NJ-DEP update its flood hazard mapping every 15 years.

S2789/A780 [doc. D] – regards the constitutional dedication of Corporate Business Tax (CBT) revenues to fund the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund (GSPT), which is the source of all open space, flood acquisition, farmland and historic preservation funding at the state level. Ms. McCulloch provided the Committee Statement (summary) for this bill, with pertinent information highlighted. Overall, four (4) percent of the CBT will be dedicated to the GSPT. Of that total, 71% would go to Green Acres (open space) and Blue Acres (flood acquisitions). She noted that Blue Acres funding will be provided for state direct purchases, and also for non-profit organizations, but *not* for local governments (municipalities/counties).

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:50 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, and per the Committee’s standard resolution language, voted to conduct a closed session wherein the subject of real property acquisition shall be discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 5:58 p.m., on a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following actions were taken, as a result of Closed Session deliberations:

- **Long Hill – Gillette and Stirling Project Areas – Grant Extension Request** – On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the committee unanimously granted a 6-month extension on grant funding to this project area. Funds will be available until October 26, 2016.
- **Riverdale – Harrison Road and Riverview Terrace Project Areas – Grant Extension Request** – On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gary Large, the committee unanimously granted a *final* 6-month extension on grant funding to this project area. Funds will be available until August 22, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

- **State Flood Legislation Spreadsheet** [*doc. I*] – Ms. McCulloch has begun formally tracking state flood legislation given that there are currently 11 bills that have been introduced thus far in 2016.
- **NJ-DEP Grants to MC Municipalities** [*doc. J*] –Ms. McCulloch provided a precis that details all 2016 NJ-DEP grants award to MC municipalities. Eight (8) towns have received a total of \$3.46 million in NJ-DEP grants.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21st, 2016 at 5:30 pm in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer N. McCulloch