



## LRWP Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2018

- I. Attendees: Daniel Cohen, Intern for LRWP; Andrew Still; Nick Tufaro, Middlesex County Office of Planning; Alex Zakrewsky, Middlesex Office of Planning; David Tulloch, LRWP; Amy Braunstein, LRWP & Friends of Mile Run; Michele Backacs, RU Extension; Heather Fenyk, LRWP
  
- II. Raritan River Restoration Stakeholder Survey – Soliciting Proposals
  - a. The Federal and State Trustees of the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Natural Resources Damages and Settlement has asked the LRWP to participate in a Stakeholder Survey to determine potential recreational uses and habitat restoration projects within the Raritan River Watershed.
  - b. Project ideas are to be submitted online and will include tributaries of all sizes on the watershed of the Raritan River, from the bay to the headwaters.
  - c. The basic information of the stakeholder survey must include the name of the organization, contact information, title and brief description, location, ecological or recreational benefit, as well as cost estimate, available funding, current status, and partners (if applicable).
  - d. Ideas under consideration by the trustees for which there will be suitable compensation are wetland and river injuries from hazardous substances in the South Plainfield Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site.
  - e. There is no limit to the number of project proposals which can be submitted. However, each proposal must be submitted separately.
  - f. Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 is the final date to submit project ideas.
  - g. LRWP is considering appropriate proposals for submission and is seeking additional partners.
  
- III. Speaker/activity planning for 2019 (Subject to Change) – Theme for 2019:  
*Innovation*

- a. Jan-Feb: “Windows of Understanding” (with City of New Brunswick + Olga Mercedes Bautista)
- b. March 16: South River Clean-up (with South River Shade Tree Commission)
- c. March 21: Rain Barrel Build in Perth Amboy
- d. April 13: Clean-up w/Franklin Township
- e. May 12 or 19: Highland Park Multi-site Community Clean-up of Mill Brook
- f. Installation of Sculptural Frame “picture post” in New Brunswick’s Boyd Park (w/coLAB/RCE)
- g. Arbor Day planting/build of Buccleuch Park pollinator garden
- h. “Day Without Water” or World Water Monitoring Day 2019
- i. June 1, 2, 8, or 9: Elmwood Cemetery pilot Bioblitz (w/ New & North Brunswick Env. Commissions) – Inventory of fauna and flora by volunteers will be supervised by experts.
- j. Ganesh Chaturti outreach (with Sierra Club)
- k. Possible speakers: Elizabeth Demaray (art/science and the environment), Ayesha Dolasa and Emile Stander (mycological remediation), Michele Bakacs (extension outreach for Middlesex and Union Counties)
- l. There will be no meeting in October.  
(All meetings will take place at the Middlesex County Office of Planning, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room)

#### IV. LRWP Program/Project Updates

- a. Middlesex County Arts Grant - #lookfortheriver installations, kickstarter campaign for public awareness at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Jersey Water Works Conference. Over 300 state and local stakeholders will meet in order to discuss NJ’s water infrastructure. Solutions through cost-effective and sustainable methods to provide clean water, employment opportunities and flood control will be discussed.
- b. NOAA Resiliency/Green Infrastructure Workshop Part II regarding the resiliency of the Lower Raritan Watershed
- c. Project WADES – poster distribution in high schools located in the vicinity of the Lower Raritan Watershed. Watershed Action Dialogue Education and Stewardship is a K-12 curriculum program developed by the LRWP. Its goal is to increase youth inquiry about the natural environment through education and volunteer monitoring.
- d. December Potluck Dinner – “40 years of planning in the LRW” +Streamkeeper kick-off.
- e. Under consideration: a contest which entails garbage removal activities from the Lower Raritan.

- f. Field trips and bus tours of the Lower Raritan Watershed are under consideration.
- V. Partner Updates/Announcements
- a. November 29, Regional Plastics & Networking Meeting, 7-8:30 pm, Council Chambers (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), New Brunswick City Hall – The New Brunswick Environmental Commission and ANJEC will discuss how plastics have impacted the environment of Middlesex County. ANJEC’s Model Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance will be introduced. There will be a discussion which will update NJ State Legislation regarding plastics pollution. The effects of blockages from plastics in infrastructure and waterways as it relates to stormwater utilities will be discussed. Information will be provided regarding Terracycle’s Free Cigarette Recycling Municipal Program.
  - b. December 5, Hearing on Hidden Oak Woods, East Brunswick Municipal Courtroom – The development proposal under consideration consists of the construction of 275 apartments and parking spaces for 591 cars. If approved, there is to be filling of wetlands and clearcutting of forested areas. Opponents of the proposed project desire to preserve open land for habitat conservation as well as the wetlands.
  - c. December 7, 9-3. Jersey Water Works annual Conference @Newark PAC
  - d. December 8, 10AM-1PM. Clean up of the Green Brook! At Green Brook Regional Center
  - e. December 18, 6-8:30PM. Annual Holiday Potluck, Middlesex County EARTH Center