

**Readington Township WaterWatch Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**February 16, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance was taken noting Committee Members, Alternates and members of public.

**PRESENT (via webinar):**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>JAN 28</b>	<b>FEB 16</b>	<b>MAR 16</b>	<b>APR 20</b>	<b>MAY 18</b>	<b>JUN 15</b>	<b>JUL 20</b>	<b>AUG 17</b>	<b>SEP 21</b>	<b>OCT 19</b>	<b>NOV 16</b>
Mario Orlandi, Chair	X	X									
Steve Foster	X	X									
Robert Becker	X	X									
Rene Rao	X	X									
Ago Pietrangelo	X	X									
David Owen	X	X									
Trish McGuire	X	X									
Jonathan Heller 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate	X										
Susan Masinda 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate	X	X									

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Marlene Orlandi, Bob Schoenfeld

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the last meeting (January 28, 2021) were voted upon and approved. [Motion: Robert Becker; Second: Rene Rao]

### **HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES:**

- 1) The Committee discussed RWW's new DropBox file management system and Robert Becker's role as DropBox Coordinator.

### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- 1) Committee discussed the monthly theme concept and an alternative based on Members taking the lead on specific content areas. The decision was made to move away for now from tying content areas to monthly themes and instead to go with the idea of members taking responsibility for specific areas and giving updates to the Committee on those areas as appropriate.
- 2) Robert Becker reviewed and Committee discussed: **Stormwater Management Ordinance development for Readington Township** – Robert Becker summarized the process that was followed to research and write the draft ordinance for the Township. His central role throughout this process was recognized by the Committee along with their gratitude.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Chair reviewed and Committee discussed: ***Wastewater permit at Bellemead denied -- a win for the environment*** -- For 18 years, RHA and other environmental organizations fought the renewal of the wastewater permit at Bellemead, which would have resulted in continued water quality degradation and changes to stream hydrology. We are thrilled to learn that the NJDEP has denied the permit, a major win for water quality in Rockaway Creek! Despite this victory, challenges via appeal are anticipated. For more detail read this: [A Win for the Environment - Raritan Headwaters](#) and also [see our DropBox: Bellemead Permit Denial](#).
- 2) Chair reviewed and Committee discussed: **Super Fund Restoration** -- A Super Fund dump site from the 1960's and 1970's was located just east of Readington buried chemical waste that included PCB's among other contaminants. Lawsuits filed against the corporations involved have been settled recently and a "restoration agreement" or settlement has been proposed for consideration by the injured parties. The proposal is organized by "sites" and some of those are in Readington because of the connection between our Raritan Watershed and the waters more directly involved. Amounts are in the \$10's of millions and we may have some influence on what we receive. We are working with RHA (Bill Kibler). [See our DropBox: Super Fund Restoration](#).
- 3) Susan Masinda reviewed and Committee discussed: **Rosehill and Rosedale Cemetery Association vs. Township of Readington** -- A land development project proposed a large cemetery complex in Readington that would have had detrimental effects on our

Lamington River. The initial proposal was halted due to the significant and coordinated efforts of the Township and a group of community activists. Recently the developers have appealed the ruling and the case is active once again. [See our DropBox: Rosehill and Rosedale Cemetery.](#)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**                      None

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE:**                      None

**ADJOURN:**    Voted upon and approved. [Motion: Robert Becker; Second: Rene Rao]

Respectfully submitted,

**Mario Orlandi, PhD, MPH**  
**Chair, Readington WaterWatch**