

**Readington Township**  
**WaterWatch Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2021**

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Orlandi called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

2) **ATTENDANCE TAKEN**

Chair Mario Orlandi ( P )  
Robert Becker ( P )  
Steven Foster ( P )  
Trish McGuire ( P )  
Agostino Pietrangelo ( P )  
Susan Masinda ( P )  
Rene Rao ( P )  
Jonathan Heller ( A )  
David Owen ( A )

3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April minutes were not ready for approval. These will be provided at the next meeting in June.

4) **HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES**

**Small Stream Stewardship Program:**

Robert Becker inquired about the Small Stream Stewardship Program and responsibilities. Chair Orlandi clarified that it will be discussed later in the meeting.

5) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Robert Becker: Sustainable Jersey - Water Issues**

Robert states that the wraps have been officially taken off the five-star category requirement. Robert sent members a document regarding the Water Story which is about everything a community should understand about their water. Robert also states that the County sent back the ordinance regarding stormwater for revisions.

**Steve Foster: Well-testing and Community Education Programs**

Steve states the well testing summary will be completed within the next few weeks. Steve discussed possible submissions for the Readington News. Steve updated members about the school grant for Stormwater Management. Hillcrest park shoveling is complete and weeding is in the process. Steve discussed the NJ Map 2 Project for educational purposes.

Neil Hendrickson informed members that the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) update has been approved by the Township Committee.

Chair Orlandi brought up the expansion of outreach and education, along with getting more volunteers for events like the well testing event.

**Susan Masinda: Small Stream Stewardship Program**

Susan brought up past issues regarding the Rockaway Creek. Susan's recommendation is for one person to be in charge a specific stream for stream monitoring, but also work as a team. Members agreed to this proposal.

**Trish McGuire: Stream Clean-up and News from the Raritan Headwaters Association**

Trish discussed the data tracking for Readington. Trish happily announced that there was not a lot of trash, so next time they will find new locations for the clean-up. Mostly found were road cones, plant pots, scraps, face masks, and cigarettes. The goal is to get the garbage away from the streams. Neil Hendrickson informed members that the Township Committee approved the Adopt-A-Road Program.

**Ago Pietrangelo: Chemical Impacts on Our Water Supply**

Agostino discussed research studies he came across. He discussed a study he found regarding the examination of concentration of phosphorus and its movement through soil and groundwater within 5 different areas.

Neil Hendrickson states the best thing we can do is get the phosphorus out of the water streams along with lawn care items like fertilizer.

**Rene Rao: Community Programs and Schools Programs**

Rene has been working on the RMS Garden. Grant options were discussed along with American Water Grant to improve the drinking water supply. Rene also discussed the Whitehouse school considering a rain garden.

**Marlene Orlandi: Schools Programs and Community Programs**

Marlene discussed how to continue maintaining the possible rain garden and involving students in this project.

**\*David Owen: RWW / OSAB Collaboration and News from the HC B**

**\*Jonathan Heller: Stream Testing and News from the Township Committee**

**\*Mario Orlandi: Other Topics**

*\* Will be discussed during the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**6) ONGOING & NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming RHA Stream Monitoring in June:**

There is a plan in progress. 5 members completed the RHA Training.

**Open Space:**

We closed on a 38-ac parcel near Stanton Station adjoining the Prescott Brook. Due to the number of ac, it may become the Prescott Brook Preserve.

**Proposed Cemetery Protest:**

The Planning Board meeting is rescheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Small Stream Stewardship -- Holland Brook Stream Restoration Project:**

Bill Millette (Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Board) has advised that this project is moving forward in collaboration with Readington Township; Fall 2021.

**Attempting to Expand Collaboration with RHA in Advocacy and Other Programs**

**Sustainable Jersey: Water Story -- The Building Block for the Newest Gold Star Standard in Water**

Robert Becker will be providing a presentation at the next meeting.

**7) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No comments.

**8) COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Discussion took place regarding DEP permits to gain access into streams. Members also discussed a “list serve” and how they can get everyone in Readington Township on that list to inform them of information or updates.

**9) ADJOURN**

Robert Becker moved Rene Rao second, motion to adjourn at 10:12 pm. The next scheduled WaterWatch Advisory meeting will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shannon Long*