

**New Jersey**

**Year 2020**

*President*

**Walter Lane**  
Somerset County



**County Planners Association**

*Trea*

**Ranae Fehr**  
Atlantic County

*Secretary*

**Francesca Giarratana**  
Hudson County

*President Emeritus*

**Michael Lysicatos**  
Passaic County

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NJCPA Holiday Meeting  
December 4, 2020 at 11:30 am  
VIA Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions:** President Walter Lane called the meeting to order at 11:04AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by a Roll Call by Secretary Francesca Giarratana.

#### **Business:**

**Executive Committee Report:** President Lane gave the report:

- A. Four meetings over the last month
  - a. Wastewater planning working group meeting with DEP – meeting monthly
  - b. Discussion on state plan about changes in the state planning process and an updated state plan – continue meeting regularly
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Land Use Roundtable Discussion
    - i. Consensus was to hold the Roundtable at least twice a year and invite the County Engineers Association to participate
  - d. Charge EEC Follow-Up Meeting – continue meeting regularly
    - i. Need a lead to run this working group
- B. Long-term Recovery Policy Paper was sent to all County planners this past week with request to share with local leaders
- C. President Lane drafted a letter to the sponsors of the assembly bill for 47-75 and S-27-27 regarding the formation of the multi-generational family housing commission
  - a. Letter recommends that they consider making one of the members of the commission a professional planner due to all the land use implications of housing and aging in place
- D. County Planner Association website has been updated
- E. We plan to recognize the follow Retirees
  - a. Ken Bogen from Hunterdon County
  - b. Rick Smith from Mercer County
  - c. George Ververides from Middlesex County
    - i. Middlesex County is offering a food drive in his honor
      - 1. Executive Committee would like to donate \$500
        - a. A motion was made by Linda Brennen and seconded by Kamal Saleh. The motion passed.
      - 2. Executive Committee would like to create a scholarship program in his name
        - a. Kamal Saleh made a motion to name the scholarship the George Ververides Scholarship Fund. Michael Lysicatos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A roll call was then taken by the Secretary by County.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ranae Fehr provided the Treasurer's Report and the report was displayed on the meeting screen by Francesca. There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Michael Lysicatos and seconded by Kamal Saleh to approve the Report. Report was approved with no objections or abstentions.

- i. 2020 dues received: \$450 with \$600 outstanding
- ii. Total Assets in Hand and Receivable: \$13,105.03

### **3. Agency / Partner Updates (NJTPA, OPA, NJDEP, NJAC, RPA etc.):**

- A. Donna Rendero: Wants to open up our rules – need to have informal conversations. Does not have the ok to update the state plan yet.
- B. Nat Bottigheimer: RPA hosted an event yesterday highlighting the experiences of 3 municipalities in the state that have an experience advancing accessory drawing unit ordinances for master plans.

### **4. Presentation: NJDEP Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff Shawn LaTourette:**

NJ Environmental Justice Law fills a historic gap in environmental law- A new Focus on meaningful involvement of communities of color and low-income communities as opposed to the current laws address pollution issues on a site by site basis. The review from environmental compliance perspective is to make sure these facilities are following laws

This newly adopted law says if you are going to develop any one of 8 types of development that are burdensome – DEP is empowered to tell applicant to analyze existing public health and environmental stressors in the community and how the project might add to them – what can be done in a better way. It is based on demographic criteria.

#### *Discussion:*

Michael Lysicatos - a lot of counties are working on creating an environment for the state to focus on implementation. Counties have unique opportunity to launch what the state is looking to do and provide fertile ground for municipalities.

Shawn LaTourette and DEP want to put together a coalition proof of concept on why regional stormwater planning makes sense and the type of burden one community can have on another.

Donna Rendero believes County Planning groups are underutilized in land use processes. Resiliency, stormwater, transportation would benefit from regional plans.

Nat Bottigheimer – What overtures have you heard from state DOT or what overtures are DEP making to them to help draw out role to play to help pandemic in terms of public health and inequity?

- Equity principles are often overlooked in rush to best use limited capital budgets
- Collaboration with DOT on green infrastructure rule

**5. Election of Officers:** The current President explained how the Bylaws allow for the following succession of current officers:

President– Ranae Fehr, Atlantic County

Treasurer – Francesca Giarratana, Hudson County

The nomination put forth for Secretary is Tom J. Stanuikynas from Burlington County.

Linda Brennen made a motion and Michael Lysicatos seconded the motion to move the slate of Officers forward. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion passed and the gavel was virtually passed.

New President Fehr thanked Walter and address the group – encouraging members to reach out if they'd like to present on County specific projects. She also presented Resolution of Appreciation for Walter Lane and his tenure as President.

### **6. Committee Updates:**

NJDEP Coastal Resilience Collaborative- End of the Year Wrap Up Meeting (Ranae Fehr):

- A. Priorities
  - a. Develop network of resiliency professional for municipalities
  - b. Develop policy framework to reduce growth in future flood prone areas
- B. Partner Updates

- a. 7 mile island innovation lab is a partnership of U.S. Army Corp. NJDEP and the Wetlands Institute looking at ways to improve dredging techniques and marsh restoration techniques
- b. Including DEIJ into collaboration

**7. Resolutions:** Walter Lane presented the Honorary Resolutions to the following Retirees (and plaques will be sent to the honorees directly):

Mark Remsa: Burlington County

- Tom Stanuikynas made a motion to approve the resolution. John Peterson seconded the motion.

Robert Brewer: Cumberland County

- Linda Brennen made a motion to approve the resolution. Theresa Ziegler seconded the motion.

Christine Marion: Morris County

- Kamal Saleh made a motion to approve the resolution. Linda Brennen seconded the motion.

**Updates/Necessary Business:**

County Directory: Linda Brennen thanks the three quarters of the counties that have already sent their directory updates for 2021 and asks that the remaining counties try to get it to her by the end of the year.

Kenneth Alosio makes a suggestion to nominate George Ververides a Lifetime Achievement Award or something similar to that. Ranae thinks it is a great idea and will look into it

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.

Minutes Submitted by F. Giarratana, Secretary, on 2/7/21

Minutes Approved by the Board on 2/19/21

Chat Box:

00:04:36 David Schmetterer: Hello everyone! I am going to step away for a moment and may miss intros - but I am here, David Schmetterer - Monmouth County

00:05:46 Francesca Giarratana: Thanks David!

00:16:29 Emily Blackman: Emily Blackman & Matt Zochowski, Mercer County

00:23:01 Linda Brennen: For attendance - Harriet Honigfeld is also here from Monmouth County

00:24:14 Francesca Giarratana: Thanks :)

00:55:28 Emily Blackman: Thank you, very glad to hear about this

01:18:58 Linda Brennen: Congratulations Walter on a very successful year. You continued to move our group forward and I commend and thank you for your hard work and amazing leadership.

01:28:59 Byron Nicholas: Congratulations to the retirees! Great meeting and discussion! Looking forward to 2021! Happy Holidays, everyone!

01:30:54 Linda Brennen: linda.brennen@co.monmouth.nj.us

01:33:10 Christine Marion: thank you!

01:33:12 Linda Brennen: Congreatlutions to the retirees anmd newly elected officers

01:33:14 theresa ziegler: Thank-you and Happy Holidays!

01:33:19 Linda Brennen: hAPPY hOLIDAYS

Respectfully submitted by Francesca Giarratana, AICP, PP on 1/4/20