

# 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 Regular Meeting  
July 17, 2020 at 11:00 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. Upcoming meetings in the fall will all be held virtually and the group will re-evaluate for the holiday meeting/party.
  - a. There was a discussion of exploring hybrid meetings in the future—and after COVID since it allows for more participation from the members that need to travel far. More details needed to be ironed out with the Executive Committee and Monmouth County as the host—possibility of purchasing speakers, a microphone, and a Zoom account.
- b. Follow-up conversation with the NJDEP Assistant Commissioner about Wastewater Planning, which will be discussed further shortly. Looking to have NJDEP staff member attend our meetings more regularly.
- c. Consideration of making a donation to the NJ APA's City Planning Institute: our association has made one in the past. It's important to embrace diversity in the planning profession and to bring awareness of our profession to young people. The Institute will be run virtually this summer. At the APA conference in January, the students of the previous Institute presented and did a wonderful job. We could consider a possible donation of \$500.

**Meeting Minutes:** Draft minutes from the May and June meetings were distributed for review by Francesca Giarratana.

- a. May: There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Kamal Saleh and seconded by Michael Lysicatos to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.
- b. June: Kamal Saleh motioned to carry them over to the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ranae Fehr provided the Treasurer's Report and the report was displayed on the meeting screen. 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.

- a. Outstanding Fees from 2018 – The Treasurer recommends that we write off the \$210 off for the next Report. A motion was made by Michael Lysicatos and seconded by Kamal Saleh to approve this action. The action as approved with no objections or abstentions.
- b. Sending out a reminder email to the 11 Counties who haven't responded to the notice of this year's fees.
- c. We currently have about \$11,000 in assets in hand with more outstanding and since we haven't incurred too many costs based on the suspension of our in-person meetings, we should consider a way to spend some of these down. In the past, the Association has made donations to different organizations.
  - a. The City Planning Institute – Will touch base with them about timing and status of the program
    - i. A motion was made by Kamal Saleh and seconded by Michael Lysicatos to make a donation of \$250. This motion was approved with no oppositions or abstentions.
  - b. There was discussion about providing scholarships for planning students at Rutgers and/or Rowan.
  - c. Members with other suggestions should reach out to the Executive Committee.

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

OPA: 1<sup>st</sup> of the 3 resiliency technical workshops were completed with participation of 8 municipalities from Ocean and Cape May Counties. The revised guidelines on Plan Endorsement are moving forward with the acknowledgement of a difference between a renewal of endorsement (more of an “update”) and an initial endorsement.

NJ Legislator, Gerry Scharfengerber: Environmental Committee for the Assembly will hear “NJ Environmental Justice Act”. On its face it seems favorable, but there is opposition from several companies and unions. There would be impact on jobs and ratables because of the tight guidelines. However, there may be some amendments before the final vote.

### **Presentation: AARP’s Livable Communities Initiative, Christine Newman, Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement, AARP NJ**

- Current Social Conditions in the US:
  - o Increase of our population that are 65 and older
  - o For the first time in US history, older people will outnumber children.
  - o Median age will increase from 38 today to 43 in 2060.
- Where do they want to live? 8 out of 10 of adults (age 50 and older) want to remain in the communities that they currently live in. But they’re not sure where they will live (unsure, think they’ll need to move)
- The “8 domains of livability” is the model that AARP builds off to create its age-friendly plans.
- Millennials and baby boomers do want to the same things: compact, walkable, mix-use neighborhoods with parks and transit options.
- AARP Network of Communities and States- 469 entities involved; 14 communities in NJ; Somerset County was the first County
  - Process: Enrollment; Year 1- Survey and listening surveys; Year 2- Create an action plan; Years 3-5 Implementation; Year 5- Progress and Status update
  - o Various levels of model – Single community or county; regionally-based model; limited resource model
  - o Diverse geographic across the County and in NJ (ranging from Elizabeth to Westwood)
- Other AARP Initiatives:
  - o The Livability Economy: People, Places, Prosperity (AARP, 2015)- <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/tool-kits-resources/info-2015/livability-economy.html>
  - o For members – there is technical support (Facebook group, webinars, survey tools, regional and national convenings)
  - o Recent work with National League of Cities -COVID Adult response BMPs
  - o Issue Area Specific Publications – such as pop-up placemaking tool kit
  - o Community Challenge Grants

### **Update: Wastewater Planning, NJDEP: Bruce Friedman, Director of Water Monitoring and Standards**

The NJDEP wants re-engage the Counties about the processes on the Wastewater Management Plans. There is a back-log on plans with some becoming obsolete after rule changes Site specific amendments for new developments in appropriate locations take precedence over the plan review. Climate change impact (flood plain coverage) on our new development in NJ needs to be a priority.

NJDEP Team is looking into creating a planning working group to refine the plan boilerplate, expediate some of the reviews, advance a strategy to address the issues many Counties are facing and move the priority work forward. NJDEP is understaffed and is looking to the Counties for assistance. Next steps- solidify group membership and then hold monthly 1-2 hour meetings. Counties that have expressed interest- Monmouth, Mercer, Middlesex, Atlantic, Somerset, Morris. Any other Counties interested in joining – feel free.

Bergen County Joe Baladi asks when the Counties should enforce stormwater management rules. NJDEP – If the land use review permits are required, the DEP will review, but if there isn’t, then it falls under the municipalities and their adopted ordinances that comply with the state.

- If the municipalities doesn’t pass such ordinances – do the Counties need to force the requirement? NJDEP - Defer to the other county planners but he believes it is a municipal responsibility
- Walter will engage the County Planners responses in another roundtable or off-line

### **Panel Presentation: COVID & Agriculture: County Approaches**

**Somerset (Kate Katzer, Principal Planner and CADB Administrator):** Somerserset County held a roundtable to hear the concerns of its agricultural community. After the feedback, they wanted to bring back Farmer's Markets safely. To assist, The County created a "COVID-19 Resource Guide for Farmer's Markets".

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/planning/agriculture-dev-board/covid-19-resources>

**Sussex: Autumn Sylvester, Principal Planner and CADB Administrator and Matthew Sinke, Assistant Engineer:** Sussex County utilized ArcGIS products to create a "Local Business Reopening Status Map" and the Sussex County Farm Map to encourage farm visits.

**Hunterdon: Bob Hornby, CADB Administrator and Resource Specialist:** Hunterdon County has mapped its Farmers Markets, Farms & Wineries on its 579 Trail - <https://www.hunterdon579trail.com/>

**Update: Long Term Recovery Working Group:** The second meeting was held a few weeks ago and the group has grown with representation from several Counties, RPA, NJ Future, NYC Planning. OPA, NJAPA, Creative Placemaking, Downtown NJ. The group is working on a draft of guiding principles and it will be circulated. It will allow us to have some stronger planning and have us at the table for the broader policy discussion, for topics such as economic development, sustainability, and equity.

Anyone else who is still interested – reach out and attend next meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 11AM.

### **Committee Updates:**

Transportation Committee (Kamal Saleh):

- a. NJ Transit has released its 10-year strategic plan and 5 year tactical plan: which will include purchase new train cars and new buses that will reduce emissions; a new fare collection system will be deployed; Positive Train control system is almost complete.
- b. Port Authority – Developing touchless methods for fare collection; more screening and testing; decline in travel overall; Seeking \$53 Billion in federal relief.

Open Space, Agriculture and Environment Committee Report will be sent out after the meeting. (Attached).

### **Resolutions:**

- a. The President will bring two resolutions of appreciation for Christine Marion (Morris) and Mark Remsa(Burlington) on their retirement. They were long-standing and active members of this Association. The aim is to adopt them at the next meeting and the hope is to be able to present it to them at the Holiday Party. Their co-workers will help draft the resolutions.

**Updates/Necessary Business:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM.

Chat Box:

00:09:39 David Schmetterer: Good morning everyone - when is the official start?  
00:10:14 Francesca Giarratana: Hi David - 11AM  
00:10:47 Virginia Michelin: We are saving band width for the presenters :)  
00:21:25 Byron Nicholas: Hi everyone! Byron Nicholas here with Hudson County. (My apologies for missing roll call, I had to take a call - busy morning).  
00:24:12 Francesca Giarratana: Hi Byron- thanks!  
00:36:34 Laurette Kratina Kratina: We could make a donation to a community college or university food bank  
01:28:08 Francesca Giarratana: this is from joe baladi  
01:28:08 Joe Barilla: Morris  
01:28:10 Francesca Giarratana: Hi, this is Joe Baladi, Bergen Planning Director. I have a general question regarding the implementation of DEP regulations on siteplans applications, please advise when is

the right time to ask.

I am joining the video through my email jbslodi@co.bergen.nj.us however I have audio issue so I am calling on my phone simultaneously 2014171159 and it does not seem that I need the host approval to talk on the phone

01:34:08 Bruce Friedman: I need to jump off. Thank you all! You are in good hands with staff on the call

02:09:32 Yaso Sivaganesh: Walt, I have to head out for another meeting. Thanks for having us at the meeting.

02:10:40 Francesca Giarratana: awesome presentation! it was super interesting and still applicable to very urban Hudson county

02:23:47 Virginia Michelin: Thanks all. Great presentations

Respectfully submitted by Francesca Giarratana, AICP, PP on 10/13/20

**July 2020 County Planners Meeting - Attendees**

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>County</b>
Ranae Fehr	fehr_ranae@aclink.org	Atlantic
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Tom Stanuikynas	tom.stanuikynas@gmail.com	Burlington
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Francesca Giarratana	<a href="mailto:fgiarratana@hcnj.us">fgiarratana@hcnj.us</a>	Hudson
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Walter Lane	lane@co.somerset.nj.us	Somerset
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Autumn Sylvester	asylvester@sussex.nj.us	Sussex
Kamal Saleh	KSaleh@ucnj.org	Union

<b>Special Guests</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Nat Bottigheimer	nat@rpa.org	RPA
Donna Rendeiro	donna.rendeiro@sos.nj.gov	NJ OPA
Kyle Clonan	kclonan@raritanbasin.org	Raritan Basin
Avi Argaman	avi.argaman@dep.nj.gov	NJ DEP
Yaso Sivaganesh	yaso.sivaganesh@dep.nj.gov	NJ DEP
Bruce Friedman	bruce.friedman@dep.nj.gov	NJ DEP

Christine Newman  
Paul DeMuro  
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AARP  
NJ DEP  
NJ Legislature

# New Jersey

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## New Jersey County Planners Association Treasurer's Report – July 2020 04/18/2020 through 07/16/2020

<b>Beginning Checking Account Balance as of April 18, 2020</b>	<b>\$9,890.03</b>
<b>Revenue Received &amp; Deposited</b>	
Meeting Fees & Checks	\$0.00
2019 Dues Received	\$150.00
2020 Dues Received	\$1,050.00
<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	
	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Checking Balance as of April 17, 2020</b>	<b>\$11,090.03</b>
<b>Assets in Hand as of April 21, 2020</b>	
Checking Account	\$11,090.03
Petty Cash	\$90.00
<b>Subtotal Assets in Hand:</b>	<b>\$11,180.03</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable (To be deposited)</b>	
Vouchers – Meeting Fees	\$285.00
Annual Membership Fees 2019	\$150.00
Annual Membership Fees 2020	\$2,100.00
<b>Total Receivable:</b>	<b>\$2,535.00</b>
<b>Total Assets in Hand and Receivable</b>	<b>\$13,715.03</b>

Submitted by: Ranae L. Fehr, 2020 Treasurer

July 17, 2020

Contact: New Jersey County Planners Association  
c/o Somerset County Planning Division  
Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove St, Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
Tel: (908) 231-7021 Fax: (908) 707-1749  
e-mail: [lane@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:lane@co.somerset.nj.us)

**New Jersey County Planners Association**  
**July 17, 2020 Environment Portion**  
**of the Open Space, Agriculture and Environment Committee Report**

NJDEP Releases “Scientific Report on Climate Change”: Executive Order 89 enacted by the Governor on October 29, 2019 required the Climate and Flood Resilience Program (CFRP) within NJDEP to develop a Scientific Report on Climate Change, which is to serve as the platform for a “Statewide Climate Resilience Strategy, which must be presented to the Governor by Sept. 1, 2020. The Scientific Report is available at the following link: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/data.html>. The report compiles and analyzes current data and information from many sources, which are organized below along with some of the associated report highlights:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions: An Emissions Inventory updated most recently by the NJDEP for 2018 based on data from the United States Energy Administration is among the data sources in this chapter. GHG Emissions are recognized as the primary driver of climate change, and GHG concentrations will have a direct effect on quickly the earth warms. This warming will have multiple impacts, ranging from floods and drought to sea level rise to ocean acidification, air and water quality degradation, modified growing seasons and ecosystem shifts.
- Temperature: Records back to 1895 compiled by the Office of the State Climatologist at Rutgers and NOAA projections are among the data sources utilized in this chapter. Evidence that temperatures are increasing in NJ and associated warming impacts such as increased precipitation and intensity of some weather events, ecological changes and sea level rise are described. Heatwaves are expected to impact larger areas, with more frequency and longer duration by 2050. Climate change could result in a 55% increase in summer heat-related mortalities.
- Precipitation: Annual precipitation totals for New Jersey for the last 10 years show a 7.9% increase over the long-term average. Studies have found extreme precipitation events have increased in the Northeastern United States by 71% over the last 50 years. The size and frequency of floods will increase as annual precipitation increases. Tropical storms have the potential to increase in intensity due to the warmer atmosphere and warmer oceans. Droughts may occur more frequently due to expected extremes in precipitation.
- Sea Level Rise: Data in this chapter shows sea levels are rising faster in NJ than many other parts of the world due to changes in the Gulf Stream, land subsidence and ice-sheet melting. It can increase by as much as 5.1 feet by the end of the century under a moderate emission scenario. High-tide flooding will occur more often across the entire coastal area of NJ.
- Ocean Acidification: Ocean acidification is occurring as carbon dioxide concentrations increase. Since the Industrial Revolution, the ocean has become 30% more acidic and ocean pH levels will continue to decline, impacting the survival of shellfish and coral species, harming the shellfish industry.
- Resource and Ecosystem Impacts: Climate change contributes to air pollution, increased respiratory and cardiovascular health problems and premature deaths. Increased air pollution also reduces visibility and damages crops and natural ecosystems. Water resources will be further impacted by sea-level rise-related saltwater intrusion in high-demand aquifers and potable intakes can become compromised as salt fronts move further upriver. Temperature increases will lead to longer growing seasons, which in turn result in increased water demand both agriculture and by natural systems. Crop productivity and the types of crops that can be grown successfully in NJ will change due to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns,

as well as in the length of the growing season. Forests, wetlands and water bodies will be impacted by invasive pests, species migration and other factors, leading to habitat and species losses.

Sustainable Jersey GHG Inventory Initiative: Sustainable Jersey (SJ) has been compiling NJ Community Energy Usage Data by municipality in cooperation with major utility companies. Residential, commercial and industrial Electric and Natural Gas usage by municipality, together with estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from other residential heating fuels based on household fuel usage in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2015 is nearing completion. Sustainable Jersey is currently working with major utilities to compile this data for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Thus far, PSE&G and E-town have provided data for each of these years. ACE and RECO have provided data through 2017. A standardized approach for collecting, compiling and organizing the data across the state is being utilized including adjustments necessitated by the zip-code basis upon which the data is spatially organized. This data will be a valuable resource for municipalities that are participating in the Sustainable Jersey Certification Program and recently updated Energy Actions. It may also be valuable for addressing the background data requirements of the NJ Board of Public Utilities' Community Energy Planning initiative. For more information, contact Nancy Quirk, Energy Program Manager, e-mail: [quirkn@tcnj.edu](mailto:quirkn@tcnj.edu) and visit the SJ website: [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com).

Actions to Transform Food Systems under Climate Change: This report released in June 2020 is the result of an international research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security. It can be found at the following link: <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/actions-transform-food-systems-under-climate-change#.XxHp6ShKjRY>. The report identifies high priority climate change adaptation and mitigation actions that should be taken to create more resilient and sustainable food systems. It tackles a number of urgent issues including nutrition security, small-scale producer yields and incomes, poverty, gender disparities and social inclusion, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and shifting power dynamics among other issues, and identifies potential actions to achieve change. The recommendations in this report build upon research papers in the following areas:

- Adaptation and development pathways for different types of farmers
- Transforming food systems under climate change: Local to global policy as a catalyst for change
- Changing diets and transforming food systems
- Innovation can accelerate the transition towards a sustainable food system
- Financing the transformation of food systems under a changing climate

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus several food system challenges that are linked to climate change. Climate change is having increasingly severe negative impacts on food systems, while food systems themselves are part of the problem through direct and indirect emissions and deforestation. The report brings to light the need for coordinated, comprehensive scientific-based plans for strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of food systems at the national, regional and local levels. It includes a "Food System Report Card" and identifies the elements needed to achieve sustainable, inclusive, healthy and climate-resilient food systems, which provides a platform for the following action areas:

- Reroute farming and rural livelihoods to new trajectories, to deal with greenhouse gas emissions, reduce inequality, address gender and social inclusion, and incentivize climate-resilient practices that meet dietary needs.

- De-risk livelihoods, farms and value chains, reducing the impact of variable weather and extreme events through attention to inclusive early warning systems, adaptive safety nets, and climate-informed advisories and other services.
- Reduce emissions from diets and value chains, involving significant dietary shifts and massive reductions in food loss and waste.
- Realign policies, finance, support to social movements, and innovation to build more resilient and sustainable food systems. This action area cuts across the other three, with attention to realigning subsidies and trade, dealing with power inequities and marginalization, bringing in billions of dollars in private investment, transforming innovation systems, and underpinning and supporting social movements to address climate, livelihoods and food systems.

Within these four action areas, the report identifies 11 transformative actions. For each action, a goal is identified, as well as mechanisms to achieve each goal. It also identifies the roles of various stakeholder groups and organizations.

Respectfully Submitted by Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP, Chief of Strategic Planning, Somerset County Planning Division