

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

Visit us on the web at www.njcountyplanners.org

NJCPA Regular Meeting
June 16, 2020 at 11:00 am
VIA Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions: President Walter Lane called the meeting to order at 11:10AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by attendee introductions.

Business:

Executive Committee Report: President Lane gave the report:

- a. Will follow up on the organization's NJDEP regarding our letter regarding wastewater management planning issues
- b. Long Term Recovery Working Group has been formed and has met.
- c. Legislation was passed extending the deadlines for county review of land development projects.
- d. Meetings will continue to be held virtually through the fall.

Treasurer's Report: Ranae Fehr was not present so the President relayed all invoices for membership dues have been sent.

Meeting Minutes: Draft minutes from the February, April, and May meetings were distributed for review by Francesca Giarratana.

- February: There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Kamal Saleh and seconded by Tom Stanuikynas to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.
- April: There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Kamal Saleh and seconded by Tom Stanuikynas to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.
- May: There were no comments or questions. A motion was made by Walter Lane and seconded by Kamal Saleh to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.

Presentation: NJ Future Update – Jersey Water Works and Related Programs: Chris Sturm, Managing Director, Policy and Water and Lauren Belsky, JWW Program Coordinator

Lauren Belsky spoke about NJ Future emphasizes Water Infrastructure Projects :

- Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure – provides a municipal toolkit on this
- Jersey Water Works- was established back in 2013 with shared goals (effective and financially sustainable systems, successful and beneficial green infrastructure, empowered stakeholders, and combined sewer overflow control plans) and several committees (asset management and finance; green infrastructure; education and outreach; and combined overflow); their reach (3,258 individuals)

Membership:

- Meeting: Monday, July 20th- Strong Infrastructure, Healthy New Jersey
- It's free to join NJ Future as long as you believe in the goals.

Chris Sturm spoke about Four major initiatives:

1. Jersey Water Check: Allows consumers review their drinking water based on different metrics and providers to connect to their customers. There's a map, data and graphics to review the data. It will be going live in the

fall. Data from utility companies and publically accessible data will be part of the program. They are looking to do an annual update.

2. JWW Lead in Drinking Water Force: Representatives worked together for 10 months and issued its report with recommendations falling into 5 categories: lead service line replacement, funding sources, childcare 7 schools, protective measures, and a coordinated state campaign. LSL replacement goal is to replace them all in NJ in 10 years even though it is complicated in terms of ownerships; Newark is leading the way. 4,500 Children in NJ have Lead Poisoning (paint, water- including infants who can drink it through formula); Risk is higher the lower income cities of NJ
3. Sewage Free Streets and Rivers: Partnership of 21 NJ cities with CSOs to support long term control plans by funding public participation, including a public conversation, and reflecting community values. Strategies include flyering, communicating with local officials, and community partners
4. Stormwater Utility Resource: Working to have resources online with the NJDEP, which is coming

Chris asked the NJCPA members if they would like to receive a survey on Green Infrastructure for their Jersey Water Check and it was decided that she will. Donna Rendeiro offered to include NJ Future's information in their municipal "leave behind" information packet.

There was further discussion about several topics: the stormwater management fees, green infrastructure in public spaces and ROWs, and hazard mitigation planning.

Presentation: 2020 Census Update: Thomas Zins, M.A., M.Ed., Partnership Specialist, New York Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau and SOS Office Representative (Eric Kipnis, DOS)

Thomas Zins provided a slideshow presentation:

- NJ response rate is 63.4% v national rate of 61.5%
- Operational adjustments for CVOID:
 - Self-response extended to October 31, 2020
 - All ACOs are all open in July after a delay.
 - Training of new staff starting in early July.
 - Census Response Representatives (CRR) will be in the field shortly and Mobile Questionnaire Response (MQA) will use actual response rates to determine where to send staff in low response rates.
 - Service-Based Enumeration (SBE)- Conducted September 22-24, 2020; emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food van stops, pre-identified non-sheltered outdoor locations
 - Non-response Follow-up from August 11-october 31st

Other specific messages about emphasizing that people need to respond where they lived or were supposed to live on April 1st, college students, seasonal residences, and partnership specialists availability.

- Civic Duty Challenge from the NJ DOS – Call 5 relatives, neighbors, or friends to check in and remind them to fill out the Census.

Eric Kipnis provided a slideshow presentation:

- Comprehensive Bottom up- Top own Outreach Strategy/Plan- many resources have been provided by the state
- What's been different? The Outreach Plan related activities has moved to non-in-person activities and virtual activities.
- Currently: Shift to virtual with in-person activities are being planned; Weekly social media themes; the NJ Friends & Census Outreach Program; Mobile Billboards
- Census Surge week – last week of July or first week of August; state-wide endeavor
- Emphasis now is on the commitment to fill it out on the spot

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

OPA: Working with several municipalities on Plan Endorsement; Working on the resiliency Technical Assistance with 10 Counties and 5 municipalities in 3 separate programs

Gerry Scharfenberger: His bill on the municipal and county land development extensions has not been voted on yet.

John G. Donnadio from NJAC relayed to Walter that a bill has been introduced that would allow municipalities to close County Roads and County parking lots for active recreation and outdoor dining. There was no language about

Counties being involved in the process so Walter asked that additional language be added in especially in reference to liability.

Presentation: Recovery: What does Equity look like in our placemaking?: Suzanne Ishee, Director, NJIT Hub for Creative Placemaking

- Creative Placemaking = intentional integration of arts, culture and community-engaged design into community planning and development
- Community Engagement+ Arts and Culture + social Equity +Economic Health and Well-Being
- NJIT focuses on the process of creative placemaking to transition to equitable impact.
 - a. Form your team- variety of stakeholders, funders, policy makers, etc.
- Examine through the lens of social justice- Who benefits and who is harmed?
- Provided an example from New Orleans- Claiborne Corridor Community: It was a historically black neighborhood that was destroyed by a state highway cut through it. When it was considered to be torn down, the community came together in a public process: they decided not to tear it down and use the funding for neighborhood revitalization (made a plan, cultural resources, etc.) They have many celebrations of the historic identify and pop-up demonstrations.
- Racial Equity Toolkit (6 steps):
 1. Set Outcomes
 2. Involve Stakeholders and Analyze Data
 3. Determine Benefit and/or Burden
 4. Advance Opportunity or Minimize harm
 5. Evaluate. Raise Racial Awareness. Be Accountable
 6. Report Back

Natalie Zaman – Cultural and Heritage at Somerset: Took the Certificate in Creative Placemaking course and recommended it the members. Emphasized public engagement portion

Kaitlin Bundy- Cultural and Heritage at Somerset: Took the Certificate in Creative Placemaking course as well. Emphasized the importance of story-telling; Spoke about how planning should be executed and portrayed in a more simple way for the public to digest

Sign-up: <https://executiveeducation.njit.edu/courses/creative-placemaking-certificate/> - Will be fully Virtual - September 10th - December 21st, 2020

Update: Long Term Recovery Working Group:

- Last Friday Several counties and representatives from regional organizations
- Equity is an emphasis of the committee (Creative placemaking is an important process to reach this goal)
- Resiliency is another major goal.
- Will develop some guiding principles for endorsement how our organization as whole
- Pull together resources – like zoom meetings to show best practices, highlight county and municipal partnerships, creating an inventory of these resources
- The League of Municipalities is supportive and wants to partner with us. They did say that structure and organization of outdoor dining is covered, but the need is long-term business resiliency planning. He mentioned that we could have a session during the League’s Conference.
- Workforce Training – overlap with NJ Future’s goals; there needs to be an opportunities for new employment opportunities for those who will permanently lose their jobs
- Data Sharing for short-term and long-term recovery planning
- Complimenting regional efforts like RPA and NJ Future
- Sharing County Land Development Updates among the members via a Google Drive document
- All interested individuals can join in.

Committee Updates:

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

Resolutions: Upcoming - Christine Marion (Morris) Retirement – Appreciation Resolution

Updates/Necessary Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Francesca Giarratana, AICP, PP on 7/16/20

June 2020 County Planners Meeting - Attendees

Attendee	Email	County
John Peterson	peterson_john@aclink.org	Atlantic
Frances Brown	brown_frances@aclink.org	Atlantic
Tom Stanuikynas	tom.stanuikynas@gmail.com	Burlington
Sam Schroeder	sshroeder@hcnj.us	Hudson
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Kamal Saleh	KSaleh@ucnj.org	Union
Valarie Discafani	vdiscafani@co.warren.nj.us	Warren

Special Guests	Email	Organization
Brian Thomas	bthomas@njleg.org	NJ Legislature
Suzanne Ishee	suzanne.ishee@njit.edu	NJIT -Creative Placemaking
thomas zins	thomas.f.zins@2020census.gov	US Census Bureau
Donna Rendeiro	donna.rendeiro@sos.nj.gov	NJ Office of Planning Advocacy
Gerry Scharfenberger	Asmscharfenberger@njleg.org	NJ Legislature
Eric Kipnis	eric.kipnis@sos.nj.gov	NJ Department of State
Lauren Belsky	lbelsky@njfuture.org	NJ Future
Christine Sturm	csturm@njfuture.org	NJ Future

New Jersey County Planners Association
Open Space, Agriculture and Environment Committee Report
June 18, 2020

NJBPU Order Directing the Utilities to Establish Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs, June 10, 2020: This order was enacted pursuant to the energy efficiency provisions in the NJ Clean Energy Act of 2018, which plays a key role in achieving the State’s goal of 100% clean energy by 2050. The Act establishes aggressive energy reduction requirements and other clean energy strategies. In addition to the significant threats from climate change, the economic impacts of COVID-19 elevate the importance of Energy Efficiency as a strategy to reduce GHG emissions while growing the green economy. Implementation of this order is expected create new green jobs, reduce energy use and provide energy cost savings for customers while also improving the resilience, comfort and safety of the built environment. Through this order, electric and gas public utilities will play an increased role providing energy efficiency programs to their customers. Each electric public utility is required to achieve, within its territory, annual reductions of at least 2% of the average annual electricity usage in the prior three years within five years of implementation of its electric energy efficiency program. Each natural gas public utility is required to achieve, within its territory, annual reductions in the use of natural gas of at least 0.75% of the average annual natural gas usage in the prior three year within five years of implementation of its gas energy efficiency program. This EO is available at the following link: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/boardorders/2020/20200610/8D--Order%20Directing%20the%20Utilities%20to%20Establish%20Energy%20Efficiency%20and%20Peak%20Demand%20Reduction%20Programs.pdf>.

“A Seat at the Table: Integrating the Needs and Challenges of Underrepresented and Socially Vulnerable Populations into Coastal Hazards Planning In New Jersey”: This report dated May 31, 2020 was prepared as part of a national NOAA Project of Special Merit by a team from Rutgers University for the NJ Coastal Zone Management Program in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. It contains decision-support tools, resilience planning guidance, and training and policy options to advance efforts to address the needs of socially vulnerable populations as part of coastal and climate resilience planning in New Jersey. Many of the strategies and recommendations included in Chapter V. “Options for NJ Coastal Management Policy to Enhance efforts to Address Needs of Socially Vulnerable Populations” can benefit areas throughout the State affected by climate change impacts and health inequities. The report recommends specific social vulnerability provisions and detailed policy options for integration into the following programmatic areas:

- Resilient NJ Planning Program
- Resilience-related updates to NJ’s Coastal Management Regulations
- Coastal resilience-related considerations associated with the operations of the State Planning Commission
- Development of a NJDEP grant program to support local resilience planning using coastal management funds
- Development of a Coastal Resilience Plan as part of the Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy underway as required by EO 89

To view the report, please see <https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/A-Seat-at-the-Table-Final-Report-5-31-20.pdf>.

ACEEE's "Mayors' Toolkit for Energy Efficiency: This report is a great resource for community leaders that are interested in ways the NJ Energy Master Plan can be implemented at the local level. This resource is available at the following link: <https://www.aceee.org/toolkit/2020/06/mayors-toolkit-energy-efficiency>

Respectfully Submitted by Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP

New Jersey Ranks #1 in the Nation for Addressing the Loss of Farmland: The American Farmland Trust recently released a multi-year study entitled "Farms Under Threat: The State of the States," which examines the loss of farmland across the United States and ranks how States have responded to farmland conversion through agricultural retention policies. This study concludes that while New Jersey ranks #3 in the United States for agricultural land conversion threats, New Jersey ranks #1 in the nation for its policies to protect and preserve farmland.

*A press release issued by the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) summarizing the findings of this study follows on the next page.

To view the report, please see:

https://s30428.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/AFT_FUT_StateoftheStates.pdf

Respectfully Submitted by Laurie Sobel, PP, AICP



NEWS

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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New Jersey Ranks #1 in the Nation for Addressing the Loss of Farmland

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) has just issued its multi-year study on farmland loss across the nation titled “Farms Under Threat: The State of the States,” that concludes New Jersey ranks first in the nation for implementing policies and programs to stem the loss of farmland. AFT is the only nation-wide nonprofit agency whose focus is exclusively on the preservation and protection of America’s farmland resources.

According to the report, 11 millions of acres of America’s agricultural land were developed or converted to uses that threaten farming between 2001 and 2016 – an area equal to all the U.S. farmland devoted to fruit, nut, and vegetable production in 2017—or 2,000 acres a day paved over, built up, and converted to uses that threaten the future of agriculture.

The report’s Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard is the first-ever state-by-state analysis of policies that respond to the development threats to farmland and ranchland, showing that every state can, “and must”, do more to protect their irreplaceable agricultural resources. The Agricultural Land Protection Scorecard analyzes six programs and policies that are key to securing a sufficient and suitable base of agricultural land in each state and highlights states’ efforts to retain agricultural land for future generations.

New Jersey earned the top spot in the ranking due first and foremost to its long and impressive record of preserving farmland under the State’s Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The FPP is administered by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) – an eleven-member board comprised of farmers, public members, state agencies and the NJ Secretary of Agriculture. To date, New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program has resulted in the permanent protection of over 2,600 farms, accounting for more than 237,000 acres – or roughly one-third of all farmland in the state – and has made a bigger financial investment in farmland protection than any other state in the country. And while NJ earns the top rank for protecting its farmland it is also ranks 3rd among states with the most threatened agricultural land (Texas is #1 and North Carolina #2), evidencing the continued need for a strong Farmland Preservation Program.

The study found that coordination between state and local governments is essential in creating and implementing successful programs to permanently protect farmland, support agricultural viability, and provide access to farmland now and for future generation to come. New Jersey earns high scores for policy tools beyond its Farmland Preservation program, including 1) the program’s requirement

that counties and municipalities adopt comprehensive farmland preservation plans in order to receive state funding; 2) creation of Agricultural Development Areas that encourage New Jersey counties to protect and support farms that form large contiguous areas of protected farmland; 3) New Jersey's Farmland Assessment law that enable farmland owners to pay property taxes based on the agricultural value of their land; 4) giving farmers access to state-owned farmland through agricultural leases; and 5) the SADC's creation of a 'farm-link' program – an on-line tool that helps farmers looking to find new properties to farm, and landowners seeking farmers – to connect and create new farming opportunities.

“We are incredibly proud that New Jersey has been recognized by AFT as a leader in the nation for thinking ahead and working smart to create the best environment to support the preservation of farmland and the agricultural industry” said Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher. “This accomplishment would not have been possible without the strong commitment of everyone involved – from state, county and municipal governments and our land trust partners, to farmers and farmland owners, and of course, ultimately to the voters of New Jersey who have consistently voted their support for raising public funds needed to make farmland preservation a reality.”

“I, like Secretary Fisher, am so proud our efforts have been recognized at the national level” said Susan Payne, Executive Director of the SADC, “but this is no time to rest on our laurels. New Jersey farmers have new and evolving challenges facing them, from everchanging market demands to more volatile weather patterns associated with climate change. The task before us is to protect the best of New Jersey's farmland and support farmers in sustaining the viability of their agricultural operations over the long term”.

“Farmers, land trusts, public officials at all levels and the people of New Jersey deserve tremendous credit for seeing that farms were being destroyed by poorly planned real estate development and taking action in multiple ways over decades to protect this land and keep farmers on it,” said David Haight, Vice President of Programs at American Farmland Trust. “But, the job is not done. The state has some of the most expensive farmland in America making it difficult for a new generation of farmers to find land, while more needs to be done to help farmers use regenerative practices on this land and increase resilience to climate change. We look forward to working with the State of New Jersey and our many partners to sustain their position as a national leader and push for innovative approaches for addressing these emerging needs.”

Secretary Fisher pointed out that the SADC also administers other programs that were not highlighted in AFT's report including grants that enable preserved farmland owners to improve the viability of their agricultural operations by implementing conservation practices, upgrading irrigation and drainage systems and installing deer fencing to protect their crops. In addition, the agency administers the State's Right to Farm (RTF) act which protects responsible farmers from unduly restrictive municipal and county regulations as well as from nuisance complaints from neighbors.

“We can, and must, strive to preserve the State's farmland base, help farmers continue to be good stewards of the land, and create an environment where farm businesses can thrive now and, in the future” says Fisher. “AFT's report shows we're on the right track, but we must continue to forge ahead to remain a model of the best farmland protection practices for many years to come.”

AFT Farms Under Threat Study <https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/farms-under-threat-the-state-of-the-states/>