

**NJCPA Regular Meeting**

**Thompson Park Visitors Center, Beech Room**

**Lincroft, New Jersey**

**April 20, 2018**

**Member Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ranae Fehr	Atlantic	Gerry Scharfenberger	Monmouth
Ken Aloisio	Bergen	Linda Brennen	Monmouth
Megan Massey	Hudson	Christine Marion	Morris
Andrew Lloyd	Mercer	Vicki Pecchioli	Ocean
Rick Smith	Mercer	Michael Lysicatos	Passaic
George M. Ververides	Middlesex	Walter Lane	Somerset
Stanley R. Olszewski	Middlesex	Tanya Rohrbach	Somerset
Mirah Becker	Middlesex	Andras Holzmann	Somerset
Nicholas Tufaro	Middlesex	Kamal Saleh	Union
Laurie Sobel	Middlesex		

**Other Agencies/Guests:**

Allen Weston	NJ Association of Counties
Jessica Jahre	NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Tom Stanuikynas	NJ Department of Community Affairs
Keith Henderson	NJ Department of Community Affairs
Collen McGurk	NJ Office for Planning Advocacy

**Welcome & Introduction:**

NJ County Planners Association President Linda Brennen called the meeting to order, led self-introductions and thanked everyone for attending.

**Business**

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 16, 2018 meeting will be distributed for review at the next meeting. President Brennen reported that the next meeting date had been changed due to the NJ Association of Counties Meeting and will now be on May 10, 2018 at 3pm. She noted that Association Members can attend only the meeting without having to register for the conference.

**Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Michael Lysicatos provided a brief report on the budget. No major issues or changes were reported. Invoices were available for pick-up during the meeting.

## **Wastewater Survey Results**

Andrew Lloyd from Mercer County provided an overview on the recent survey of counties on their recent wastewater management planning experiences. He reported that 13 of the 21 counties completed the survey. Overall, the responses were positive and only a few issues were reported. He thanked all of the counties that responded to the survey and stated that he looks forward to future discussions on this topic as the counties continue their wastewater plans.

Mr. Lloyd then provided a brief presentation regarding Mercer County's recent experience with a proposed change to their wastewater management plan. He described the proposed addition to the existing sewer service area and concerns that the County had regarding the review process. A briefed discussion ensued. Mr. Lloyd agreed to share his presentation with the group and the Association will continue to monitor the wastewater planning process. President Brennen thanked Mr. Lloyd for his working on developing the survey and reporting on the results.

## **Presentations**

### **Regional Resilience Grant**

President Brennen introduced Jessica Jahre from NJDEP's Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning who joined the meeting via conference call. Ms. Jahre provided a detailed overview of the Regional Resilience Planning Grant Program. NJ received a 415 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Disaster Resilience Competition. The grant funds two phases of work – a planning phase and an implementation phase. The program will fund the development and implementation of five regional resilience plans. Some of the eligible activities include scenario planning, cost benefit analysis, development of master plans and ordinances and project design. This program will focus on addressing current and future risks in the nine designated counties affected by Tropical Cyclone Sandy as identified by USHUD. Groups of three or more municipalities that share a boundary in the named counties can seek grant funding. Funding can be used to cover staff participation in the project. A goal of the program is to ensure stakeholder involvement in the planning process, in particular under-represented or underserved populations.

This will be a competitive grant program and a Notice of Funding Availability will be released in late May. Applications will be available on NJDEP's website. NJEP will also be posting a request for proposals for consultant teams (planners, engineers, landscape architects, etc.) that will be assigned to the counties/towns that will be awarded grants. Additional information about the grant program can be requested by emailing [ResilientNJ@dep.nj.gov](mailto:ResilientNJ@dep.nj.gov).

President Brennen thanked NJDEP for presenting to the Association.

### **Trends in Energy and Sustainability and its impact on planning in New Jersey**

Secretary Lane introduced William Amann, P.E., M & E Engineers, LEED Fellow, USGBC-NJ Board and Somerset County Energy Council Chairman. Mr. Amann gave a detailed presentation on a wide range of topics impacting the planning profession and how planners can incorporate these efforts into their planning projects. Mr. Amann provided a detailed overview of the LEED and LEED for Neighborhood Programs and encouraged County Planning Boards to promote the LEED for Neighborhood Program. He also provided an overview of new the LEED for Cities and Communities program that scores participants

on a 1-100 scale in categories such as energy, water, waste and transportation. Newark, NJ was the first city to sign up for the LEED for Cities and Communities program. The Well Building and Well Community Standards are also detailed during the presentation. He also reviewed several bills that are before the Legislature regarding various energy issues. Information was also provided about Micro-grids and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure planning.

President Brennen thanked Mr. Amann for his presentation.

### **Committee Updates**

Christine Marion provided a brief update on the recent ruling by the State Supreme Court regarding Morris County's Historic Grant Program. The Court ruled that the County can no longer provide historic preservation grants to religious organizations. A discussion regarding the ruling followed.

### **Utilities, Transportation & Infrastructure**

Kamal Saleh provided an update on several NJTransit and NJDOT projects. He also reported on several sessions that were held at the TransAction conference including the Gateway Project and several other major infrastructure projects.

### **Statewide Planning**

President Brennen reported that John Peterson and Laurette Kratina have been working on a proposal for the Association to consider regarding Statewide Planning. She also thanked Anthony Soriano doing a great job preparing the Legislative Reports.

### **Partner Project of the Month: Local Planning Services**

President Brennen introduced Tom Stanuikynas and Keith Henderson from the Department of Community Affairs Local Planning Services. They provided an overview of the work performed by Local Planning Services. This group provides a wide range of planning services (master plan, land use planning, economic development) at no charge to eligible municipalities. Several recent projects were discussed. The State's Main Street Program is a part of Local Planning Services.

This group also provided recovery planning services after Tropical Cyclone Sandy by developing Strategic Recovery Planning Reports (SRPR). There were a total of 44 SRPR grants funded. In addition, Local Planning Services supported the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program (PSPAG) which funded a total of 271 projects (neighborhood plans, master plan updates, hazard mitigation plans, redevelopment plans, etc.).

Local Planning Services also managed three State and Regional Planning Assistance Grants that funded three applied research projects. These projects included a Planning for Microgrids Study conducted by the New Jersey Institute of Technology, the development of a Storm Risk Assessment Toolkit prepared by Notre Dame University and an Impact-Based Decision Making Model created by Rowan University. President Brennen thanked Mr. Stanuikynas and Mr. Henderson for their presentation.

## **Agency Updates**

OPA: Collen McGurk reported that several Plan Endorsement petitions are being considered.

DCA: Local Planning Services reported that the State was working with Federal Government regarding the new Opportunity Zone Program which was created as part of the overhaul of the Federal Tax Code.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by George Ververides at approximately 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Walter C. Lane, PP/AICP, 5-10-18