

New Jersey

Year 2020

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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
October 16, 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. Waiting for partner to finalize the long-term recovery paper
 - a. Adding graphics and logos
- b. Health grant available via State
 - a. Must attend webinar to apply
- c. VMT Pilot Program for a mileage-based user fee.
 - a. Look at flyer for all details
 - i. Expanding to anyone who wants to participate
 - ii. GPS-based
 - iii. Maps out how many miles traveled
- d. Walter lane suggests a special November meeting for county planners on November 20th for a round table discussion land development issues if there's interest
 - a. How to handle land development review fees
 - b. Share what counties are doing
 - c. Andrew Levechia suggests County Engineers Associations from Burlington were interested in this topic
 - d. Hudson County engineer's association would be interested in this discussion

Meeting Minutes: Adoption of June and July minutes by Francesca Giarratana.

- a. June:
 - Linda Brennen said in comments: motions are not named; Kaitlin Bundy's name is misspelled
 - Katelyn Katzer makes a motion to approve the minutes with the revisions
 - A motion was made by Adam Bradford and seconded by Walter Lane to approve the minutes.
 - Minutes were approved with no objections or abstentions.
- a. July:
 - Linda Brennen said in comments: Water quality control plan should be management plan. Mark R is Mark Remsa
 - Francesca will reach out to her after the meeting to make those changes and send out a new draft

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 and seconded to approve the Report. Report was approved with no objections or abstentions.

- a. Almost the same as last month
 - i. Only real change is we received dues from one County this month

- b. Still have 7 Counties with Membership fees outstanding: Total \$1,050

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

Pushed after Panel Discussions

OPA: 1st 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.

Panel Discussion: Charge EVC: Developing the Electric Vehicle Market in New Jersey, presented by Pamela Frank

In the matter of 20 years households with automobiles went from 10% of HH in 1910 to 60% in 1930

Charge EVC is a non-profit organization and the coalition is formed by a diverse group

(From ppt slide) Mission is to accelerate and expand EV adoption in NJ and develop and promote programs and policies

Charge EVC, conducts research

- a. They recently developed a report in conjunction with the Mayor of Jersey City
- b. In NJ the majority of GHG emissions come from transportation followed by electricity generation, commercial and industrial, residential, highly warming gases, waste management and land clearing
- c. Transportation offers a fairly easy way to reduce GHG compared to switching out power generation when it's been built and existed for 20/30 years.
- d. Cars, trucks and vehicles turn over much more frequently

Roundtable Discussion

Charge EVC conducts advocacy and education and not installation.

- chicken and egg dynamic between manufacturers and companies that build the charging infrastructure

People do not buy cars based on facts. They drive about 40 miles per day, yet they buy based on their peak needs.

- Charging infrastructure is needed to help people get over the range anxiety.

The private sector needs help, so that's why the utilities need to step in two areas

1. The board declared in their board order that utilities are able to make investments and the rate of return with something called Make ready which is a term in the industry that means everything behind the charges. the Utilities come in and do that and then the private sector owns the box
2. We have to change the way utilities rates are structured to make the private sector interested and attracted
 - a. Just know when you charge in a charging station, whoever owns the charging station has to pay the electric bill and the electric bill has both energy components and demand components. The issue is right now when utilization is low those fixed charge components will overwhelm the volume charge components so we have to find a way to make this operation profitable.

Some EV charger stations are having trouble on the local level of getting approval

- Recommendation is to not calling it a zoning issue but instead make the charging stations almost like a mandatory requirement like the handicapped spaces
 - Localities should not increase the parking requirements, but instead require that at least two spaces be designated for ev charging stations

Pamela: NJ is after California for being one of the worst states to get charging stations approved

- estimates of about 400 days to get approval

Walter Lane: suggests a special meeting for this in more detail because the meeting is running out of time.

Eve: I will give my email because this is a much bigger conversation.

Panel Discussion: Camden County’s Connectivity to Circuit Lane DVRCP Initiative, presented by Andrew Levechia

In 2017, the County performed a Trail Feasibility Study that told us exactly what we would need to do to build out the Link trail system

Goals of the Camden County Link:

- a. Build early momentum for Camden County’s bicycling and trail network
 - a. Not challenging
 - b. Many individuals were impressed with the idea
- b. Locate the trail to attract economic development
- c. Create a commuting alternative
- d. Connect Open Space
 - a. Give individuals access to see what they’re paying for

The route will Create links to and from other trails and connect to downtown commercial areas. The 12ft wide asphalt is appropriate for handicap accessibility. It will connect to road system(s) and will include uses for all modes of recreational and commuting travel.

Trail is 33 miles long (begins in City of Camden to Atlantic County) and passes through 17 towns. Expected to have a \$19.5M per year impact to Camden County’s local economy through tourist spending; support a total of \$9.8M in economic output. Trail will generate 114 jobs along the route, adding \$4.2M in labor income to County; inject \$963,000 in local taxes annually

Brandee Chapmin (NJDEP) advises to engage adjacent homeowners on the process and to alter landscaping (lighting) with regard to fear of crime – Andrew Levechia does not believe it is a safety issue

Panel Presentation: New Jersey Trails Program, presented by Brandee Chapmin

Brandee Chapmin presented a PowerPoint on the New Jersey Trails Plan:

- a. First Plan was developed in 1982 and updated in 1996 and again in 2009 (11 years out of date).
 - i. Last time was done through a consultant with NJDEP
 - ii. Delays with Covid
- b. Outlines goals and strategic actions to help guide and coordinate the efforts of all those who plan, build, operate and maintain New Jersey’s trails

- c. Can view executive summary on trails.nj.gov

NJ Trails Task Force: Developed in 2016. Mission is to develop a methodology for creating and maintaining statewide datasets of trails

a. Status:

- i. The goals of the taskforce have almost been met, including the development of attribute/schema standards
- ii. The Taskforce is ready to move into an implementation phase for the development of a statewide trail GIS layer
- iii. Currently accepting trail data in any format – email Tanya Nolte at Tanya@njconservation.org

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 26th 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 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

Attendee	Email	County
Ranae Fehr	fehr_ranae@aclink.org	Atlantic
John Peterson	peterson_john@aclink.org	Atlantic
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Special Guests	Email	Organization
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NJ DEP
NJ Legislature

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

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

Submitted by: Ranae L. Fehr, 2020 Treasurer

July 17, 2020

Contact: New Jersey County Planners Association
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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 and visit the SJ website: 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