

**Environment Committee
Meeting Summary
November 10, 2008**

Present: Margaret Wirtenberg*, Weston; Robert Byrnes*, Greenwich; Paul Settlemeyer, SWRPA chairman; Floyd Lapp, and Nicole Davis, SWRPA;
*Committee co-chairs

Dr. Wirtenberg called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm, and stated for the record the meeting time was moved to 4:00 to accommodate those who couldn't attend earlier meetings.

I. Dr. Wirtenberg called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Mr. Byrnes moved and the motion was seconded by Mr. Settlemeyer and passed unanimously.

II. Legislative Committee Recommendations

Mr. Byrnes explained that a recommendation had been added to the Legislative Agenda that would require all development and renovations to properties within the flood plain to have zero incremental runoff per lot. He stated that the Co-Chairs brought the item to the Legislative committee on their own due to the time frame. He commented that this may be a controversial recommendation but it was important and should help to reduce flooding.

Mr. Settlemeyer asked if this was new legislation and Ms. Davis explained that similar legislation had been passed and the Co-Chairs' recommendation would help strengthen the existing regulations.

Dr. Lapp stated that at the November 3rd Agency Meeting the Board was given the Legislative Agenda and had 1 week to comment on the packet before the agenda was finalized.

III. Watershed Planning

A. Clarification of Grants

Ms. Davis provided a summary of the grants that SWRPA had recently applied for. She explained which grants were being used to fund which projects.

Dr. Lapp updated the committee on the status of funding for the Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance study for the rivers of Fairfield County. Stating that as a result of the recent election SWRPA would be reaching out the newly elected Congressman Himes staff to hopefully have the study completed in 2009

Mr. Settlemeyer inquired if any of the municipalities had pursued the Section 25 money that was available from the state. The status was unknown and Ms. Davis stated that she would follow up and let the committee know. Mr. Settlemeyer suggested that SWRPA send out a memo to the municipalities letting them know that the money is available and has been allocated by the legislature. He suggested SWRPA ask the municipalities to let them know if

they pursue the funding for monitoring and support going forward. Dr. Wirtenberg made a motion to have a memo sent out this week on Section 25 funding, the motion was seconded by Mr. Settelmeyer and approved.

B. FEMA Grants October Training

Ms. Davis updated the committee on the FEMA grants training that had been hosted by SWRPA on October 21. She summarized the training and commented that 6 of the 8 municipalities in the region were present and a few people from Bridgeport and Milford had also attended. Dr. Wirtenberg had mentioned she had attended and had included a write up in the "About Weston" column of the "Weston Forum" on October 30.

IV. Other Business

Ms. Davis commented that no meeting had been scheduled for December. The Committee requested that a date be set and canceled if one was not needed. December 18 was selected at 2 P.M.

Mr. Byrnes motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Wirtenberg and carried unanimously. The meeting Adjourned at 4:55

Prepared by Nicole Davis,
South Western Regional Planning Agency