



**Meeting Minutes
Dredging of Delaware and Raritan Canal
New Jersey Water Supply Authority
Public Officials' Briefing
Franklin Township/Millstone Borough
July 14, 2010**

ATTENDEES:

Carol Beske, ACT Engineers, clbeske@actengineers.com
Theodore Chase, Jr., Councilman, 1st Ward, Franklin Township, councilman.chase@twp.franklin.nj.us
Kenneth Daly, Township Manager, Franklin Township, ken.daly@twp.franklin.nj.us
Bob DeLorenzo, Urban Dredging Consultants JV, robert.delorenzo@obg.com
Raymond Heck, Mayor of Millstone Borough, mayor@millstoneboro.org
John Loos, Loos Consulting, Consultant to Franklin Township, saveland77@gmail.com
Sharmila Rahman, New Jersey Water Supply, srahman@njwsa.org
Arnold Vernick, Chairman, Franklin Township Environmental Commission, avernick@aol.com
Tom Zilinek, Franklin Township Engineer, thomas.zilinek@twp.franklin.nj.us

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

To open dialog between Franklin Township, Millstone Borough and the NJWSA project team, Urban Dredging Consultants concerning the proposed dredging of the D&R Canal.

DISCUSSION/SUGGESTIONS

Carol Beske thanked Franklin Township and Millstone Borough personnel for meeting with the team and explained the purpose of the introductory meeting was to open a dialogue for the dredging of the D&R Canal from Route 27 in Kingston to Amwell Road in Franklin Township.

Bob DeLorenzo identified the consulting firms that make up the joint venture project team, Urban Dredging Consultants, JV. He noted the project objective is to remove an estimated 250,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Canal in an environmentally protective manner to increase flow capacity. He reviewed:

- Technical approach – considering cultural and recreational significance, source of water, and visibility.
- Scope of Work - Landside and bathymetric survey, sediment sampling and characterization, staging areas, dredging and dewatering, disposal options, and environmental issues.
- Schedule -Evaluation of dredging methodologies by December 2010, design by July 2011, funding November 2012, with construction estimated to span two construction seasons, depending on weather.

Carol Beske explained the public outreach program to be conducted to develop a dredging plan acceptable to the stakeholders. Components of the program include:

- Outreach to state, county and municipal officials, and local businesses and residents.
- Conducting three public officials' briefings and three public participation meetings with stakeholders.
- Providing information on the project on NJWSA website with links to municipal website.

Township personnel recommended that Phil Kramer, elected committee member who lives by the Canal, be notified and included in stakeholders.

Carol Beske outlined the public outreach process including public officials' briefings, public stakeholders' meetings and public hearings. The need to coordinate with the local police, fire and first aid departments during construction was discussed. Mayor Heck noted that Fire District #1 and the State Police need to be notified of status affecting traffic during construction.

CONCERNS

Franklin Township has an import/export ordinance that will need to be addressed in order to secure an exemption.

Issues/comments raised by public officials to be addressed during the project include:

- Questioned why the Canal was to be dredged; some participants were surprised the canal is used as a source of drinking water.
- Questioned SHPO's involvement and their ability to slow/stop the project. It was noted the Authority would be retaining a cultural resource consultant and that a cultural resource analysis will be completed.
- Sampling and characteristic study will be compiled this summer (2010) to address environmental information.
- Questioned if Trap Rock runoff into Canal affects the water quality in the Canal.
- It was explained that dredging would be to a depth of 7 feet which will bring the canal back to the original depth.
- Staging areas will be identified after analysis to determine appropriate staging/storage area.
- Are we doing sediment and water sampling? Yes.
- When will we decide on dredging technology to be used? It was noted that the dredging technology would be selected after public meetings and input from the public/stakeholders.
- Concerned with effects dredging will have on natural habitat areas.
- Concern with odor issues and other impacts on homeowners adjacent to the Canal.
- Franklin Township Soil Import and Export Permit may be required for handling dredge materials out of the Township.

Stakeholders to include:

- D&R Canal Website
- Millstone Valley Preservation Commission
- Blackwell Mills Canal House
- Griggstown Historic Society

Website – Franklin Township will provide a link to NJWSA's website for ongoing information on the project.