

# Watershed Coalition Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2006

10:15 – Ken Taaffe called the meeting to order and commenced Introductions. There were 24 people who introduced themselves.

10:18 – Greg Westfall passed out the Survey Summary, stated he had received a good response, briefly discussed the results and fielded questions.

Sam Reynolds, Army Corps of Engineers, asked if Federal Funding sources were common knowledge and gave a brief explanation of permit requirements. He stated he worked with Brian Mulvenna, Army Corps of Engineers, and Kathy Stuart, Legislative Assistant to Senator Sweeney, on a number of projects.

Glenn Clark, Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management, questioned the existence of a targeted Catalog of Grants?

Ken DiMuzio, Attorney for Repaupo Creek Project, asked the difference between the Corps emergency and maintenance programs.

A lengthy discussion led by Sam Reynolds, Greg Westfall, Brian Mulvenna, Ken DiMuzio, and Kathy Stuart on the requirements for Federal (Corps & NRCS) Funding for the Repaupo Creek project. The following requirements were divulged:

- ▶ All projects must provide Flood Control.
- ▶ All projects must complete a Flood Control Eligibility Inspection before the funding phase.
- ▶ The Flood Control Eligibility Inspection takes a minimum of 2 years. It may take up to 5 years.
- ▶ The maximum project funding by the Army Corps of Engineers is \$5 million with a 35% local share.
- ▶ The Gibbstown Levee is the only project to have completed the Flood Control Eligibility Inspection.

Ken Taaffe suggested a meeting be scheduled to determine if past studies of Repaupo will meet the Feasibility studies requirements.

11:00 – Greg Westfall passed out the draft Mission/Vision statements and requested comments.

Sam Reynolds stated that grouped watershed projects would provide a “bigger picture” for the Corps and make all projects more manageable.

Ken DiMuzio stated this was the opportune time for legislation, a capital improvement program was needed to provide for the public safety. He indicated a ‘coordinating agency’ was needed to assemble information on the requirements of the Corps, NRCS, etc. He stated the agency should be responsible for building and maintaining the following databases:

- ▶ Inventory – to include the determination of timeframe the levees would fail
- ▶ Demographic
- ▶ Transportation – economic impact

Ken stated the economic impact could be assessed with the above databases. This information would be made available to the public which could then determine who should contribute.

Bryan Becker, American Littoral Society, questioned which watersheds would be represented.

Glenn Clark, Gloucester OEM, explained that every county is required to develop a “pre-disaster economic impact plan.” He stated the coalition would be a good forum to contribute to the plans. Currently no county has an approved plan.

11:30 – Ken Taaffe then asked if the group wished to form a group.

Ken DiMuzio stated three things were needed:

- ▶ Advisory group to collect and disseminate information
- ▶ Segment for private participation
- ▶ Public sector – [voting class ???]

A brief discussion of LIDAR, an aerial photography project using lasers to determine topography, ensued. Joe ??? stated the state has a LIDAR program and estimated Gloucester County would be LIDARed in 2007.

Ken DiMuzio stated state legislation would be required to correct ownership of the dikes and levees.

11:50 – Ken Taaffe solicited volunteers for the Advisory committee to meet on Feb 8, 2006. The following people were volunteered: Kathy Stuart, Ken DiMuzio, Chuck ???, Glenn Clark, Brian Mulvenna, and Brian ??? (US Fish & Wildlife).

Ken Taaffe described a new NRCS grant to possibly fund the inventory process. He handed a hard copy to ???.

Ken Taaffe then raised the question of timeframe for the next meeting. It was decided for the Advisory Committee to meet on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and the full group again on Mar 8<sup>th</sup>.

The following possible topics were discussed:

- ▶ Advisory Committee Report
- ▶ Littoral Society Coastal Habitat Restoration
- ▶ Federal/State Program Permits
- ▶ Saltwater Intrusion – Agriculture Irrigation

12:10 – The meeting was concluded.