

October 17, 2023
Wesley Lake Commission Minutes
Meeting in Person

In Attendance:

Robert Bianchini
Dr. Brown
Eileen Chapman
Keith Fiori
Ed Lacombe
Joe Leone
Barbara Lewinski
Doug McQueen
Jenn Schimpf

Doug McQueen opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with member roll call and reading of the Open Public Records Act.

Approval of Minutes

Jenn moved and Barbara seconded to approve minutes of September 2023. All Commissioners approved the minutes. Doug McQueen abstained. They will be sent to the municipalities to be posted on the websites.

7:04PM Doug welcomed the many members of the public (estimated 25) to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Doug provided an overview of the purpose of Wesley Lake Commission and recent activities.

7.12 Doug welcomed Jason Shea, from the Army Corp of Engineers and Daniel McSweeney, Planner from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Jason explained the Army Corp process to secure funding for infrastructure improvements in and around Wesley Lake. Jason presented a number of power point slides. There are three potential routes to pursue:

1. Continuing Authorities Program, Section 205 (CAP)
2. Floodplain Management Services (FPMS)
3. Planning Assistance to States (PAS)

CAP Overview

- Do not have to go to Congress for funding approval
- \$10mm or less of Federal funding
- Jason sees Wesley Lake as a 'smaller' project that fits within CAP
- Section 205 pertains to Flood Risk Management

CAP Process

- To begin this process, we need a letter from the Commission or the City to request the funding and begin the process
- Next steps are a site analysis and approximately a 6 month feasibility study
- Then a determination if the request is granted

Wreck Lake Spring Lake, NJ Project

- Jason referenced the Wreck Lake project in Spring Lake, NJ
- This was a lengthy project. Process was started in 2005, with slow progression through 2012 due to funding. After Sandy in 2012, funding was approved, and project completed in 2015.
- Spring Lake did start with Army Corp, but then found other funding and alternative implementation. Army Corp did not perform the work.
- Per Jason - It is very hard to solve for every problem, but you can try and solve for most.

7:26 Robert Bianchini recapped DPW efforts to address storm of September 28-30 and impact on Asbury Park. Discussion with Robert, Jason, Tony and Wesley Lake Commission members of events.

- Current pipe situation - in/out of Wesley Lake
- Run off, drainage.
- 7.75 inches of rain in 24 hours
- Generally the sewer plant process 2mm gallons a day. Within this time period there was 12mm gallons.
- Jason voiced modification of the existing outfall pipe and some form of mechanical pumping system
- Tony - There is money out there, need a strategy on how to approach. He will provide a list of ideas and resources.

Also in attendance

Tony MacDonald, Director of the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute

Jason, Asbury Park Engineer?

7:50 Floor opened to questions from the public

- What is the root cause? (perfect storm of rain, run off, tides and Wesley Lake in/out pipes)
- What can the city do to help local businesses? (Biergarten and House of Independents had representation) Per Eileen there will be a follow up meeting to address short and long term solutions)
- » How many times in the last 20 years has such flooding happened? (Open question)
- Joy Morgan from the Green Team of Asbury Park invited everyone to their next meeting, scheduled for the end of October, details to follow. Doug proposed that a Wesley Lake Commission member attend each Green Team Meeting and report back to Wesley Lake Commission.

8:30 Barbara motioned to postpone all other Wesley Lake business, Keith Fiori seconded. All Commissioners approved this motion.

8:40 Barbara motioned to close the meeting, Jenn seconded. All Commissioners approved this motion.