



NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter

December 2010

Volume 3, Number 12

New Jersey Friends of
Clearwater
P.O. Box 303
Red Bank, New Jersey
07701

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info@mcclearwater.org

Website:
www.mcclearwater.org

Upcoming NJFC Events

Sunday, December 12
General Meeting, 2PM
Eatontown Community Ctr
72 Broad Street,
Eatontown

Sunday, December 19,
8:30AM
Environmental Cmte Mtg.,
Cobblestone Restaurant,
Eatontown

Board of Directors Mtg,
Tuesday, December 28
Cobblestone Restaurant

Folk Music at the Saint,
December 14, 7:30-10:30 pm
601 Main Street, Asbury Park

Circle of Song Sing-Along
December 16 6:30pm,
United Methodist Church,
Grand Ave, Asbury Park

For more info on NJFC
meetings go to:
http://www.mcclearwater.org/calendar_New/calendar_at.php

**ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
DUES
RENEWAL
NOW DUE!**

NJFC Membership
Info:
www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm

ALL HANDS: NJFC Cleanup of the Whalepond Brook 10-12 am, Decmeber 11th

In keeping with our 2010 annual and on-going theme "Knock Out Pollution, Protect Our Watersheds", NJ Friends of Clearwater is sponsoring a cleanup of a central portion of the Whalepond Sub-Watershed starting at 10am on Saturday, December 11, 2010. We will meet in the back parking lot of DSCI at [12 Christopher Way, Eatontown](#) (off Industrial Way East). Please bring boots or sturdy shoes and warm, layered clothing. We will be supplying work gloves and bags and will have 4 chest-high wading boots, if needed.

Last year NJFC BOD officially adopted Whalepond Brook as our prime target for stream cleanups. We are also a founding member of the *Friends of Whalepond Brook/Takanassee Lake Watershed* partnering with members of Environmental Commissions along the watershed including Eatontown, Ocean Township, Tinton Falls, West Long Branch, and Long Branch. The Sub-Watershed starts as Cranberry Brook in Tinton Falls, which meets with Whalepond Brook and acts as the border between Eatontown and Ocean Twsp, then flows through WLB and Monmouth U. into Takanassee Lake in the West End section of Long Branch and finally into the Atlantic Ocean.

IMPORTANT DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

2pm, December 12, 2010 at Eatontown Community Center

The NJFC General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 12th. We will have Debbie Mann, Baykeeper, as speaker at the Eatontown Community Center located at [72 Broad St., Eatontown, NJ](#). Bring your own contribution to our Pot Luck Dinner Event.

IT'S ELECTION DAY: Please vote for up to 7 nominees (this would include the names placed in nomination by the Board of Directors AND any possible write-in candidates). VOTE CAREFULLY – A ballot with MORE than the maximum 7 will be disqualified. ALSO, if you decide to change a vote, make sure your change(s) very clear or the vote may incorrectly count your choices.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joellen Lundy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Ingrid Heldt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Humphrey | <input type="checkbox"/> Marylin Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Dlugosz | <input type="checkbox"/> Tim Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

The normal board rotation is one half one year and one half (+1) the next. One ballot per member and as many separate ballots constituting the family unit. To be counted, ballots must be at the post office by Saturday, December 5, 2009. See Mid-November Special Ballot Newsletter for details.

REMEMBER, YOU MUST BE A PAID-UP MEMBER TO VOTE. YOU CAN MAIL IN YOUR DUES OR BRING THEM TO THE MEETING. DUES are:

Individual \$25; Family \$35; Student/Senior \$10.

NJFC Membership Forms and Info: www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm

Board of Directors
President: Ed Dlugosz
VP: Joellen Lundy
Treasurer: Tim Johnson
Secretary: Lynn Humphrey
Ben Forest
Jim Franchi
Andrea Spinelli
Marylin Johnson
George Moffatt
Jack Charlton
Barbara Charlton

Article Deadline for the January issue of NJFC Newsletter is Monday, December 21

E-mail your articles to newsletter@mcclearwater.org

By the deadline stated above, please use the phrase "MC Clearwater article" in the subject of your e-mail

Newsletter Information
Editorial Committee:
Ed Dlugosz, Lynn Humphrey

NJFC Membership Info:
www.mcclearwater.org/docs/membership-form.htm

If any of the links do not work, cut and paste the full URL into the address box.

Progress Slows at Fort Monmouth Contamination Sites

By Ed Dlugosz

While activity has been evident, real progress has slowed considerably at Fort Monmouth's contaminated sites during 2010 as disclosed at the recent October 21, 2010 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting. Fort Monmouth is closing in only 9 months under the BRAC decision of 2005. The contamination will last decades longer. NJ Friends of Clearwater fights to truly clean up the site rather than believe the sham Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Report that the US Army Installation Management Command (IMC) tried to perpetrate on the citizens of NJ¹ and the less than full disclosure we've encountered.

The most positive recent activity reflects NJFC's victory ensuring all the still-existing underground storage tanks (UST) are removed, evaluated, and their sites remediated. So far more than 70 USTs, up from the original 24, have been removed and processed since 2008, with more yet to come. The most recent activity has been the increased use of "short-term remedies" chemical injections (ORC®, HRC®, RegenOx®) to treat contaminated groundwater at 3 UST, 2 landfill, and the infamous TCE/PCE-laden plume in the courtyard of the Myers Center.

Most of the other activity centers on drafting and/or potentially submitting paperwork to the DEP. 21 groundwater Classification Exemption Areas' (CEA) Biennial Certification Draft Reports are pending by the contractor. Other documents including Remedial Work Plans, Action Plans, Investigation Reports, Action Progress Reports, etc. are in various stages of draft, a few recent submittals to NJDEP, while none of the 23 sites in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) were cited as having a final report.

Real progress is left wanting credible reporting, remediation, and closure, that is:

- downstream sediment contamination testing and remediation
- release of contamination data on FM sites and parcels, especially those planned for housing by FMERPA that still exceed Residential Criteria as defined by NJDEP and USEPA
- examination/excavation of contaminants and trustworthy capping of the 11 landfills to ensure reuse;
- releasing data levels and worker health threats posed by Vapor Intrusion for the years prior to 2008 at FM laboratories and other facilities;
- taking responsibility for the high levels of contamination (Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Nickel, Lead, Zinc, Arsenic, Silver, Antimony, Selenium, Thallium, Mercury) of Wampum Lake in Eatontown.

We will push for monthly RAB meetings rather than the present quarterly ones. With so little time left with the original FM IM/DPW personnel who made promises, we need to maximize face time to achieve our goals. Once those current people leave, there will be no corporate history since the minutes are so selective and the budget is so weak. Our next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 6, 2010.

While CERCLA laws dictate that FM, the US Army, and DOD must abide by the current environmental laws, making full, open disclosure of all threats and remediation of all parcels to future reuse are still windmills at which we are tilting.

¹ FONSI issues and other claims documented in past Newsletters found on www.mcclearwater.org/newsletter.php

Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority Takes Over

The Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA), established by the environmental-friendly NJ Senator Jennifer Beck et al's legislation, held its first meeting on September 28, 2010 at the Tinton Falls town hall. With an Interim Chairman Alfred Koeppe and Interim Executive Director Timothy Lizura in charge of the meeting and three (3) voting members still unappointed, the Authority pushed through the agenda and passed agenda items at record speeds despite public, mayoral members', and "common sensical" objections to the haste, all actions were approved. Without sufficient notice of the meeting, availability of the read-ahead documentation of the

FMERA Budget, Memorandum of Understanding, Deferred Payment, Leased Space, Paid Personnel etc., full disclosure and understanding of the issues were impossible. Mr. Lizura's précis-like account of the topics was insufficient and left important detail unsaid. It was an unsettling experience. The public and press decried the situation afterward. Two months later and we are still discovering "unsaid items".

The second FMERA meeting, held November 15, 2010 at Tinton Falls venue. During the public comment period on the agenda, Clearwater again advocated full disclosure and the provision of documentation prior to the meeting. Advocates of the Affordable Housing (AH) spoke in favor of the recent NJ Supreme Court ruling that rejected the FMERPA's AH Plan ruling. Conversely the major concern of former FMERPA, now FMERA, committee members was that they had had a viable plan and the ruling would hinder progress.

Again there was no read-ahead material but finally the details were available in the minutes of September 28 which were available online. Among the things learned from the previous meeting's minutes' was the Bylaws allowed 5 voting members to constitute a quorum. This bylaw flies in the face of the host towns' fears about the need for a super-majority to keep the State's influence balanced. Another "unsaid item" that was discovered in the provisions of the MOU between FMERA and the EDA. A very curious provision entitled Additional Provisions stated, "a) Environmental Liability. It is expressly understood that this MOU will not obligate NJEDA to incur any liability for any known or unknown environmental conditions that exist or existed at or on Fort Monmouth property...FMERA will hold NJEDA harmless for any and all environmental conditions that exists or existed at or on the Fort Monmouth property." NJEDA is a quasi-state agency that supplies all employees to the FMERA and manages/disperses the money. This is "no fault" loophole for FMERA/EDA that can leave the public holding the bag if they make bad decisions.

Once the meeting proceeded into the agenda, Interim ED Lizura again summarized both the activities of the previous month and the actions to be voted upon. Among the activities was that the FMERPA-chosen FMERA engineering firm Matrix had completed 29 of the 33 building infrastructure assessments as part of their Planning, Engineering, Architectural and Environmental Consulting services contract. No summary of the findings was shared. Another key agenda item was the award to Matrix of the Business and Operations Plan services contract that gave them sole lead for both assessment and implementation of planning. The Budget was again addressed with no rationale for purpose or size of the expenditures. Voting was pushed along with the admonition that if they didn't approved it, operations couldn't get underway. Mr. Lizura introduced the newly appointed, permanent ED who had experience with the Rome, NY AFB BRAC. For more detail on the agenda and minutes, click on FMERA website: www.nj.gov/FMERA

By law, one voting member's role was to be an "environmentalist" to fulfill Senator Beck's legislative requirements for balance by "an individual who is knowledgeable in environmental issues, conservation, or land use issues...". NJ Environmental Federation and key NJ and national environmental organizations nominated Edward Dlugosz, President of NJFC and Board Member of the national Clearwater organization (with Ben Forest as an alternate) to fulfill that role to Governor Christie. Both Ben and Ed were supremely qualified in all 3 elements of the requirement, especially in the understanding of Fort Monmouth's environmental and land use situation. A full resume and answered questionnaire were submitted for vetting. A meet

and greet was attended. Despite Ed's and Ben's qualifications, Governor Christie appointed a land use attorney Michael Pane to that role to the dismay of the entire environmental community. Pane is a member of Christie's transition team with the Red Bank law firm of Giordano, Halleran and Ciesla. Governor also put up for state Senate approval James Gorman of Colts Neck and Robert Lucky of Fair Haven.

Come and Hear
FOLK MUSIC AT THE SAINT

601 Main Street, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-775-9144

With the Performers of
NJ CLEARWATER CIRCLE OF SONG

Tuesday, December 14, 2010, from 7:30-10:30 pm.

For \$10.00, please come and support Folk Music in a truly unique club that has supported music in Asbury Park when it was hard to do so.

Our Performers will be (listed alphabetically):

Marc Bodino, Carl Croce, Rich Deans, Spook Handy, Ingrid Heldt, Sharleen Leahey, Joe Petraitis and Thomas Wesley Stern

This is an important event for NJ Clearwater and for The Saint, a Rock Music Club that has the distinction of "sticking it out" in Asbury Park when it was almost impossible to do so. It's hard for a Club to break even when people stay away because they're not sure of the neighborhood.

Now that Asbury Park is recovering and becoming a Music Center again, Scott Stamper of The Saint and we of NJ Friends of Clearwater would like it to become a Center of Folk Music also.

As usual, we are planning to do as many sing-along songs as possible and we will also include songs that you know and like for the Holiday Season.

4th NJ Clearwater Circle of Song Sing-Along

by Ingrid Heldt

Please join us for our Fourth Sing-Along on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 6:30pm, at the First United Methodist Church of Asbury Park 906 Grand Avenue. Asbury Park, NJ 07712 [two blocks from the Stone Pony]

Our Featured Leader-Performers for December 16 are Carl Croce and Joe Petraitis

Carl Croce (guitar) is a singer-songwriter who performs as a regular on WDVR's Heartlands Hayride live radio program, the Folk Project's Minstrel Concert series, as well with SIAMS and at many other NJ and NY venues. Carl can be reached at cmcroce@msn.com.

Joe Petraitis (guitar & accordion/ keyboard) is a songwriter who has performed on Princeton NJ's Cafe Improv, televised on cable and YouTube and at Pete Seeger's Beacon Festivals. He teaches children how to write songs and has co-written a few songs with them. Joe's associations include the Nashville Songwriters Association, the Folk Project, and the Philadelphia Alliance of Songwriters Assoc. (PASA). He can be reached at misterp946@aol.com.

THANK YOU to all who came last month, November 18 for a wonderful musical experience with Spook Handy and Tom Pickard.

More than during our Clearwater Festival, there will be opportunities for audience members to take a turn or two and to sing along – please bring your instrument. We encourage songs about the environment and sing-along songs. The suggested donation of \$3-\$7 is split between Clearwater and Pastor Sony's work on behalf of

the homeless and the hungry.

Privatization Only Benefits Politicians And Privateers

by George Moffatt, NJFC BOD Member

There is a big push from "less-is-best" deficit hawks who claim we have to privatize many traditionally government-run programs to reduce our deficits. For example, Gov. Chris Christie's carefully culled pro-corporate "advisory" panel proposed that we even privatize our state parks, among other things, to save money.

Nonsense. Our state's fiscal crisis has nothing to do with government-managed programs like parks, libraries, environmental protection or the motor vehicle agency. But many state legislators still salivate over privatization as a dog hungers for a bone. Privatization — selling a facility, leasing it to a management firm to run or outsourcing functions such as overseeing Superfund cleanups or reviewing air quality permits — works only for the corporations, which are really modern-day privateers, and for the politicians who promote their interests. It never works for us.

Take the idea of privatizing our state parks. We paid for these environmentally valuable lands, which get 19 million visitors a year, so the idea of selling or leasing these parks to privateers is anathema to the average citizen. Free parks are in our DNA. And after all, who needs a privateer to watch the taxpayers' trees grow? Privateers make their bucks by getting sweetheart contracts through their political friends, fire the government (read "union") employees to reduce salaries and benefits, reduce services and maintenance, then gradually increase prices and fees — all eventually paid for by the taxpayers.

Privatization already has reared its ugly head in New Jersey. Privateers impose fees, such as for park admissions, which already are being charged by the state. Parking fees at state locations are run by politically connected concessionaires. A marina and banquet hall at Liberty State Park with a multimillion-dollar view of southern Manhattan is run by a private concessionaire. And a wedding and banquet mill in Ringwood Park, the state's botanical garden, also is run by a concessionaire.

And don't forget the chaos when DMV's agencies were run by political hacks, the multimillion-dollar fiasco when Parsons took over the inspection stations or the almost criminal deterioration of Fort Hancock while the incompetent National Park Service fumbled to privatize it.

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Published first in the Asbury Park Press, November 25, 2010

2010 Hudson River Sloop Clearwater BOD Retreat

by Ed Dlugosz

The HRSC Board of Directors (BOD) held their Annual Retreat on November 5, 2010 at the fabulous Listening Rock Farm in Wassaic, NY. The facility is a model sustainable farm, green showcase house, and conference facility owned by our BOD President Allen Shope. The Farm has forests and two sawmills that have supplied mast, rigging and planking for the Sloop Clearwater.

The Annual Retreat is where we now evaluate the past year's performance and MAP out the coming years objectives for Clearwater as a whole and each committee specifically. Each of the ten committees and the BOD itself has a Master Action Plan (MAP) with quarterly objectives while the BOD has monthly objectives. We have come a long way from the loose, seat-of-the-pants organization of only a relatively few years ago. I've pushed for this as a HRSC and a NJFC BOD member myself for years.

Fiscal responsibility and measurable objectives are the hallmark of the new HRSC. In past years, HRSC had to borrow from a line of credit every winter to pay staff. Now, thanks to Pete's 90th Birthday MSG Bash, we have started an endowment for maintenance of the Sloop. We have paid down the debt, started living within our

means using cost-benefit analyses, and had the first profitable Revival in years. This has made HRSC more “fundable” by grants and other means. HRSC has just earned the Charity Navigator rating of Four Star Charity, the best in its rankings.

The focus of this year’s Retreat was the definition of a new Green Cities Initiative project within the Environmental Action Committee. During its gestation, its objectives were a little vague and scope was unclear. That meant its funding strategy wasn’t fully defined. By the end of the morning session, we were well on our way to doing all three by linking to Sustainable Communities and Environmental Justice.

NJFC will be announcing its own Environmental Committee Retreat at Andrea Spinelli’s home on the shore of Lake Hopatcong in the coming months. We can take a few lessons from the new HRSC.

2011 Festival Committees Reforming

The NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival is our annual open-air music and arts festival celebrating the spirit of people working and singing together for the environment. The finest in music and dance combines with environmental activism to celebrate our waterways. This year our Entertainment Committee has a new lead, Steve Dlugosz and Ingrid Heldt returns as lead for the Circle of Song. We need volunteers to plan and manage the upcoming 36th Annual Clearwater Festival through the following committees:

- Site
- Children’s Area
- Environmental Display
- Hospitality
- Publicity
- Peacekeeping
- Recycling
- Roadies: Onloading/Offloading of Festival Supplies truck and installation at site

If you liked what you saw or would like to make a change, then volunteer by emailing to: ClearwaterFestival@mcclearwater.org or visit us at:

http://www.mcclearwater.org/docs/clearwater-festival/Volunteer_Form_Festival.pdf

Come to our January Meeting: Date/time To Be Announced (TBA)

Quote of the Month:

“Write in your heart that every day is the best day of the year”--Ralph Waldo Emerson

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to be removed from the NJ Friends of Clearwater Newsletter List

Please e-mail Lynn (newsletter@mcclearwater.org) with the message: “Remove from NJ Clearwater Newsletter List” in the subject box