

Sussex County Buffers and Wetlands Working Group

December 2, 2019

On December 2, 2019, beginning at 2:00 p.m., the Sussex County Buffers and Wetlands Working Group held a workshop at Sussex County’s West Complex.

The following were present:

David Baird	Danielle Swallow
Chris Bason	Robert Tunnell, III
Jay Baxter	R.C. Willin
Rich Borrasso	Jim Eisenhardt, RK&K
Jeff Clark	Todd Lawson, County Administrator
Ed Launay	Hans Medlarz, County Engineer
Steve Marsh	Vince Robertson, Assistant County Attorney
Evelyn Maurmeyer	

There were four members of the public in attendance.

Todd Lawson gave a brief introduction and welcomed everyone. Copies of previous minutes were distributed and were approved.

The workshop today will focus on items not previously addressed. The draft ordinance was opened on screen for all attendees to view. Comments submitted by committee members prior to today’s meeting were highlighted for the entire group to review and discuss. If a member of the group has grammatical or formatting suggestions they should be emailed, and the document will be updated.

After discussion, it was decided that a definition for non-isolated wetlands should be added to the table of buffers.

There was discussion about adding a definition of who a qualified professional could be and if an additional line stating “a Qualified Wetland Resource Professional and/or similar Qualified Professional” should be added to section E.

The group worked on making changes to Table 2: Resource Buffer Activities by Zone. It was decided that the line “Temporary and short-term activities required to support existing permitted activities” should be removed as it is already covered. A line to include “Functional Equivalent Extended Detention Stormwater Pond” was added and shown as not permitted in Zone A and permitted in Zone B, so that changes could to be made to the line regarding BMP’s to show as being permitted in both Zone A and B. An asterisk was added to show that it is limited to 10% of the total square footage of Zone A on a site.

After discussion about Resource Buffer Width Averaging, it was decided to make changes to section 2. Section f. should be removed as it is redundant. Section d. will be moved up for more clarity.

Following discussion, section G. – Resource buffer Reduction Incentive will be removed as the group decided this was beyond their purview.

The group discussed forwarding the ordinance to Council, but it was the consensus to have the document well-vetted by all stakeholders before presenting to Council and therefore, another meeting was warranted to discuss section H. in detail.

An updated draft will be circulated in the next day or two, Committee members should submit comments prior to the next meeting which will be held on December 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned.