



# Transcript of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority

FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2020/2021 CONNECTION FEE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 AT 5:35PM

## Commissioners and Staff Present

Mr. A. Richard Gatto, Chair (Freehold Township)	Mr. Robert Nicasro (Howell Township)
Mr. Richard Gartz, Vice Chair (Freehold Borough)	Mr. Jesse Tantillo (Howell Township)
Mrs. Julisa Garcia (Freehold Township)	Mr. Peter Kocsik, P.E., Engineer (Mott MacDonald)
Mrs. Mary DeSarno (Wall Township)	Mr. Richard Shaklee, Esq., Attorney (MSSPC Law)
Mrs. Olga McKenna (Wall Township)	Mr. Brian Brach, P.E., Executive Director (MRRSA)
Mr. James Daly (Farmingdale Borough)	Mr. Donald Hill, CPA, Finance Officer (MRRSA)
Ms. Patricia Linszky (Farmingdale Borough)	

## Commissioners Absent

Mr. Michael Wilson (Freehold Borough)

## Exhibits

- Exhibit No. 1: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Asbury Park Press (Published June 25, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 2: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Star Ledger (Published June 26, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 3: Certified Letters Notifying Member Municipality Clerks of the Public Hearing (dated June 23, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 4: Mott MacDonald 2019 Certified Wastewater Flow Letter (dated February 10, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 5: MRRSA Memorandum to Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Detailing Calculation of the 2020/2021 Connection Fee (dated June 25, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 6: Letter from Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Confirming Calculation of the 2020/2021 Connection Fee (dated June 29, 2020)
- Exhibit No. 7: MRRSA Memorandum to Commissioners Detailing the 2020/2021 Connection Fee (dated July 10, 2020)

*The following transcript was transcribed from an audio file provided by MRRSA to [www.rev.com](http://www.rev.com), 222 Kearny Street, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108. Accuracy of the transcription was verified by MRRSA staff.*



## **Motion to Enter into Public Hearing**

**Mr. Gatto:** Next up is a motion to enter the public hearing for adjustment of the 2020/2021 connection fee. Um, does anyone want to move that?

**Mr. Tantillo:** So moved.

**Mr. Gartz:** Second.

**Mr. Gatto:** Seconded by Mr. Gartz. Any discussion? All in favor?

**All Commissioners:** Aye.

**Mr. Gatto:** Against?

## **Presentation of Evidence**

**Mr. Gatto:** Good enough. Mr. Shaklee [inaudible].

**Mr. Shaklee:** That's fine.

**Mr. Gatto:** Go ahead. Brian, do you want to start with the public?

**Mr. Shaklee:** [Inaudible] Mr Chairman, this is the annual hearing on ah, substantiating adopting a connection fee as required ah, by statute, each fiscal year. We have pre-marked seven exhibits. Um, and they are as follows for the hearing. Ah, also required statute.

Exhibit one (1) is an affidavit certifying for the publication of the hearing notice in the Asbury Park Press on June 25.

Exhibit two (2) is an affidavit certifying publication of the hearing notice in the Star Ledger on June 26.

Exhibit three (3) are ah, certifying letters notifying all of our members in the municipality first of the public hearing scheduled for tonight.

Exhibit four (4) is the Mott MacDonald 2019 certified wastewater flow letter dated February 10, 2020.

Exhibit five (5) is an MRRSA memorandum to Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. detailing the calculations of the June 20th- I'm sorry, of the 2020/2021 connection fee, dated June 25.

Exhibit six (6), dated June 29 is a letter from HFA regarding calculation of 2020/2021 connection fee.

Exhibit seven (7) is an MRRSA memorandum to the commissionaire detailing the 2020/2021 connection fee. And that memorandum is dated July 10, 2020.

**Mr. Shaklee:** We will have two (2) witnesses, Mr. Kocsik and Mr. Brach, which we will swear in. Not seeing any court reporter, I will swear you in. If you could raise your right hand. Do you swear that the testimony you will give tonight will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

**Mr. Kocsik:** I do.

**Mr. Brach:** I do.

**Mr. Shaklee:** Um, Mr. Kocsik, could you state for the record please your name, affiliation and your licensure?

**Mr. Kocsik:** My name is Peter Kocsik. K-O-C-S-I-K. I'm a senior vice president with the firm of Mott MacDonald. I am a licensed professional engineer in the state of New Jersey.

**Mr. Shaklee:** How long have you served as the facilitating engineer for the sewerage authority?

**Mr. Kocsik:** 26 years, since 1995, I believe.

**Mr. Shaklee:** Referring to exhibit four, ah, which was the letter from um, Mott MacDonald, dated February 10, 2020, um, certifying wastewater flows. Was that letter prepared by you or by your staff at your direction?

**Mr. Kocsik:** Yes, it was.

**Mr. Shaklee:** Please explain to the commissioners, ah, the information that's obtained in that report. Summarize and describe, ah, the calcu- calculations that you have made.

**Mr. Kocsik:** So, the ah, the authority services five (5) municipalities, um, and in order to record how much flow each town puts into the sewer system, ah, the authority has and maintains 10 flow meters. Those 10 flow meters, along with four other meters, that are maintained by the Ocean County Utilities Authority are is what- is used to calculate the flows from this authority to OCUA for treatment. It's what we use to calculate the flows for the five towns. So, quarterly, data is collected by the authority and Mott MacDonald reviews the information. Ah, at the end of the year we go through the flow reports and come up with the contribution of the flows from each of the five towns. Um, this letter here is a summary of that. And last year, ah, at the end of 2019, total flow recorded for the five towns was 2,404,486,000 gallons of flow. And when you create that into a flow per day, it's equivalent to 6.588 million gallons per day.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And how does that compare um, with the prior report?

**Mr. Kocsik:** In 2019, the flows were about 203 million gallons less than 2018 flow.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And um, ah, in reviewing your calculations that you have made in your report, um, are they consistent with the statutory mandates that cover the authority's operation?

**Mr. Kocsik:** Yes they are.

**Mr. Shaklee:** Okay, thank you very much. Ah, now I'll ask some questions to Mr Brach. Could you please tell us your position.

**Mr. Brach:** I'm- I'm Brian Brach. B-R-A-C-H. I'm the Executive Director of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority.

**Mr. Shaklee:** Referring to exhibit five, ah, which is a memorandum pertaining to the calculation of the connection fee, that you sent to HFA, um, would you please briefly summarize the contents for the commissioners.

**Mr. Brach:** Yes, so it's a five (5) step calculation, so I'll summarize it real quick. This is just put- put into a memo and sent it to Holman Frenia Allison on June 25. It was also summarized and provided to the Board, ah, in the July 5 meeting package. So, essentially, what the connection fee is doing is it's taking debt service and capital expenditures, dividing it by the number of units, which is calculated based upon the certified flow by Mott MacDonald. So, for 2019, the Authority has a total of \$48,996,941.33 of capital expenditures throughout our history. You divide that by the number of units calculated, divided by 21,960 units and that comes to a per unit price of \$2,231.19. Rounded to the nearest dollar is \$2,231.00 per unit.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And how does that rate compare to the rate that's currently in place?

**Mr. Brach:** It's an- It's an increase of \$261.00 from last year's rate.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And when you sent the letter to HFA, and they sent you back a letter indicating that they confirmed and agreed with those calculations, is that correct?

**Mr. Brach:** That's correct.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And we marked that as exhibit six tonight, is that correct?

**Mr. Brach:** That's correct.

**Mr. Shaklee:** And, ah, you have also advised the Commissioners prior to the hearing that- of that calculation and that's marked as exhibit seven. Is that correct?

**Mr. Brach:** That's correct.

**Mr. Shaklee:** What would you propose to be, um [pause].

Thank you, Mr. Brach, that's all I have for you. Um, and, after any comment or questions from the public, ah, it would be appropriate for the commissioners to discuss.

## **Questions and Comments**

(There were no questions or comments from the Board and/or public prior to adjournment of the hearing. Let the record reflect that no members of the public were present.)

