



*News from*  
**SALEM COUNTY**  
Office of Public Information

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**SALEM COUNTY PREPARES FOR MAJOR STORM EFFECTS**

(WOODSTOWN, NJ)—Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, Chair of the County Public Works Committee, today announced that the second “Water Control Structure” meeting was held today at the Ware Building in Woodstown. The purpose of the meeting, which was hosted by the Salem County Engineer’s Office, was to establish a procedure and coordinate an effort for notification of municipalities and dam operators of impending weather events.

“The ‘nor’easter that pummeled New Jersey last year with heavy rains demonstrated the need to have a coordinated and planned response to our dam management efforts,” said Freeholder Bobbitt. “During the storm our County was overwhelmed with the water that was released by neighboring counties because they did not inform us of their actions so that we could take the necessary precautions in our municipalities.”

Twelve out of the fifteen municipalities attended today’s meeting, in addition to representatives from the Salem County Office of Emergency Management, Cumberland County, DuPont Chamber Works, and Churchill Engineers, Inc. This is the second meeting between the County and its fifteen municipalities to discuss water control structures. The first County Wide meeting was held on February 27, 2008.

“When a weather-related emergency strikes we need to make sure that we are all on the same page,” said Freeholder Bobbitt. “We need to know who operates the dams in the municipalities and what they need to manage them. Our intention is to open the lines of communication between all entities involved with the flow of water throughout the County of Salem, as well as those areas surrounding the County which may be impacted.”

All municipal representatives were given flowcharts to complete concerning the emergency call information for each water control structure within their municipality. The next County Wide “Water Control Structure” meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-July, 2008.