



---

---

**RESOLUTION 22-79**

---

---

**Resolution Requesting the State of New Jersey to Pursue Regional Solutions to Flooding within the Millstone River Basin**

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in storm severity in the region, beginning with Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 followed by Post-Tropical Storm Sandy in 2012, and more recently with Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020 and Tropical Storm Ida in 2021, with additional increases expected due to climate change factors for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, storms such as these and the resulting flooding have produced not only economic damage and devastating hardship for those directly impacted but have also caused shutdowns of transportation, schools and businesses throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, flooding within the Municipality of Princeton impacts not only our own residents and businesses but limits access to regional transportation at Princeton Junction Train Station on the Northeast Corridor and to major state arteries such as U.S. 1; and

WHEREAS, the resulting flooding also creates public health and safety issues that severely stretch our First Responders and have resulted in injury and death in the region, far outweighing the direct economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of flooding in the Municipality of Princeton are most greatly and directly experienced with flooding in the Millstone River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Millstone River Basin comprises 238 square miles within the counties of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon, and Somerset, making this flooding a multi-county regional problem that cannot be alleviated by independent action of any one municipality; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2004 and the Army Corps of Engineers in 2016 each studied limited areas within the Millstone River Basin and identified major infrastructure projects that could reduce flood damage and loss to the populations of the studied areas, including floodwalls, channel modifications, raising of roads and bridge decks, and other methods requiring significant capital outlay, environmental permitting and a coordinated regional effort; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has current and potential programs to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects that could help undertake one or more regional solutions to this flooding problem; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, per Executive Order No. 89, acknowledges:

-the importance of communities and government entities integrating climate change considerations into planning and decision making, and becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change; and

-that each dollar spent on mitigation of hazards results in a six-fold decrease in spending on post-disaster recovery; and

-that it is the policy of the State that Executive Branch departments and agencies to take proactive and coordinated efforts, where appropriate, to protect public health and safety and to promote and protect the physical, economic, and social vitality and resilience of New Jersey’s communities from the current and anticipated impacts of climate change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Princeton Council of the Municipality of Princeton do hereby request the State of New Jersey to undertake one or more regional projects to address and mitigate the current negative effects of flooding in the Millstone River Basin within Princeton and the other affected municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Princeton Municipal Clerk is directed that copies of this Resolution be sent to: The Governor of New Jersey, Assembly Speaker, Senate President, State legislators in the affected districts, and the County Executive and County Commissioners in the affected counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Princeton Municipal Clerk is directed that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Governing bodies of the following municipalities within the Millstone River Basin with an accompanying letter asking them to take similar actions encouraging involvement and funding at the State and Federal level: Cranbury Township, East Windsor Township, Franklin Township, Hightstown Borough, Manville Borough, Millstone Borough, Montgomery Township, Plainsboro Township, Rocky Hill Borough, South Brunswick Township and West Windsor Township.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X	X		X			
Mr. Cohen		X		X	X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Sacks		X			X			
Mr. Newlin		X			X			
Mayor Freda		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held February 14, 2022.

Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Millstone Watershed Flooding Resolution 02142022 memo (DOCX)