



Introduction to the Environmental Resource Inventory Process for Ocean Twp, Monmouth County

Deborah Kratzer
Kratzer Environmental Services

Ocean Township
Environmental Commission
Meeting Jan. 10, 2019

An ERI is...

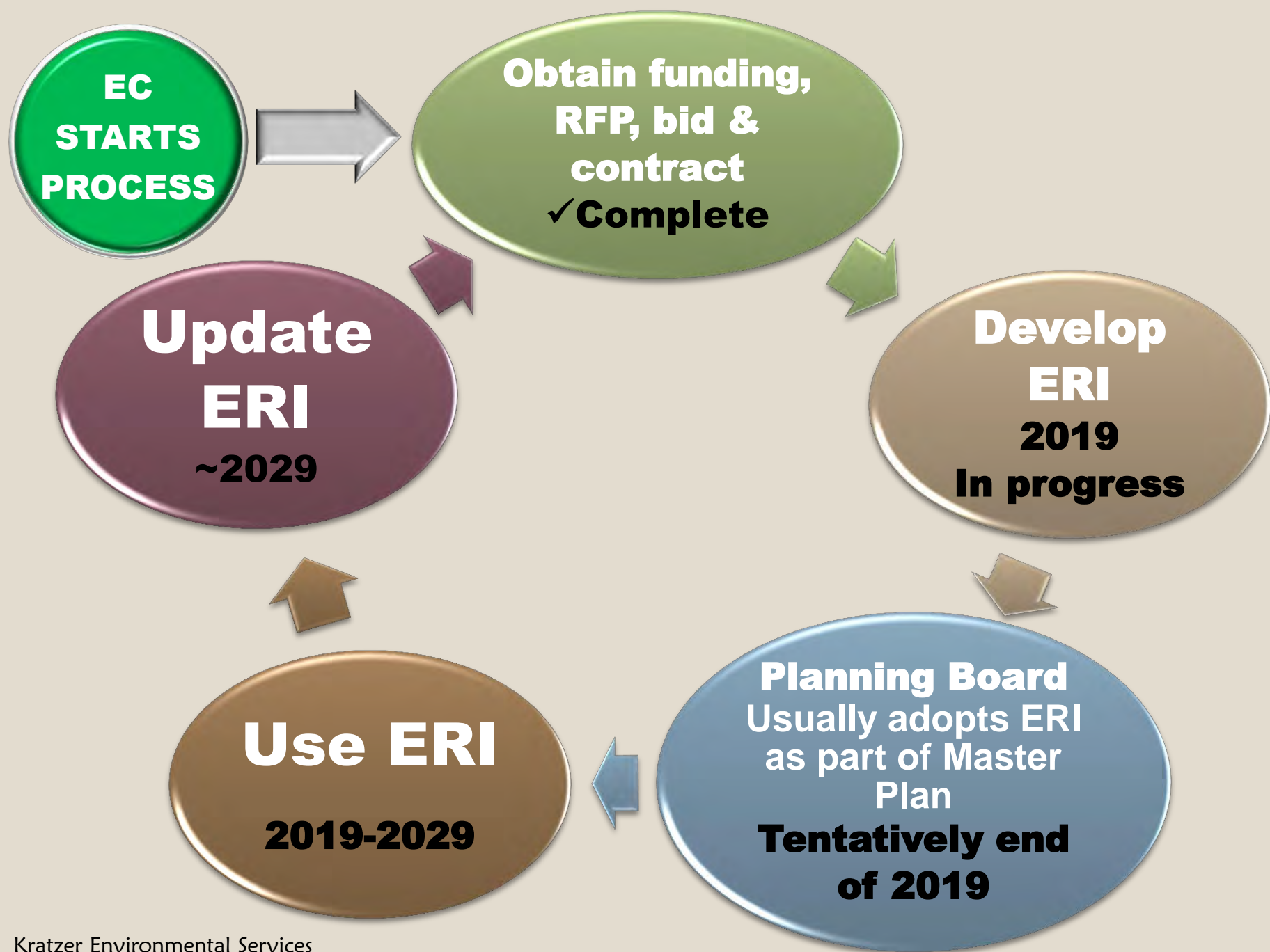


- ▶ baseline documentation of natural resources and environmentally significant features of an area.
- ▶ an objective listing, rather than an interpretation or recommendation

The goals of the ERI



- ▶ to provide objective, reliable environmental data in one document to enable municipal officials to make more informed decisions
- ▶ to better protect the municipality's natural resources and the overall health and welfare of the community



**EC
STARTS
PROCESS**

**Obtain funding,
RFP, bid &
contract
✓ Complete**

**Update
ERI
~2029**

**Develop
ERI
2019
In progress**

**Planning Board
Usually adopts ERI
as part of Master
Plan
Tentatively end
of 2019**

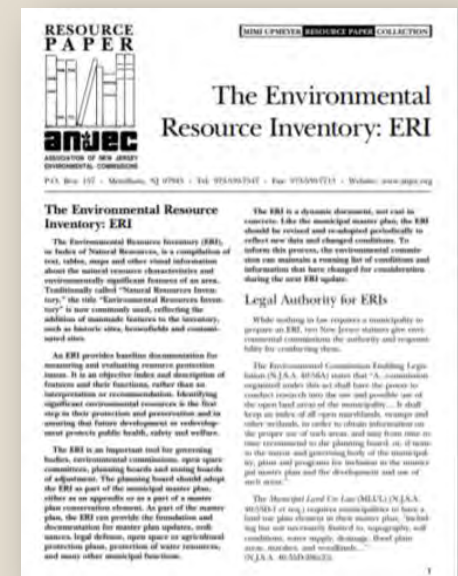
**Use ERI
2019-2029**

Work Plan Details

Month	Task
September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract awarded to KES• Meeting between EC members and KES
January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KES presentation at EC meeting• “Introduction to the Ocean Twp. ERI”
April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KES submits Draft to EC
May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public, boards, and committees submit comments to EC• EC submits comments to KES
July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KES makes changes and submits final ERI
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Board hearing and adoption of ERI as an amendment to the Master Plan

ANJEC Guidelines

- EC Enabling Legislation (N.J.S.A. 40:56A) states that ECs have the power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality; the EC shall keep an index of wetlands, and may recommend plans and programs for inclusion in the municipal master plan and the development and use of such areas.
- The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.) requires municipalities to have a land use plan element in their master plan, “including but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands...” (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28b(2)).
- An ERI is not required by law
- The ERI should be revised and re-adopted periodically to reflect new data and changed conditions.



Sustainable Jersey Guidelines

- The EC obtained funding from Sustainable Jersey
- Natural Resource Inventory (20 points)
- Why is an ERI Important?
 - Provides a land use tool for the land use decision-making process
 - To help protect, integrate and/or conserve resources
 - To help plan a sustainable community
 - Serves as an educational tool about why certain land use decisions are made.
 - Empowers citizens, environmental commissions, and planning boards to think about how they can further protect and plan for the sustainability of the municipality's resources.



Source: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/60>

Continued: Sustainable Jersey Guidelines

➤ An NRI should be used:

- As a factual basis for municipal land use planning;
- As a resource in the preparation of the land use element of the municipal Master Plan;
- As a comprehensive guide in the Site Plan review process;
- As a basic tool in determining zoning regulations, municipal ordinances, or other land use management techniques;
- As a basis for a land capability analysis and for determining the intensity and location of development;
- As an indicator of sensitive areas and areas suitable for certain kinds of development;
- As a tool to increase understanding of natural systems, and their limitations and opportunities for use;
- As a long-term planning tool to identify potential land use and natural resource problems;
- As an educational tool for residents to learn more about their community and its environment;
- As a way to save dollars by avoiding future problems and mitigation costs;
- As a tool for making decisions about the placement of infrastructure, roads, sewers, schools, etc.

Source: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/60>

Table of Contents (draft)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0 BACKGROUND

- ▶ GEOGRAPHY
- ▶ DEMOGRAPHY
- ▶ HISTORY
- ▶ LAND USE
 - Zoning
 - Current land use
 - Land use change 1972-2012



3.0 NATURAL RESOURCES

▶ 3.1 CLIMATE

▶ 3.2 AIR QUALITY

▶ 3.3 GEOLOGY & SOILS

▶ 3.4 HYDROLOGY

- ground and surface water

▶ 3.5 WETLANDS

▶ 3.6 VEGETATION

- Native vegetation types/species, rare plant species, invasive species, tree canopy, threats)

▶ 3.7 WILDLIFE & WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Native wildlife types/species, threats, deer population, endangered, threatened, or special concern wildlife, invasive species, feral cats, NJDEP State

Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

▶ 3.8 OPEN SPACE

- Public open space , recreation, privately-owned green spaces, opportunities for more public open space acquisition?





4.0 UTILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION

- ▶ WATER SUPPLY
- ▶ SEWERAGE
- ▶ STORM WATER
- ▶ SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING
- ▶ TRANSPORTATION
- ▶ RENEWABLE RESOURCES

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- ▶ HEALTH (related to air and

water quality)

- ▶ NOISE
- ▶ LIGHTING
- ▶ CONTAMINATED SITES
- ▶ CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS [based on a combination of the following or more parameters: steep slopes, highly erodible soils, waterways, proximity to waterways, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, century forests, core forests, rare plant or animal species, “Areas of Significant Environmental Quality”, & additional parameters if deemed applicable & available]
- ▶ DEVELOPMENT LIMITATIONS



6.0 REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ MONMOUTH COUNTY MASTER PLAN
- ▶ MONMOUTH COUNTY “AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”
- ▶ COASTAL AREA FACILITIES REVIEW ACT (CAFRA)

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APPENDICES

- ▶ Drinking water quality report
- ▶ List of wildlife
- ▶ Rare Wildlife Species Reporting Form (NJDEP)
- ▶ Fact Sheets for Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern Species
- ▶ Open space inventory



Who does what?

- ▶ Environmental Commission (or subcommittee)
 - guides project, provides any known information sources/reports/maps/etc., reviews and comments
- ▶ Designated project lead/contact
 - the primary point of contact between the municipal staff, elected officials, other boards, public and the consultant, keeps project on track
- ▶ Municipal staff (e.g. financial officer, clerk)
 - responsible for any bidding, financial and contract tasks
- ▶ Consultant – creates the ERI
- ▶ Public, municipal boards, commissions, mayor and council, and professionals as appropriate
 - review and submit comments to EC

Some sources of mapped data



▶ NJDEP

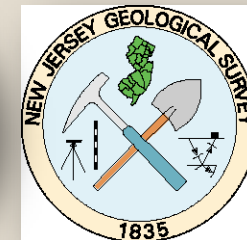
<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/listall.html>



▶ NJGIN

<https://njgis-newjersey.opendata.arcgis.com/>

▶ Others include:



Some other references

- *NRIs for Deal Lake, Whale Pond Brook Poplar Brook Watersheds, Joe Palaia Park*
- *The Future of Coastal Lakes in Monmouth County*
- *Impervious Cover Assessment and Reduction Action Plan*
- *Community Forestry Management Plan and Urban Tree Canopy Assessment*
- *Recycling stats via www.nj.com*
- *Twp of Ocean Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan*
- *Monmouth County Unique Areas Study*
- *Checklists (e.g. ebird)*

Draft → Final

- ▶ Draft available ~ April 2019
- ▶ Comments from:
 - General public
 - EC
 - Boards and commissions (e.g. Planning Board)
 - Municipal elected officials
 - Municipal professionals
- ▶ Give enough time but set deadlines ~ May 2019
- ▶ EC compiles comments and submits to KES

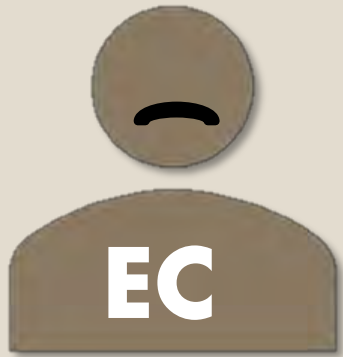


Planning / Land Use Board

- ▶ Goal is for the Board to adopt ERI as part of the Master Plan



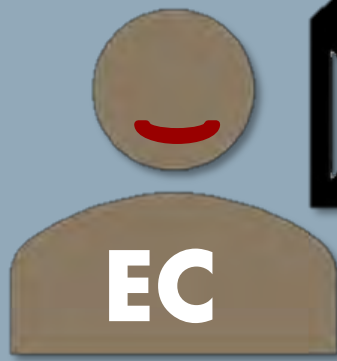
- ▶ Board holds a hearing for adoption of ERI as part of Master Plan
- ▶ Municipal Land Use Ordinances must be consistent with the Master Plan
- ▶ When a municipality has adopted an ERI, the EC should be provided with copies of site plans and proposals



Poor communication



Good communication is key!





www.KratzerEnv.com
KratzerEnv@gmail.com



**Kratzer
Environmental
Services**