

Moving Stormwater Pollution Improvements to the Next Level

*A Public Hearing sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Water Council
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Public Hearing Room
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625*

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or close of testimony, if earlier)

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

The New Jersey Clean Water Council (NJCWC) plans to seek public testimony on approaches to address non-point source (NPS) stormwater pollution in impaired waterways. NPS pollution is caused when contaminants deposited on the land surface (e.g., from fertilizer, walking pets, leaking motor oil and gasoline) are washed off and carried into nearby waterways or ground water. The USEPA has identified NPS pollution as the nation's largest water quality problem, causing impairment of approximately 40% of surveyed rivers, lakes, and estuaries in the country. Significant reductions have been achieved with point source pollution by making NJPDES permits more stringent; however, further reductions for non-point sources are needed to improve water quality. NJDEP is interested in developing approaches to reducing NPS pollution in impaired waterways. Significant reductions are needed, so the NJCWC is interested in hearing recommendations for improving NPS impaired waterways.

SPEAKERS

- 1:00 Introduction of Issue: James Cosgrove, CWC Chair
- 1:10 **Keynote Speaker: Bob Martin, NJDEP Commissioner**
- 1:40 Voluntary Action is Gaining Traction for Meaningful Stormwater Pollution Improvements: Brittany Musolino, River-Friendly Coordinator, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
- 2:00 Leveraging Funding Resources for Water Quality Improvement Projects for New Jersey's Farms and Municipalities: Nathaniel Sajdak, Sussex County MUA / Walkkill River Watershed Management Group
- 2:30 Public Testimony

REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY

The Council seeks recommendations regarding how NPS pollution reductions can best be achieved in impaired waterways. Testimony should consider:

- What are the hurdles for implementing major NPS reductions in waterways?
- How can we better achieve action by municipal decision-makers and landowners?
- How can a municipality's stormwater program better address NPS pollution reductions?
- What tools or guidance can be provided by NJDEP?
- What can NJDEP do to ensure required NPS reductions?
- Should point/non-point source pollution trading programs be allowed?
- What sources of funding could be tapped for these necessary NPS reductions?
- What approaches are most effective for achieving NPS reductions from agriculture?

HOW TO TESTIFY

The Council will provide 5 minutes per oral presentation and strongly encourages the submittal of detailed written comments by email or on paper, to augment your testimony. Written comments will be accepted until October 31, 2017, and can be sent to the NJ Clean Water Council, c/o NJDEP – Division of Water Quality, 401 East State Street, P.O. Box 425, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0425; by fax at (609) 341-4518; or by email to Tracy.Omrod@dep.nj.gov. If submitting electronically, the preferred format is Microsoft Word® 2003 or above (not Macintosh formats).

For more information, please contact Stanley Cach at Stanley.Cach@dep.nj.gov or (609) 292-9977.
To schedule or submit testimony, contact Tracy Omrod at Tracy.Omrod@dep.nj.gov or (609) 292-9977.