



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2020 @ 10:00 A.M.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Meeting Highlights

INTRODUCTIONS

{Members will need to confirm their attendance- there were 16 attendees (plus or minus if people got on and off)}

DEP: Janice Brogle, John Gray, Jennifer Feltis Cortese (late via phone)

Council Members: Tony McCracken, Mark Wadiak, Sandra Howland, Maria Connolly, David Kovach, James Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Vincent Monaco, George Bakun, Ashley Kerr

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- September 8, 2020: Moved James Cosgrove, Second Russ Furnari, Approved.

DEP UPDATES

- Program Updates
 - Sent out survey on November 6 to larger STPs regarding wastewater surveillance for COVID-19.
 - Timely Submission of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plans (LTCPs): CSO LTCPs, as originally due June 1, 2020 but extended to October 1, 2020, have now all been submitted and are posted to the Division of Water Quality website. DWQ teams have begun review of the LTCPs and will accept public input up until January 2021.
 - During the month of September MFCE has completed the following actions on Water Bank projects: issued authorization to award five contracts totaling \$9.3 million; certified six contracts totaling \$59.4 million; closed on 13 short term loans totaling \$62.9 million and made 47 disbursements to active construction projects totaling \$35.9 million.
 - During the month of October MFCE has completed the following actions on Water Bank projects: issued authorization to award **8** contracts totaling **\$121.5** million; certified **25** contracts totaling **\$201.5** million; closed on **24** short term loans totaling **\$91.0** million and made **33** disbursements to active construction projects totaling **\$16.5** million.
- As FYI, put links to two recent DEP reports in the agenda. We hope to have someone from OEJ at an upcoming meeting come and talk with the Council.
 - EO- 23 Guidance Document Released October 1, 2020: *Furthering the Promise: A Guidance Document for Advancing Environmental Justice Across State Government*
 - DEP also released the *2020 New Jersey Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report*

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 2020 Public Hearing Discussion
 - Janice provided an update on AC Gardener's conversation with Commissioner.
 - The Commissioner can provide keynote that includes DEP's progress (adoption of standards, permit modifications). The DEP wants to hear from the public on eliminating PFAS from discharges to surface water (indirect and direct) and management of biosolids. It would be beneficial to provide questions to the public to seek input on other states' strategies, how to prioritize and identify dischargers, treatment technologies for sanitary dischargers. The focused on dischargers to surface water and residuals management.
 - Council member feedback:
 - Council member question: For clarification - we now have standards for groundwater and drinking water, would this be to set a surface water standard?

DEP Response: DEP has talked to other states. Michigan is only state with a surface water standard. A number of states use a narrative standard as basis for establishing limits. All we have talked to are using the 308 provision under CWA to require monitoring. We had an interesting conversation with CO regarding using the narrative standard. They are using the narrative standard but setting numeric limits. They are using this as a stop gap and eventually plan to promulgate a surface water standard.

- Council member expressed that this should be a popular topic with large turnout.
- Council member question: Can DEP identify questions to ask participants and identify speakers from across the country?

DEP Response: We will discuss questions with the Council at the next meeting and will also reach out to contacts from other states about speaking.

- Council Member expressed support for the topic. Suggested that efforts should be targeted because we know where some elevated levels exist and focus on monitoring versus discharge limits. We should be looking at receiving waters to determine relative impact.

DEP Response: It would be good to hear from the public about prioritizing monitoring.

- Council member suggested reaching out to AEA and do this in a prioritized sequence and was supportive of monitoring first.
- Council member as if the media should be invited. It was discussed and as a public meeting it would be available for them to attend.
- The Council and DEP discussed how much time to allocate to speakers and public. It was determined that at most an hour would be spent on presentations (Commissioner and 2 states) with the meeting opening for testimony. Other questions regarding the public hearing include and will be addressed as appropriate by DEP and the CWC executive committee. It was also determined that we would aim to have the public hearing at the end of January pending the Commissioner's schedule.
 - What will the format be?
 - Should council members be visible throughout?
 - Need for court reporter versus just recording the hearing?

Approved, December 8, 2020

- Will need to prepare one-page summary of the issue.
- For December meeting the Council and DEP will discuss questions and speakers.

DEP Response: Asked for council volunteers to work on questions with Jennifer and Janice. The executive committee offered to provide this support. Janice offered to share CO strategy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting – December 8th and will be one hour to discuss charge questions for public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion Russ Furnari, Second George Bakun, Adjourned.