



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2020 @ 10:00 A.M.

Meeting Notes

INTRODUCTIONS

CWC Members: Tony McCracken, Shane McAleer, Ashley Kerr, George Bakun, Pamela Goodwin, Russel Furnari, Vincent Monaco, MaryAnna Holden, Gary Brune, Amy Goldsmith, Maria Connolly, Harry Wozunk, Sandra Howland, James Cosgrove, Peggy Gallos

Other: Brianne Callahan, Jennifer Coffey

DEP: James Duffy, Kimberly Cenno, John Gray, Stan Cach, Gabriel Mahon, Janice Brogle, Jennifer Feltis Cortese

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- May 12, 2020: Moved by George Bakun at 10:05, second Maria Connolly, Approved.

DEP UPDATES

- Program Updates
 - DWQ staff continue to work diligently and meet or exceed expectations working from home.
 - In the months of June and July, the New Jersey Water Bank financing program closed on 27 short term project loans totaling \$297 million. With the June closings, the program closed a total of 78 short-term project loans in State Fiscal Year 2020, totaling \$356 million. While \$356 Million worth of projects have closed, over \$915 Million in project costs have been certified this State Fiscal Year, which, despite the pandemic and the challenges of working remotely, is an all-time high record for the program. It is estimated that 12 construction jobs are created for every \$1 million of funds awarded, therefore approximately 11,000 jobs have been created within the past fiscal year alone.
 - The DEP has awarded \$3.5 million in grants for projects to reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution on waterways, including \$1 million for the development of lake and watershed restoration plans to mitigate harmful algal blooms. Funding for these projects is being provided from sections 319(h) and 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act allotments and New Jersey Corporation Business Tax (CBT) funds. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2020/20_0035.htm
 - DWQ held one public meeting in June and had larger turnout than usual due to being virtual. The Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control held a virtual stakeholder meeting on potential changes to the stormwater Management rules on Thursday July 30th.
 - DWQ staff have continued to issue many final and draft permits.

- Alerts for hurricane were issued, a few pump stations remained on back up power (at the time of the meeting) and over all emergency response worked well.
- There is interest in COVID-19 sampling in wastewater and the DEP issued guidance. Available here: https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/COVID19_DWQ_Guidance_for_WW_Collection_&_Analysis_20200720.pdf
- Stan Cach retiring after 48 years of service with DEP. Stan has been with the construction grants program, which evolved into the municipal financing program for his entire career. Stan helped to transition the grants program into our current financing program, which is recognized throughout the country. Stan has accumulated a vast wealth of knowledge which he willingly shared with the state's operators, facilities and staff through his many training course and workshops. Many kind words were shared and thanks given to Stan regarding his accomplishments and his contributions to the State and the CWC. Stan served through 7 chair persons and each one was appreciative of his professionalism and ability to provide direct communication with the appropriate staff at DEP.
- Questions/Comments from members
 - Update on the LURP changes: Ginger Kopkash is now in Natural and Historic Resources and Vince Mazzei is the new Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Use Management. In the process of evaluating possible re-organization between Water Resource Management and Watershed and Land Use Management, but no decisions have been made.
 - New Deputy Commissioner, Olivia Glenn: She will have an Environmental Justice focus which does overlap with our CSO communities.
 - Kudos were given to the surface water permitting group as their ability to continue to work remotely is impressive.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Council Recommendations from 2019 Public Hearing
 - Tony McCracken, Chair, Clean Water Council

Amy Goldsmith commented that usually these letters have more recommendations and Pam agreed that this was more of a description of what stormwater utilities are and there could be more content. It was responded that the public hearing was more of a training and information session as there are currently no stormwater utilities in New Jersey. Tony said that he would attach this to a memo explaining how this public hearing and the recommendations in the letter are different in previous years because the public hearing was a result of stormwater utilities being recently allowed by legislation, there is little to no experience with stormwater utilities for the council members or in New Jersey, and the hearing was more for learning about stormwater utilities and not about getting feedback to provide recommendations as hearings have been conducted in the past.

Pamela Godwin made motion to approve. Second by Jim Cosgrove. Approved, no- none, abstained- none.

- Presentation: TMDLs and Nonpoint Pollution
 - Kimberly Cenno, Manager, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards
 - Gabriel Mahon, Manager, Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control

Comments and questions from the Council:

- *Jim appreciated and thanked the presenters for the overview. He would like to see more additional measures added into the MS4 permits. As an example, point sources along the Passaic and Raritan are better now and many sewer systems have completed major upgrades. There is a need for more nonpoint solutions to improve the water quality along these waterways. TMDLs might also be a good way to do this, but nonpoint is critical to improving stream health in those watersheds.*
- *Will this presentation be shared?*
 - *Yes, it will be shared with the Council.*
- *Tony offered that some of the Council would be willing to be a part of a committee to work with Gabe.*
- *Amy mentioned that it is important to consider more nonpoint solutions since there are many places that become non-swimmable after storm events.*
- *Peggy asked how the volunteer data was used for the most recent C1 Adoption and Integrated Report.*
 - *DEP response: Only Raritan Headwaters Association data was used for C1 rule adoption, several other volunteer organizations data are used to support IR if it meet NJDEP quality assurance protocols*
- *Peggy also asked if the C1 Story map could be used to determine if property was within the 300 ft buffer?*
 - *DEP responded that the layer is available but that it does not have the same analytical capabilities that GIS does. Yes it can provide information as to the presence of a C1 buffer but does not have the ability to drill down to the property lot level to determine if it is within that buffer.*
- *Russ asked for more information about the press release for the HAB grants.*
 - *DEP response: There were 2 RFPs- 1. (January) for the research of new technologies and 2. Typical projects and priority watersheds for traditional nonpoint pollution control. 2020 RFP is still pending.*
- *Harry commented that 2005 data being used for some of the TMDLs should be updated to see if there has been improvements or if there is a need for greater compliance in those areas.*
 - *DEP response: This would take a big effort to gather data and agreed that there could be more done to increase BMPs that reduce nitrate. Municipalities are currently encouraged to do their best but there are no numerical limitations. However, moving forward this could be included in TMDLs and will require additional measures in the MS4 permit.*
- *Harry commented about the concern of state and county roads- no prevention of overflow from them. Maybe there is a need to increase the frequency of drain cleaning or street sweeping.*
 - *DEP response that the MS4 permits for highways agencies are more stringent.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Next Scheduled Council Meeting – September 8, 2020*
 - *The next CWC meeting will be virtual through Teams.*
- *Shane McAleer announced he will be leaving DBRC to join EPA Region 3. He appreciates the time he spent with the council and will be in touch regarding the next DRBC member.*

ADJOURNMENT

Tony gave executive privilege to Stan to close the meeting. Jim Cosgrove moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by multiple members. Adjourned at 11:57am.