



## NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2020 @ 10:00 A.M.

### MEETING NOTES

#### INTRODUCTIONS

CWC Members: Tony McCracken, Ashley Kerr, George Bakun, Pamela Goodwin, Russel Furnari, Vincent Monaco, Amy Goldsmith, Maria Connolly, Harry Wozunk, Sandra Howland, James Cosgrove

DEP: John Gray and Jennifer Feltis Cortese

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- August 11, 2020: Moved by James Cosgrove, second Amy Goldsmith, Approved.

#### DEP UPDATES

- Program Updates
  - Shared the Council's letter with the Assistant Commissioner's office and have not received feedback.
  - CSO permits were extended until October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for more opportunities for public participation. As such, CCMUA held a virtual public meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the group of CSO permittees that discharge to the New York Harbor (21 of 25 permittees) meet to discuss their LTCPs. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, NHSA was granted funding through the Water Bank for \$20M for Phase 1 of their LTCP. Also on August 24<sup>th</sup>, MCUA and Perth Amboy held a virtual public meeting to discuss their LTCP.
  - DWQ will be planning and holding virtual stakeholder meetings soon to discuss parts of the CSO permits that are likely to be similar in all the permits (for example: community engagement or monitoring).
  - On August 24<sup>th</sup> through the Water Bank, the Borough of Hopatcong was granted permission to advertise for the solicitation to connect 32 homes to the sewer system as part of the DEP's effort to reduce HABs.
  - In August, DWQ staff issued 11 certifications for \$37M in funding and closed on four construction projects totally \$13M.
  - On August 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> DWQ held their stormwater review training program virtually over four 3.5 hour sessions. There were approximately 100 participants for this training.
  - DWQ in conjunction with the National Governor's Association will be hosting a two day seminar on forming stormwater utilities. Space is limited but staff is currently following up with municipalities that were initially interested in the training that was postponed due to COVID.
    - Question from the Council: Has anyone initiated a stormwater utility? *DEP Response: Jersey City has taken some steps to evaluate developing a stormwater utility and will be participating in the seminar.*

Approved, 11.10.2020

- Tony indicated that getting the first one in the door will open opportunities for others to also develop one. *DEP responded that we are working on guidance and hope the seminar will allow us to further refine our work. NJ Future has released their website that DEP provided some information.* A few Council members also indicated that they have seen the NJ Future website and thought that it was well organized. Amy indicated that the League of Conservation Voters received a grant and is also doing some work on stormwater utilities. *DEP responded that they were also part of the team that worked with NJ Future and they have participated with the DEP on their stakeholder meetings as well and provided resources. They will also be participating in the stormwater utility seminar.*
- Members of the Council asked about WRM having a new Assistant Commissioner and if there was any news on additional re-organizations. *DEP responded that Patricia Gardner is the new Assistant Commissioner for WRM and before that she was the Director of Water Supply and Geo-science and also the Director of Water Monitoring and Standards. There was some transition time so it was a smooth transition for staff. The re-org for Watershed and Land-use Management is a little delayed but DEP staff were surveyed to solicit feedback on the re-organization and we are awaiting next steps.* Tony responded that Michele helped on and off with the Council and was always accessible and well prepared. Members of the Council agreed and wished her and her husband well on their retirement. They will also be preparing a letter of gratitude to send to Michele.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A plaque has been ordered for Stan, and Tony will work with Jennifer and John to figure out how to get it to Stan.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2020 Public Hearing Discussion

The members of the council were asked: should we hold one and when, do we have the time to do so and what should the meeting be about. It was determined that yes, the Council should hold their public meeting as they are mandated to do and a small committee consisting of James, Russ, Amy, Pam and Tony with support from Jennifer was formed to facilitate this. The Council decided that the committee would come up with a handful of water quality issues (such as, any DEP identifies, climate/NJPACT related, future of non point pollution, TMDLs, changes to Federal laws, flooding, etc) and then survey interested parties. After the top 3-5 water quality issues are identified through the survey, then these will be presented at the public hearing and feedback will be sought regarding how best to address these issues and what will success look like in 2030. The committee's first meeting will be Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. The goal is to have a virtual public hearing within the first few weeks of December.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Scheduled Council Meeting – October 13, 2020

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn- Amy, second- Russ and Jim, adjourned 11:41am.