

Moving Beyond the Barnegat Bay Watershed: Using Partnerships to Improve Water Quality

A Public Hearing sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Water Council

Friday, December 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or close of testimony, if earlier)

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection - Public Hearing Room, 401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

The New Jersey Clean Water Council seeks public testimony on how New Jersey can make the best use of partnerships to improve water quality. The Barnegat Bay Initiative clearly illustrates the huge impact that partnerships have had on NJDEP's ability to cooperatively plan, manage, intensely monitor, educate the public, and preserve land within the watershed. Without partnerships with local governments, utility authorities, water purveyors, academia, non-governmental organizations, private companies, and local residents, the extent of the accomplishments in this watershed would not have been possible. The Council will consider the testimony in recommending to NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin the most viable opportunities to foster such collaborations. NJDEP will make any final decision regarding next steps based on a variety of factors, including: water quality issues, measurable results, ability to leverage available resources and public input. Please note that the Council is not seeking testimony on Barnegat Bay technical or scientific issues.

SPEAKERS (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Bob Martin, NJDEP Commissioner, will provide an overview of how the lessons learned from the Governor's Barnegat Bay Initiative and other areas could be used to inform NJDEP's future work.

Patricia Ingelido, NJDEP Environmental Specialist, will present an overview of the Barnegat Bay Initiative as a case study for partnerships in clean water protection and restoration.

Jennifer Adkins, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Inc. Executive Director will discuss an additional partnership effort for clean water.

Q&A / Discussion will begin after the speakers, followed by a break.

Public Testimony will begin at 11:00 a.m. or as soon as possible following the break.

REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY

The Council seeks recommendations regarding how various interests have implemented or could pursue cooperative approaches to enhance and protect water quality in all New Jersey watersheds. Testimony should consider, for existing, planned and proposed partnerships:

- How does your partnership work to effectively protect and restore clean water? (Please be specific.)
- How should NJDEP help structure, facilitate and support effective partnerships and participation?
- What opportunities exist to leverage partnership resources and funding for better success?
- What communication techniques and strategies should be used to advance work of the partnerships and to inform and engage the public?

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. If sufficient time is available after all speakers have been heard, the Chair may determine that additional comments may be heard by the Council in the same order as before until the 1:00PM limit is reached. Written comments will be accepted until December 31, 2015, 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) 292-8961.
To schedule or submit testimony, contact Tracy Omrod at Tracy.Omrod@dep.nj.gov or (609) 292-8961.