



## NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 2021 @ 10:00 A.M.

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Microsoft Teams meeting

### INTRODUCTIONS Meeting started 10:05

George Bakun, Sandra Howland, David Kovach, Mark Wadiak, Maria Connolly, Tony McCracken, Jennifer Coffey, Amy Goldsmith, Russ Furnari, Pamela Goodwin, Ryan Reagan

Technical Advisor: Peggy Gallos

Members of the public: Gary Brune, Bree Callahan

NJDEP Staff: Janice Brogle, Bennett Moss, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, Kelly Perez, Pat Brown, Bradley Alder, Kerri Standowski, James Lunski

### APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- June 15, 2021- Amy Moved, Maria Second- All in favor.

### DEP UPDATES

- Jennifer provided the program updates:
  - Technical reviews for the **27 LTCPs are complete** and can be found online. <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso-ltcpsubmittals.htm>. The CSO program is meeting with permittees to go over the technical reviews.
  - The Division of Water Quality has issued a cessation of the March 23, 2020 issuance of a stay for certain monitoring frequency requirements for NJPDES Sanitary Wastewater Dischargers to surface waters (posted online at: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/covid19.html>.) Permittees are expected to comply with the frequencies set forth in their current permits on or before October 1, 2021. Cessation of this stay applies to conventional pollutants whereas a stay for toxic pollutants and whole effluent toxicity had already expired July 1, 2020.
  - The Water Bank closed on 37 short-term loans and 5 short term-loan increases totaling \$199.4 million in the month of June. This capped off a record year (SFY 2021) with 105 short-term loan closings totaling \$771.3 million to support drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects. The program disbursed \$55.4 million in short-term loan funds to active construction projects in the month of June, alone and a total of \$443.1 million of short-term funds were disbursed for the fiscal year.
  - As a reminder, DWQ sent out Request for Information letters to NJPDES Discharge to Surface Water Permittees (Category B) and NJPDES Significant Indirect User Permittees (Category L). The letters contained a survey link to provide information to help determine which facilities might have PFAS in their discharges. An extension to complete the survey was provided through June 16, 2021. The results of those surveys can be found on our website. (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pfas.htm>)

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- The Division of Water Quality issued Request for Information letters to 51 facilities on 8/18/2021. These facilities are required to collect two samples of effluent at least 30 days apart and analyze for the presence of PFAS in the discharge. The facilities will be required to submit results by 12/15/2021. The first group of facilities were selected based on responses to the survey request, information about the facility and/or NAICS code.
- DWQ also sent a Request for Information to our Designated Local Authorities (DLAs) on April 22, 2021 to have surveys completed by significant industrial users. DLAs had until August 20, 2021 to provide a summary of surveys conducted and next steps to track down potential sources of PFAS. DWQ is currently reviewing the summaries provided by the DLAs and will be meeting with them soon to go over next steps and meeting individually with them as appropriate.
- A council member mentioned ARP and FEMA funding and asked how they interface with the Water Bank. The Department is still awaiting guidance on how the ARP funds will be distributed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Hearing topics were discussed later in the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bradley Alder provided a presentation of the DWQ website updates.
  - Bradley shared with the council the updates that he had completed to date with the CWC website.
    - The council complimented Bradley on his work and provided a few suggestions for making the headings clearer. After the CWC webpage is updated, DWQ will focus on its PFAS webpage.
- Kerri Standowski provided an overview on DataMiner.
  - Council members asked a few questions about what types of information can be found about a permit, and if there are any resources available to learn more about Dataminer.
    - Dataminer provides monitoring data and information on any enforcement actions or modifications to the permit.
    - Dataminer can be used to find information/results about various parameters.
    - If unsure about the information you are seeking, then reach out to the permit program.
    - There is information online about using Dataminer, <https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner#>.
    - The Council suggested that DWQ provide “how to” information on finding PFAS data as it becomes available through Dataminer.
- Bennett Moss provided a demonstration on the interactive mapping project for PFAS.
  - The Council suggested that the information be searchable by watershed.
  - The Council asked if the map was available and if there would be a tutorial available as some of the information presented might be difficult for the public to understand. The map is still under development and only available internally, but once it is made available to the public, we will make available a tutorial/FAQs.
  - Discussion followed about what coordinate data should we be focused on as the facility location may differ from the outfall locations. Currently these are for the facility, not the outfall, but it might be more useful to know the location of the outfall as this could be compared with ambient stream data.
- The Council commended DWQ staff on their work so far and it was suggested that the information also be organized so that individuals could visit a main DEP website and understand where to find information about various topics or types of facilities. DWQ staff are on the larger DEP PFAS website

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team and will take this feedback back to that team. The Council was asked that if they have additional thoughts on the website, to please send an email to Jennifer or Janice.

- Selection of 2022 Public Hearing Topic
  - Tony suggested that the Council continue work on PFAS with a focus on biosolids.
    - Janice expressed that the Division is putting a lot into this and the public hearing the CWC did last year was very helpful. We took some of the suggestions and it was very good to hear reactions to the speakers. It would be helpful to focus on the biosolids/residuals piece of this topic and aim for a hearing in early 2022.
    - There was support from Council members to continue the PFAS discussion and aim for a public hearing in early 2022.
    - It was also suggested that the DEP provide an update on the information they've collected since the January public hearing and maybe get an update from Colorado about where they are with their efforts and any additional findings.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- October meeting would be scheduled for October 12, 2021- going to be virtual
- November meeting would be scheduled for November 9, 2021

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion from Maria Connolly, seconded George Bakun; adjourned.