



## **NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 14, 2021 @ 10:00 A.M.**

### Microsoft Teams meeting

#### **AGENDA**

##### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Tony provided a welcome at 10:05am to start the meeting.

Council members: Tony McCracken, James Cosgrove, David Kovach, George Bakun, Ashley Kerr, Pamela Goodwin, Mark Wadiak, Jennifer Coffey, Russ Furnari, Sandra Howland, Maria Connolly

Members of the public: Brianne Callahan, Gary Brune

DEP Staff: Janice Brogle, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, John Murray, Michele Christopher

##### **APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- September 14, 2021- Jim Cosgrove Moved, Russ Furnari Second- All in favor, approved.

##### **DEP UPDATES**

- Jennifer provided the program updates:
  - DWQ held its first CSO Stakeholder meeting for next round of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) NJPDES permits on December 7, 2021, to discuss permit conditions for public participation that may be considered for incorporation into the next CSO permits. Five stakeholders presented their ideas covering the public engagement topics of goals and purpose, engagement activities and supplemental CSO teams. There were approximately 45 participants, including DEP staff. The next set of stakeholder meetings will happen in January 2022 and will cover environmental justice, metrics and climate change.
  - SFY21 Water Bank Highlights
    - A record \$771 million in new short-term low-interest and principal forgiveness loans awarded to 134 clean water and drinking water projects. Funded projects included lead service line replacements and CSO abatement projects.
    - Long Term funding totaling \$386 million was provided to 59 projects at a blended interest rate of 0.6925%. saving borrowers \$109.7 million over the life of the loans.
  - SFY22 Water Bank Projections
    - So far in SFY 2022, we've awarded \$136 million to 24 projects. We expect to surpass the record SFY21 numbers by the end of this fiscal year.
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill:

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- New Jersey will receive additional funds over the next five years as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal recently signed by President Biden on November 15.
- It is estimated that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) legislation will provide approximately \$1 billion over the next 5 years in additional clean water and drinking water SRF funding to NJ.
- Update- Request for Information- PFAS Monitoring:
  - The Division of Water Quality issued requests for information letters to 51 facilities on 8/18/2021. These facilities will be required to collect 2 samples of effluent at least 30 days apart and analyze for the presence of PFAS in the discharge. The facilities were 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. We have extended this deadline to January 31, 2022 due to lab constraints.
  - Sent a Request for Information to our Designated Local Authorities (DLAs) on April 22, 2021, and they had until August 20, 2021, to have survey completed by their dischargers. The DEP provided each DLA with an update on who has completed the survey each week. DWQ is currently reviewing the summaries provided by the DLAs to go over next steps; and is meeting with them individually to discuss as appropriate.
  - We met with the DLAs as a group on Thursday, September 23, 2021, to discuss survey results, prioritization, and next steps as the DLAs and Department move forward in their PFAS track down process. DLAs expressed the need to correlate NAICS codes with specific PFAS analytes to better identify potential sources and reduce PFAS entering their system.
- Supply Chain Survey: In October, DWQ conducted a survey to better understand what specific situations are arising. Surveys were sent to all wastewater treatment plants over 1.0 MGD and critical sludge management sites. The most common issue identified was with obtaining materials associated with system infrastructure maintenance (i.e., pipes, valves, equipment parts, etc.). The common concerns had to do with delivery times and costs associated with delivery of materials. Polymers used for thickening and running sludge presses were the chemicals identified as being out of stock. Other issues of concern included hiring and maintaining properly licensed staff and the financial logistics of upgrading older systems. None of the systems, however, indicated these shortages resulted in non-compliance with permit conditions.
- DEP Updates of interest:
  - In November, DEP released two studies that confirm that intensity of precipitation in New Jersey will increase over the remainder of the century due to climate change.  
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/data.html>
  - On Oct. 12, Governor Murphy released [New Jersey's first Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy](#), which includes more than 125 recommendations to promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation and resilience of the state's economy, communities, infrastructure and natural resources.
- Questions and Comments from the Council:
  - Are there any updates on the WQMP program? Is there proposed rulemaking? Wastewater Management Plans have been in the works for decades and streamlining is needed. The Council would like a presentation.
    - The program has moved to WRM and DWQ will reach out to ask for a presentation.
  - Will DWQ put a condition for PFAS monitoring in NJPDES permits?
    - A number of GW permits already have monitoring and handful of surface water permits. It is possible that down the line this will become the norm and then eventually there will be effluent limitations.
  - When will we see more information about the infrastructure funds?

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- The Water Bank is required to provide a certain amount as grants or PF. We are working on this right now in the IUP and will have a draft proposal in early January with the various funding packages.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Council asked about the website update. Our web hourly left in early November, and it is mostly updated. We have a new hire coming on board soon.

The Council discussed the next public hearing and that they would be holding in in the first few months of the new year. DWQ staff is in the process of evaluating what other states are doing and hope to have suggestions for the CWC on who they may want to present by the next meeting. The Council was asked to help DWQ come up with charge questions for the hearing as they are learning more about PFAS and residuals. Please send those suggestions to Jennifer. Tony asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee to plan the Public Hearing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Presentation from DWQ: Residual Management
  - John Murray, Bureau of Ground Water, Residuals, and Permit Administration
- Questions and discussion with the Council:
  - There was discussion about biochar and its utilization as sludge management.
  - Council member: how do you see PFAS effecting sludge management? The Bureau and DWQ team are in the early stages of this research.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Russ is retiring December 31 but will stay active with CWC for the Chamber.
- January meeting would be scheduled for January 11, 2022 and we tentatively have EPA on board to discuss EPA's PFAS Road Map.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion from Russ Furnari, seconded Harry Wozunk; adjourned, 10:51 am.