



## NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### Meeting Summary

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Tony McCracken called meeting to order at 10:05 AM

**Council Participants (11):** Anthony McCracken, George Bakun, Pamela Goodwin, James Cosgrove, Maria Connolly, Sandra Howland, Harry Wozunk, Krisna Jagannathan, David Kovach, Chris Andreasen and Russ Furnari

**DEP Participants (4):** Susan Rosenwinkel, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, John Murray, and Christine Enright

**Public Participants (1):** Wale Adewunmi

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- October 10, 2023 – Approved: James Cosgrove Moved, Russ Furnari Second with minor edit.
  - One edit under education- above Trenton vs below Trenton.

#### DEP UPDATES

- **Launched New Water Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP) Website:**  
The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) is pleased to announce that the Water Infrastructure Investment Plan website has been converted to Word Press and is now live (<https://dep.nj.gov/wiip/>). This website update included the addition of pages aimed at providing additional information on applying for Water Bank Funding and navigating through the program.
- **CSO Public Engagement Revised Draft Guidance Stakeholder Meeting:**  
The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) posted a revised draft guidance entitled "A Guide to CSO Public Engagement" on November 1, 2023 (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm>) and hosted an additional stakeholder meeting on November 28, 2023 (first one held on July 19, 2023) to solicit feedback on the revised draft guidance. Stakeholders were appreciative that the revised document incorporated several of the suggestions that had been submitted to DWQ.
- **Update on Implementation Schedule for North Hudson Sewerage Authority (NHSA):**  
DWQ met with NHSA on December 11, 2023, as a follow up to a meeting on November 15, 2023. Both meetings focused on the terms of implementation schedules included in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plans (LTCP). DWQ issued a letter to NHSA dated December 4, 2023, requesting that the length of both schedules be shortened and also emphasized comments contained in EPA's March 11, 2023, comment letter regarding concerns over the length of the implementation schedules.
- **Release of NJPDES CSO permits for Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA), City of Camden and Gloucester City:**  
DWQ intends to issue draft NJPDES Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permits for the City of Camden, Gloucester City and CCMUA in early November. Each permit incorporates the construction schedules from their joint Long

Term Control Plan. The draft permits will have a shared public comment period in excess of 60 days with a virtual public hearing planned for December 13, 2023 as well as January 22, 2024 with the comment period ending on that date. Links to the draft permits (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwg/cso.htm>) are posted on the CSO Program webpage.

- **NJPDES Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Public Hearing for Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA), City of Hackensack, Village of Ridgefield Park, and Borough of Fort Lee:**

DWQ conducted its fourth virtual public hearing on October 16, 2023 for the renewal NJPDES CSO permits for the BCUA, issued September 7, 2023, and the three combined communities in its collection system all of which were issued on August 17, 2023. Commenters expressed gratitude that the program was engaging the public in this way and most notably that the CSO Program had drafted a Public Engagement Guidance document. Critical comments focused on requests to shorten the timeframe for completion of projects, a reanalysis of affordability given new EPA guidance and historic levels of funding being available, questions on how the program will enforce new requirements such as system cleaning, and more Green Infrastructure.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- DWQ Overview presentation was provided by Christine Enright - Administrative Assistant 1, Director's Office | Division of Water Quality. The purpose of this presentation was to provide a general overview of overall functions and permitting programs within DWQ.
- **Round Table: Identify and share information on members and agency/organization represented on Council**
  - Council members discussed several topics of interest and some historical background regarding what the Council had done in the past. There was additional discussion on the Council's role moving forward and consensus around the idea that the Council likes to be a sounding board for the Department regarding new rules, policies, or other similar activities.
  - Examples of topics discussed: 94 pollutants and the Surface Water Quality Standards; the State Water Supply Plan; Council membership and roles and responsibilities; and Water Quality Management Planning.
- **Future Meeting Schedule and Topics**
  - 2024 Meeting schedule - Approved. Russ Furnari Motioned, James Cosgrove Second
- **Subcommittee Updates**
  - TMDL - George Bakun, James Cosgrove, Amy Goldsmith
    - DRBC continues to implement the PCBs TMDL in the Delaware River Basin.
  - WQMP and Septic Management Plan - Tony McCracken, James Cosgrove, Sandra Howland, Ashley Kerr
    - Tony tried reaching out to WQPM and is waiting for additional feedback.
    - The website was shared for a quick look: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/wqmp/wqmps.html>
  - Policy/Legislative Committee - Maria Connolly, Harry Wozunk, Peggy Gallos
    - Over 100 pending bills, however only one bill through Committees which permits utilities to reduce costs for low income residents and establish Water Infrastructure Center. Harry should be able to provide additional information after February when the League provides their update to its members.
  - Education and Outreach - Amy Goldsmith, John Murray, David Kovach
    - David could provide an overview of DRBC and what they do in a future meeting.
    - John mentioned DEP environmental education website – John to go over website at future meeting.
  - DRBC - Dave Kovach, George Bakun

- Formed in 1961 to deal with water allocation between NYC and downstream watersheds. Granted a lot of authority when developed and dealt with water allocation/withdrawals and wastewater discharges for projects that reach a certain amount.
- Updated administrative agreements have handed authority back to the States for many of the permits.
- Moving towards electronic submittals and updating some regulatory statutes and public records requests.

- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Chlorides - Open

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next meetings:
  - March 12, 2024 (Topic Idea: Resilience and Nutrients)
  - May 14, 2023 (Tentative offsite meeting) (Plan meeting purpose and objective)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn from Harry Wozunk and second by James Cosgrove at 11:47AM.