



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M

Meeting Summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Tony McCracken called meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Council Participants (11): George Bakun, Anthony McCracken, Pamela Goodwin, James Cosgrove, Maria Connolly, Sandra Howland, Ashley Kerr, Harry Wozunk, Krisna Jagannathan, David Kovach, and Gerald Reiner

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 13, 2023 Highlights – Approved: James Cosgrove motioned as revised by DEP, Krisna Jagannathan second.

DEP UPDATES

John Murray provided the following updates:

Release of NJPDES CSO permits for Ridgefield Park, Hackensack and Fort Lee: The CSO Program issued three draft CSO permits for Ridgefield Park, Hackensack and Fort Lee on August 17, 2023. Each permit incorporates the construction schedules from their joint Long Term Control Plan. The permits also announce a shared public hearing and public comment period. The virtual public hearing is scheduled for October 16, 2023 and the end of the comment period is set for November 13, 2023 at 11:59pm. Links to the draft permits (<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm>) have been posted on the CSO Program webpage.

The sewage treatment plant that receives flows from these communities, Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA), will be issued next and will share the three communities public hearing and comment period.

- Sue Rosenwinkel invited council to NJPDES CSO Permit renewal public hearing on October 16th for BCUA- Ridgefield Park, Fort Lee and Hackensack

Issuance of Technical Letters to Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) and 8 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Municipalities: The Division of Water Quality issued letters to PVSC and its eight combined sewer system member communities to request technical information on the implementation schedule for CSO controls as part of their system-wide Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The LTCPs submitted by the permittees identify a Regional Alternative and a Municipal Alternative. The Regional Alternative, which meets the 85% capture criterion under the Presumption Approach across the entire PVSC combined system, not necessarily in each municipal border, includes fewer projects given the benefits of a proposed shared interceptor pipe. The Municipal Alternative

consists of projects that PVSC and each combined sewer community would undertake on its own to meet the 85% capture criterion under the Presumption Approach within each municipal border.

State Revolving Fund Disadvantaged Community Criteria Focus Group: On Monday, September 18, WRM is hosting a focus group meeting with stakeholders to discuss the state revolving fund program affordability criteria. The objective of the focus group is to hear from NGO, municipal, and water system stakeholders about their perspectives on the existing affordability criteria used to determine what applicants are eligible for principal forgiveness.

- **Discussion on SRF:** A council member asked if DEP had issues getting applications from disadvantaged communities. DEP explained this focus group was to gain feedback as we work to adjust anything based on the federal guidelines. DEP was asked if there were specific criteria – criteria can be found in the IUP on the DEP website. DEP staff will provide the council with links to the presentation and other information as available. It was suggested that this be a meeting topic for November (changed to December as November was agreed to cancel).

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed upcoming meeting topics.

There was an interactive discussion amongst the Council members and the DEP regarding potential meeting topics. The following topics were discussed: TMDLs; Fertilizer Rule update; fecal coliform; funding for agricultural improvements; septic systems and WQMP impact; and HABs (harmful algal blooms).

Subcommittee Development

The Council and DEP discussed the following subcommittees and volunteers offered their assistance as noted below.

- TMDL (George Bakun, James Cosgrove, and Amy Goldsmith)
 - This subcommittee has the goal of having this as a topic for the January meeting. DEP will work with this subcommittee to identify potential presenters and information to share.
- WQMP and Septic Management Plan (Tony McCracken, James Cosgrove, Sandra Howland, and Ashley Kerr)
 - Subcommittee will explore this as a possible topic for early next year with a focus on watersheds that may have impairments of fecal coliform.
- Policy Committee (Maria Connolly, Harry Wozunk and Peggy Gallos)
 - Subcommittee members will review and look for any new legislation prior to meetings.
 - Council members will send to Jennifer as they see them, and Jennifer will bring up anything that trickles down to DWQ for review.
- Education (Amy Goldsmith, John Murray, and David Kovach)
 - Availability of a more accessible website for educators and public knowledge.
 - Amy offered to assist, and David offered input on DRBC special protection waters above Trenton.
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
 - Questions were raised about what type of BMPs DOT was doing.
 - Chlorides in NJ waterways are on the rise.
- DRBC (Dave Kovach and George Bakun)
 - David and George will bring issues forward as they arise.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting- Group suggested that this be planned for fall 2024. Considerations on timing should be given to other big conferences.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meetings:

- November 14, 2023 - Canceled
- December 12, 2023
- January 9, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn from James Cosgrove and second by Amy Goldsmith at 11:43AM.

Send calendar invites for future council meetings.