



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M. via Microsoft Teams meeting

Meeting Highlights

INTRODUCTIONS

Tony McCracken called meeting to order at 3:05pm

Council Participants: Russ Furnari, David Kovach, Pamela Goodwin, Anthony McCracken, George Bakun, Justin Baker, Harry Wozunk, Maria Connolly, Jennifer Coffey, Jim Cosgrove, Sandra Howland, Amy Goldsmith, Ashley Kerr

Public Participants: Peggy Gallos

DEP Participants: Jennifer Feltis, John Murray, Janice Brogle, Kerri Standowski

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- October 18, 2022 – Approved: Russ Furnari Motioned, Maria Connolly Second

DEP UPDATES

John Murray provided the program updates:

1. Water Bank – Finalized Amendments to the SFY 23 Clean Water and Drinking Water Intended Use Plans (IUP): The Department finalized amendments to the State Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water and Drinking Water IUPs. New Jersey's Water Bank program will receive almost \$1 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) over the next 5 years. In addition, New Jersey's SFY 2023 budget allocates \$300 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the DEP to make transformative investments in critical water infrastructure upgrades. The finalized IUPs outline the funding aspects such as project priorities and SRF funding packages and can be found on the DEP WIIP webpage.
2. Meeting with DLAs and AEA-NJ PFAS Subcommittee: The Division met with representatives of the 17 DLAs and members of AEA on November 9th to continue discussions regarding how best to share PFAS data and information.
3. FY2023 NJPDES Annual Fees: The Division has prepared the Annual Fee Report and Assessment of Fees proposal document and is targeting a publication date in mid to late January. The budget for this year was relatively stable.
4. Issuance of Renewal Draft NJPDES CSO Permits: On Friday, December 9, 2022, the DWQ issued two Draft NJPDES Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) NJPDES permits aimed at improving water quality in urban areas by requiring the reduction of combined sewer discharges through wet weather capture. The draft renewal permits issued by the Department lay out schedules for combined sewer overflow reduction projects under long-term plans to reduce or eliminate combined sewer discharges affecting surface water quality in urban parts of the states. These renewal CSO Permits enhance the public engagement found in the 2015 CSO Permits and reflect the Long-Term Control Plan submitted by North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority -Woodcliff Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and the Town of Guttenberg.

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Public Hearing – PFAS in Residuals
 - The Council discussed the outline and structure for the hearing.
 - The virtual hearing is scheduled for January 19, 2023.
 - Tony requested a follow up meeting with subcommittee on Public Hearing to discuss any final logistics.
- Website Updates
 - A sub-committee reviewed and provided final edits to DWQ to address.
 - Internal review resulted in a few minor changes and the Office of Information Technology also has some comments. Once these comments are addressed, the webpage will go live before January 19 hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2022/2023 Public Hearing Discussion:
 - The Council reviewed the Save the Date Notice, and it will be sent out and posted in early January. The Council reviewed the agenda and discussed the order of presenters.
 - Speaker 1 - DEP Commissioner
 - Speaker 2 - Virginia Wong – EPA Region 2
 - Speaker 3 - Jennifer Bush – State of Michigan
 - The Council discussed the questions that would be asked of potential participants of the public hearing. Council members provided feedback and wanted residual management alternatives posted along with the questions for context. DWQ staff assured the Council that this was the plan and new pie charts have been created for this purpose. Questions will be shared with the Council for a final review along with DWQ seeking approval from outside council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CWC Public Hearing January 19, 2023 @ 1 P.M.
- Next meetings
 - January 10, 2023 (to be used for CWC Hearing preparation, if needed)
 - February 14, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn from Jim Cosgrove and second by Amy Goldsmith.