



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority
290 River Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

September 10, 2024 | MEETING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTIONS

Tony called meeting to order at 10:09AM

Council Participants (7): Anthony McCracken, James Cosgrove, Sara Mellor (Stand in for Sandra Howland), Maria Connolly, David Kovach, Amy Goldsmith, and Krishna Jagannathan

DEP Participants (6): Susan Rosenwinkel, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, John Murray, Christine Enright, Brett Callanan, and Josie Castaldo

Public Participants (4): Wale Adewunmi, Andrew Lloyd, Alyssa Lutgen and Jeanette Myers

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- June 11, 2024 - Moved by Jim Cosgrove, second by Amy Goldsmith, approved with minor changes to address the comment.

DEP UPDATES - Provided by John Murray | DEP

Billion-Dollar Water Infrastructure Milestone: In Fiscal Year 2024, which concluded June 30, the Water Bank provided financing for 116 clean water projects (wastewater and stormwater treatment) totaling \$838 million and financing for 31 drinking water projects, totaling \$240 million. These projects represent a combined \$1.078 billion in infrastructure financing. This is the first time that the Water Bank program has surpassed \$1 billion in fiscal year project financing. The previous record was \$769.5 million in Fiscal Year 2021. This record funding is being used to replace lead and galvanized service lines, install PFAS treatment systems, mitigate stormwater discharges, address combined sewer overflows, upgrade wastewater treatment, reduce flooding, and more. The full \$1 billion in project closings for 2024 can be found at the DEP's [Water Infrastructure Dashboard](#). Based on the current application pipeline, the Water Bank expects to again exceed \$1 billion in project financing in the current fiscal year.

NJ Water Bank SFY24 Spring Bond Pool Final Closing: On June 3, 2024, the Water Bank closed on long-term loan agreements with 12 borrowers covering 16 projects and \$260,448,256 in total project costs. The loans were financed with a combination of municipal bond proceeds at 3.85%, USEPA Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan funds at 3.03%, interest free DEP loan funds, and

\$6.9 million in DEP principal forgiveness. The Water Bank was able to provide an estimated savings of \$83.6 million to these borrowers or 32.1% of the total financed due to reduced financing costs and the award of principal forgiveness. The use of low interest USEPA WIFIA funds reduced the DEP funding by \$17.5 million. These DEP funds will now be available to fund additional Water Bank projects.

Commencement of the Cumberland County Biosolids and Organics Recycling Facility (BORF): The BORF began operation of the biosolids recycling facility on June 6th, 2024, utilizing an enclosed, forced air, agitated bed, in-vessel aerobic compost system with a maximum capacity of sixty-three (63) dry metric tons per day and the distribution of the resultant marketable residual product (MRP) in the State of New Jersey. The prepared MRP is intended to conform to an Exceptional Quality (EQ) residual (N.J.A.C. 7:14A-20.7(h)1) based on the level of pollutant concentration, pathogen reduction and vector attraction reduction achieved. MRP is suitable for distribution and marketing as a soil amendment or fertilizer.

Issuance of New NJPDES Discharge to Ground Water (DGW) permit: A new Master General permit (Category GWSD) was issued on June 25, 2024, for the discharge of sanitary sewage to ground water via individual subsurface sewage disposal system(s) where the aggregate daily design flow for the property is greater than 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) but less than or equal to 20,000 gpd. In addition to new facilities being able to qualify for this GP, the Ground Water unit currently has 268 individual sanitary discharge permits; it is estimated that approximately 70% of these permits could be eligible for this new GP which will lead to more consistent, more efficient, and lower cost permitting in the future. This new GP allows eligible facilities with design flows less than 20,000 gpd to apply for authorization under the GP without the need to obtain a WQMP amendment.

Council Discussion:

A council member asked how well money is repaid through the water bank program. DEP responded that it is rare for repayments to not come in on schedule, but staff will ask for more details and report back at the next meeting.

The Council suggested that the County Planning Departments be briefed on the new DGW permit and how it impacts their water quality management plans and any approvals they are responsible for. There was some concern about ensuring compliance with the Federal and being consistent with water quality management plans. DEP staff will follow up with the appropriate DEP program on this request.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Public Hearing**
The Council discussed hosting a public hearing at the end of 2024 with an emphasis on PFAS in the water cycle; where DEP and others are today with overcoming the challenges presented by PFAS; and discussion of potential next steps. The current proposal is to have opening remarks; quick overview of DEP actions to date; two presentations potentially from a local water treatment facility implementing PFAS treatment and federal or other state (potentially, Michigan or North Carolina); panel discussion including the presenters and representatives from wastewater facility, industry, clean water advocate, and/or federal representative; and lastly, an opportunity for the public to provide feedback to the Council. The CWC would like for the Commissioner to provide opening remarks, with a tentative date being their regularly scheduled meeting date on December 10, 2024.

Draft Meeting Notes_ For internal use only

- Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority Plant Overview and Tour
Council members, interested public, and DEP staff were treated with a thorough tour of the facility. During the tour, the plant superintendent walked through each of the processes at the plant and answered questions. A few highlights of the tour included learning about their reliance on biological processes before chemicals are added and seeing the incinerator in action. SBRSA staff also collected effluent sampling in a glass beaker which demonstrated how clear the effluent is after treatment.

OLD BUSINESS

- Subcommittee Updates (Tabled for November meeting)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meetings:
 - November 12, 2024
 - The Executive Team and other CWC members may meet prior to this meeting to discuss and finalize the agenda for the public hearing. The Council expressed that they would like save-the-dates to be sent out and announced prior to the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT