



NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL MEETING

September 13, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Meeting Summary

INTRODUCTIONS

Tony McCracken called meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Council Participants (13): George Bakun, Anthony McCracken, Pamela Goodwin, James Cosgrove, Maria Connolly, Gerald Reiner, Sandra Howland, Ashley Kerr, Harry Wozunk, Krisna Jagannathan, David Kovach, Russ Furnari, and Amy Goldsmith (late)

DEP Participants (4): Susan Rosenwinkel, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, John Murray, Katherine Rossi

Public Participants (1): Wale Adewunmi

APPROVAL OF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- July 11, 2023 – Approved: James Cosgrove Motioned, Harry Wozunk Second

DEP UPDATES

John Murray provided the following:

DWQ hosted a WIIP information session on The Building Resilient Water Infrastructure:

The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) provided an overview of the Climate Change Resilience Guidance on July 19, 2023. After the presentation comments and questions were solicited from attendees. Approximately twenty stakeholders attended the information session and five individuals provided feedback or asked questions.

Stakeholder Session for CSO Public Engagement Guidance:

The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) facilitated a stakeholder session on July 19, 2023 to solicit feedback on draft guidance entitled "A Guide to CSO Public Engagement" as posted here:

https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/CSO_Public_Engagement_Guidance_Document_Draft.pdf. The stakeholder session was attended by 28 external individuals and included representatives of various environmental groups, local community groups, EPA and CSO permittees.

HABs in the Millstone River:

A Harmful Algal Bloom was identified in the Millstone River in the summer of 2022 due largely to low river flows and a lack of precipitation. The Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority's (SBRSA) effluent outfall also contributes nutrient loadings to the Millstone River. As a coordinated effort between the Division of Water Quality, the Division of Science and Research and the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards, staff have been working with the SBRSA in developing Phosphorus requirements for the

treatment facility's NJPDES permit. SBRSA has agreed to the NJPDES permit conditions. Subsequently, MFCE met with SBRSA to discuss funding opportunities and based on an investigation by Water Monitoring, Standards, and Pesticide Control, determined that a treatment upgrade project to remove phosphorus will be eligible for Water Quality Restoration principal forgiveness subject to the availability of funds.

Meeting with Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA), City of Camden, and City of Gloucester:

The Division of Water Quality facilitated a meeting on August 2, 2023 with CCMUA, City of Camden, and the City of Gloucester concerning the implementation of CSO controls as part of their submitted Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan. The permittees shared status updates on projects including: the cleaning of the collection system for the City of Camden and the City of Gloucester; CSO outfall dredging for the City of Camden; CSO outfall condition assessment for the City of Gloucester; upgrades to the wet weather capacity at CCMUA from 150 MGD to 185 MGD; and increases in pump rates at certain pump stations to maximize wet weather treatment. Other projects that are in process in the short term include the separation of combined sewage into the Camden collection system from Pennsauken Township; green infrastructure for Camden and Gloucester; and sewer separation as a result of the Camden County Port project.

Release of Draft 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.

Water Infrastructure Spending Dashboard:

The Department launched the Water Infrastructure Spending Dashboard in May 2023, <https://www.nj.gov/dep/wiip/dashboard.html>. For FY 2023, the Water Bank closed on 120 loans for a total of \$424.5M. Projected state fiscal year 2024 is for an additional 88 projects for close to \$1B.

OLD BUSINESS

The discussion about developing Council subcommittees remains ongoing. It has been suggested to consider dividing up members of the Council into subcommittees (examples include CSO, Planning, etc) and explore new ideas, utilizing specialists in the group to bring issues to the Council. A request was made to include this idea as an Agenda item for the October meeting.

Collectively DWQ and CWC representatives continued to solicit new meeting topic ideas. The expanding list includes:

- PFAS - NJDEP's approach to technology based effluent limits for PFAS discharges, including considerations/criteria for application
- PFAS - Latest developments in PFAS analytical methods (and possible surrogate tests for quicker lab results) and treatment technologies other than carbon and resin
- Nutrients - Further discussion on development of expanded nutrient controls and possible criteria for application (e.g., issues in receiving water body)

- Nutrients/Fertilizer - DEP adopted regulations to require the use of lawn fertilizers that have no or little phosphorus. Are there any studies on the impact of this? TMDL/MS4 permits? Has the requirement for licensed professionals to be applicators made a measurable impact? Was the regulation worth it?
- HABs – What plans exist for managing toxic algal blooms and are HABs continuing to worsen then what?
- Delaware/Barneget - Any examples of waterbodies that have improved ecosystems based on environmental programs put in place (e.g., Delaware River, Barneget Bay) and where else similar programs may be beneficial?
- Stormwater rules - Has there been a marked increase in use of Green Infrastructure based on the revised stormwater rules and if so, are there any measurable benefits yet?
- Stormwater/Protected waters - Assessment of special protection waters- assess the impacts of spreading of salt/deicing. Consider basin wide TSS regulation concerning this. What is DOT doing to reduce? SMART deicing or brine and its effectiveness? MS4 permits.
- Environmental Education – Get stormwater management into school curriculums. Create awareness on environmental issues like flooding and its impacts on water quality.
- Annual Public Hearing (February?)
 - Consider a public hearing to review the success/impact of local promotional water quality initiative programs in state (such as NJWSA River Friendly program).

DWQ will create a document and then augment it together at the October CWC meeting.

Subcommittees will then be charged with further expanding these ideas and coordinating presentations to support the concentrated interest.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on the “DEP Youth Inclusion Initiative (YII)” experience provided by Katherine Rossi, Bureau of Pretreatment and Surface Water Permitting / Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and John Murray of the Bureau of Ground Water, Residuals, and Permit Administration (DWQ).

- YII was a NJDEP sponsored program which offered presentations and a tour for five neighborhood community groups in New Jersey (Newark, Elizabeth, Trenton, Camden (2)). DWQ’s contribution was to sponsor a day at the CCMUA.
- The goals of YII served to create awareness and exposure to the Wastewater Treatment career field to young adults. It included discussions concerning the importance of this function as it pertains to maintaining and sustaining our environment.
- The general takeaway from participants was that they were pleased with the DWQ/Camden County MUA’s (CCMUA) efforts to showcase WWTPs recognizing the difficulty in making this subject glamorous. The day included a tour of the facility, a presentation to learning about wastewater treatment, an interactive demonstration within the laboratory under the microscope to show bacteria, and discussions regarding environmental justice concerns in the local community.
- CCMUA offered a short career discussion to explain the many different types of careers that exist within the utility with various levels of different prerequisite education.
- There was some discussion amongst those in attendance and several agreed that the explanation and understanding of the science/engineering supporting wastewater treatment may encourage further learning on the subject matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Tony McCracken would like members to provide at least one topic of interest at the October meeting.

Next meetings:

- October 10, 2023
- November 14, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn from Amy Goldsmith and second by James Cosgrove at 11:21AM.