

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

Meeting Highlights

September 11, 2001

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

Mary Sheil, Director of Watershed Management at the DEP, introduced Kerry Kirk Pflugh. She is Bureau Chief for Raritan and also heads up the Public Education and Outreach Program. She will be replacing Mary as coordinator for the Council. Mary also introduced Kerry's secretary, Ursula Montis.

At this time it may be historically noteworthy to record this date in the minutes as the day New York and Washington, DC were attacked by terrorists. Both Twin Towers at the World Trade Center were completely destroyed when two airplanes flew into both the Towers. Approximately 5,000 people are feared dead. The attack took place at 8:48am on September 11, 2001. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon, and still a fourth crashed in Pa. killing all aboard.

2001 Public Hearing Topic Selection

- After much discussion, the topic of Stormwater Management Process was chosen.
- Barry Sullivan suggested that a better time for a Stormwater Management Presentation would be at the spring Seminar.
- Tom Baxter suggested public education in NPS should be included.
- Ray Zabihach suggested that Stormwater should be divided into two aspects: New development, and existing development. He stressed that the bulk of pollution comes from **existing development**. Other questions to ponder: 1) How do we start capturing Stormwater that comes from existing development? 2) How much is the public willing to spend to clean this up? 3) Is the public willing to take responsibility for personal actions and everyday activities (fertilizers, landscaping treatments, pets, etc.)
- Mary Sheil commented on the Recycling Program she initiated in 1980, saying that it changed the public's way of handling their garbage. She felt that public education in NPS might do the same.
- Ray Zabihach suggested that we put the question of the public's willingness to support a massive education program in NPS, to the people.

Action Items

- Ray Zabihach, Ed Wengryn and Helen Heinrich will form a committee to come up with the questions to be printed up in the brochure that will be mailed to the public prior to the Public Hearing. Council would like to see questions on the floor by the Oct. 9th meeting and the brochure printed and out by, or right after our November 13th meeting.
- Kerry will follow up with Karen Ward as to whether a room was available for the Public Hearing. Places suggested were: Holiday Inn, Jamesburg; Marriott Courtyard(exit 8 off Tpk.); Foresgate Country Club, Jamesburg; and Holiday Inn in Plainsboro. We will also need a stenographer to record minutes.
- December 5th and possibly December 12th, 2001 were dates suggested for the Public Hearing.

CWC WEB SITE

Web site is up and running. It is on the web. Mary Sheil will follow up to see if someone from DEP can work with a member of the Council to maintain the web site.

DEP UPDATE

- Mary Sheil says they should have Stormwater Management Rules proposal by the end of the year; Groundwater Standard Rules proposal by December or January; and SWQS Rules must be adopted by November.
- Bob Tudor will be leaving DEP October 1, 2001 to join DRBC as Deputy Executive Director. Commissioner Shinn has decided not to fill his position. Gary Sondermeyer will remain as Chief of Staff. Brickner and Nagy are back with DEP.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Pat Matarazzo made a recommendation that handouts from EPA dealing with TMDL process are not written in stone. We are still moving forward on TMDL's in the Passaic Basin.
- EcoComplex – There has been no meeting. They have faxed resumes to the CWC.
- Freshwater Wetlands Rules have been adopted September 4, 2001 - Public Hearing on September 27, 2001.
- Helen Heinrich, NJ Farm Bureau, introduced new staff member, Gabor Grunstein.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Ray Zabihach announced that on October 1, 2001, The Jackson Brooks Management Plan would be the first regional Stormwater Management Plan in the State to be adopted. It enhances both the Municipalities and County regulatory reviews for all new development. Copies of the document were requested.

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL
Meeting Highlights
October 9, 2001

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

2001 Public Hearing Topic

The date chosen for the Public Hearing was December 10, 2001, 4:30 – Public Testimony; to be held at the Holiday Inn (Monroe), Jamesburg, NJ. At this point it was suggested we change that date to the 11th, 12th, or 13th, of December rather than the 10th, which is a Monday night. The opinion being that we would have a better turnout on a day other than Monday. Ursula Montis said she would look into changing the date.

Pat Matarazzo will give the opening statement to start the proceedings. There should be a presenter and then questions would be opened to the public. L. Mason Neely suggested we have a controversial speaker. The Mayor of Bound Brook was brought up and turned down, because the problems were caused by the “rising of the river” and did not apply in this instance. A suggestion was made to ask Joe Marazitti, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, to present. Kerry Kirk Pflugh will coordinate this. If he is unable to make it, Kerry will ask him to recommend someone. Kerry will also ask someone from DEP to speak on Stormwater Management.

Ed Wengryn stated that the opening statement should emphasize how Stormwater affects our water quality, with the focus on **existing development**.

Council commented that the questions prepared for the Public Hearing brochure were excellent. Changes to the brochure will be made and the finished product e-mailed to Ed Wengryn for his approval.

Suzanne Dice-Goldberg volunteered to come to the Public Hearing as facilitator. She would moderate the meeting, keeping the people from straying from the pertinent issues.

DEP UPDATE - TMDL Process

DEP is still negotiating with EPA concerning the whole process. There will be a meeting on October 29th at the EcoComplex. The topic of discussion will be TMDL's and how to address that within the different regions of the state. Invitations have gone out to the Lead Entities to meet and go over the TMDL process and the way the Stakeholders will be involved in that process as opposed to what scientific studies will be taking place. Within the different regions there are Technical Advisory Committees being set up. These Committees are being charged with making recommendations to the Department. Within each region there will be a person that will be assigned the TMDL process and they will develop a work plan. The work plan will be shared with the Stakeholders and then it will go to the EcoComplex; a committee of 13 individuals (academics and consultants, etc) who will review the work plan. They will make a decision as to whether or not the process describing that work plan is sufficient to meet the TMDL's, or whether additional research study is needed. TMDL's are due from 2002-2010.

Pat Matarazzo indicated that there are two renditions of TMDL's from EPA. We are going with the existing 303D listing. In our present Water Quality Standards, we have to show an impairment of use. That will be the criteria to develop TMDL's.

CWC 2002 Seminar

In the past, Commissioner Shinn makes a State of the State Address and speaks on what is going on in all the different Departments. The most successful Seminar proved to be one where they gave an overview and then ran five parallel workshops. People signed up for the ones they were interested in, then they would come back with questions on what they learned. This gives the Department a chance to deal with, on a workshop basis, some of those issues, which they would want to work through. The audience would consist of the Planning Board people, County staff, and local officials.

Watershed Awareness Month

Kerry Kirk Pflugh announced that May is Watershed Awareness Month. A full day is planned with speakers from the different Watershed Regions, who will talk about and explain their 319 projects, or whatever projects they are working on. There will be a luncheon, at which the annual Watershed Awards will be given out. In the afternoon, there will be hands on activities such as; Watershed tours, stream bank restoration, storm drain markings, etc.

Ed Wengryn suggested that the opening presentation really needs to focus on what DEP really expects of Watershed Management. We need to hear from the stakeholders on what plans worked or didn't work for them, in their different regions.

Tony McCracken suggested CWC sponsor or Co-host this event with DEP. This will be considered.

Open Discussion

Kerry Kirk Pflugh announced that as of September 17, 2001, pre-proposals for 319 Grants were due and received by DEP. There are many excellent projects and it will be hard to decide where monies will go. Final projects have to be in by middle of November.

Ray Zabihach suggested that, due to the fact that there are so many excellent projects, this may be an incentive to ask for more financial support.

Pat Matarazzo commented on the fact that attendance for CWC meetings has been very low. He will look into seeing what can be done about this.

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL
Meeting Highlights
November 20, 2001

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

CWC Public Hearing Format

- The public hearing is scheduled for December 12, 2001 at 4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn in Jamesburg.
- Suzanne Dice-Goldberg will be the Moderator.

Action Item

- Presenters need to be chosen for the hearing.
- Pam Goodwin will follow-up with Pat Matarazzo to lock in Presenters.
- Pat Matarazzo will also need to follow-up with Kerry Kirk Pflugh on the status of the Presenters.

CWC Web Site

- Pam Goodwin suggested that the CWC web site be linked to the Department's web site. Similar to the way the Clean Air Council's is linked.

Action Items

- The State's Web Master will have to be contacted so that the link can be made.
- Suzanne Dice Goldberg will provide the email address to Pam Goodwin.

Source Water Assessment Program Update

- Karen Fell from the Department's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water provided the Council with an update on the Source Water Assessment Program.
- A copy of her presentation is enclosed.
- Geese are a major problem with contamination.
- A BMP Manual is available on Goose Management.

- The CWC would like to see the Department take a more aggressive approach to goose management.
- There is currently no scientific evidence available to the Department that links water contamination and geese.
- EPA will provide funding.
- The CWC would like to know how this information is to be used.
- Protocol needs to be linked to this assessment and Safe Drinking Water Standards and Health Departments.
- There is no local involvement from the municipalities, counties, water purveyors or health departments.

Action Items

- Liz Semple will follow-up Tom Schuller in Maryland to see if they have any evidence that links water contamination to geese.
- Lou Neely will draft a letter outlining the CWC's concerns with the program.
- Lou will distribute the draft memo for discussion at the next CWC meeting.
- 5 in favor - none opposed

Stormwater Rules Update

- Liz Semple from the Department's Division of Watershed Management provided the Council with an update on the Stormwater Rules.
- The Stormwater Management Rules and the Stormwater Permitting Rules are two separate rules.
- The Stormwater Management Rules will provide :
 - New development runoff requirements
 - Regional stormwater management plans
 - Updated Stormwater BMP Manual
- The rules will promote ground water recharge of runoff - maintaining state hydrology.
- Completion of the first draft of the BMP Manual is expected in February 2002.
- Proposal of the Stormwater Management Rules is expected in March 2002.
- New Performance Standards will be in the Stormwater proposal.