

**New Jersey Clean Water Council
November 14, 2013
Meeting Highlights**

Location:

NJDEP, 7th Floor Conference Room, Trenton, NJ

Members Present:	
Ali Ferdows, PhD – Dept. of Agriculture Robert Breslin – AFL-CIO Stan Cach, PE, PP, BCEE – NJDEP, Liaison James Cosgrove, PE – NJ Society of PEs Russell Furnari – Chamber of Commerce Amy Goldsmith – General Public	Pamela Goodwin, Esq. – General Public Anthony McCracken, PP – General Public Anthony Valente – Labor & Industry
Others:	NJDEP Staff: Commissioner Bob Martin Deputy Commissioner Michele Siekerka Director of Water Quality Michele Putnam

Council Chair Pamela Goodwin opened the meeting at 12:00pm.

The Council's upcoming Public Hearing scheduled for December 13, 2013 was discussed including confirming the speakers, Khris Dodson, Associate Director, Syracuse University. Also, Stan received a request from Jeremiah Bergstrum, LLA, Rutgers Cooperation Extension Water Resource Program and Mark Anderson, LLA, NJA SLA to speak at the hearing, representing NJ Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects (NJASLA). They would address the ongoing Green Infrastructure projects in NJ.

After a discussion, the Council accepted their request. Jim Cosgrove would follow up with them. Also, Jim Cosgrove would finalize the Public Hearing Notice with input from the Council so it can be issued immediately.

Pamela Goodwin welcomed Commissioner Martin to the Clean Water Council meeting.

Commissioner Martin spoke of the challenges for NJ after Superstorm Sandy and getting our infrastructure back to normal operation, rebuilding our beaches, protecting our coastline, developing a sustainable long term energy power system for the state while rebuilding with resiliency. He expressed the importance of asset management and reinvesting in capital for our environmental infrastructure. Superstorm Sandy showed us our vulnerabilities – what needs to be repaired and replaced with resiliency. We need sustainable and resilient infrastructure. We are leveraging our funding with FEMA and the NJEIFP funds. We are trying to help our residents rebuild their homes as soon as possible to the updated resiliency standard. Commissioner Martin expressed his appreciation for the work of the Clean Water Council. He stated he needs the Council's perspective on issues important to the State of NJ as their membership represents diverse sectors.

The Commissioner looks forward to the Council's input on Green Infrastructure.

The Commissioner said Superstorm Sandy gave us the opportunity to look at our infrastructure. The challenge is funding and having other funding opportunities such as HUD grants will also help.

The following topics were discussed: Rebuild NJ with resiliency is statewide. NJ is reviewing the best practices and the lessons learned from around the country and world; the Clean Water Council can be a resource and “sounding board” for the Department; consider solutions that provide multiple benefits for example, collaborating with multiple organizations such as private sector, regulatory agencies, local government and utility agencies that coordinate their collective activities that result in minimizing disruption in a community and yet provide maximum benefits; what are the status of - improvements of the Dept.’s permit and planning approvals; comprehensive water management; storm water rules and water quality management planning. The Department’s permits are now digitized in order to facilitate their processing. Director Michele Putnam will meet with the Council and provide updates.

The Commissioner said we are still rebuilding New Jersey and are bringing additional resources from outside the Dept. for assistance. The Commissioner thanked the Clean Water Council for voluntarily contributing to the DEP and help shape policy. Pam Goodwin thanked the Commissioner for his comments and attending the Council’s meeting. It was noted, Commission Martin has been the most responsive Commissioner to the Clean Water Council.

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm