

New Jersey Clean Water Council

October 13, 2015

Location:

NJEIT, 3131 Princeton Pike, Building 4, Suite 216, Lawrenceville, NJ

Members Present:	
George Bakun – NJ Business & Industry Jim Cosgrove – NJ Society of PEs Dan Van Abs – General Public Stan Cach – NJ Dept. Environmental of Protection James Requa – NJ Dept. of Community Affairs Robert Breslin- NJ AFL-CIO	Russ Furnari – NJ Chamber of Commerce Anthony McCracken- General Public Lou Neely –NJ League of Municipalities Gina A. Berg – NJ Association of Counties Mohammad Ali- NJ Dept. of Agriculture Vincent Monaco – Water Supply Advisory Council
Others: Frank Minch- NJ Dept. of Agriculture Peggy Gallos – NJCWC Advisor	NJDEP Staff: Breana Whittaker, Division of Water Quality Patricia Gardner- Director, Div. Water Monitoring & Standards (DWM&S) Patricia Ingelido – DWM&S Lynette Lurig – DWM&S

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Dan Van Abs at 10:04 AM.

The motion to approve the September 8, 2015 meeting highlights was made by James Cosgrove and seconded by Russ Furnari. Lou Neely abstained.

DEP Updates:

New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) rule amendments associated with the new Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Rule Proposal were released on October 19, 2015. The NJDPES rule amendments include:

- N.J.A.C. 7:14A-2.8 Application requirements for construction, installation, or modification of treatment works – stage II
 - updated the TWA application requirements for projects that include pump stations and/or treatment plants to include the submittal of GPS coordinates of that infrastructure
- N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22.16 Capacity assurance program
 - established a mechanism for ensuring that treatment works, which includes both the treatment plant and the associated conveyance systems, will avoid hydraulic overloads that could result in violations of NJPDES permit discharge limits or unpermitted discharges
- N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22.17 Sewer ban imposition
 - revised the threshold from 80 percent of permitted flow to 100 percent of permitted flow within the sewer ban imposition requirements to be consistent with the CAP rule.

The WQMP rule amendments address the issues discussed in the stakeholder meetings. The Chair invited a Department representative to update the Council of the status of the WQMP Rule at the Council's November meeting.

The tiered drinking water rule amendment is currently under legal review.

The MS4 Audits annual reports were due May 2, 2015. The auditing commences 4th quarter of CY 2015.

The new Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program's Intended Use Plan has been issued. The web site link is: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cwpl.htm> This was previously provided to the NJCWC.

Also, NJ Clean Water Council nominations are under review.

Further, three Council members still have not provided certification of completing the required Ethics Training as requested on May 11, 2015.

NJDEP Presenters:

Patricia Gardner gave an overview of the Department's collaborative partnerships developed for the Barnegat Bay Program. She introduced two of her staff to provide a better understanding of non-technical successes of the Barnegat Bay Program.

Trish Ingelido from the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards (DWMS) gave a presentation on her experience as the lead for action item 7 of the plan "Adopt More Rigorous Water Quality Standards."

Trish discussed several successful partnerships that were generated as a result of the Barnegat Bay Program. Within the Barnegat Bay Action Plan several action items involved partnerships including: Action Item 3- Reducing Nutrients from Fertilizer, Action Item 5: Acquiring land in the watershed, Action Item 8: Educate the public, Action Item 10: Reduce water craft impact and Action Item 7: Adopt More Rigorous Water Quality Standards. The DWMS was the lead for Action Item 7.

Under Action Item 7, every partner was required to enter into a memorandum of agreement or understanding with the DEP. These partnerships were based on the following needs:

- Sampling and monitoring
 - The Department worked closely with the New Jersey Water Monitoring Coordinating Council (NJWMCC) throughout the process.
 - The Department utilized state resources volunteering all available state vehicles to transport samples.
 - Also, the Department collaborated with 5 labs including USEPA, state, academia and Ocean County Utilities Authority and 13 partner entities, including county and municipal government, a high school, The Pinelands Commission, a national estuary program, academia, state and federal agencies, to ensure the samples were collected, transported and tested per the approved Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Barnegat Bay Program.
 - The Department coordinated an Intensive monitoring program where samples were collected at 27 specific points within the Bay and tributaries to the Bay @ 6 designated times throughout the day that included a team of 75 staff and 140 NJDEP volunteers.
 - A sampling video was developed per action item 8 of the plan "Educate the Public."

Overall, the Department learned to ask for help when needed. It should be noted that all of the partnerships and volunteers that participated in the Barnegat Bay Program provided their services and resources gratis.

Lynette Lurig, of the DWMS, discussed her experience with the Barnegat Bay Blitz. Katie Barnett, NJDEP, lead for action item 8 "Educate the Public", created the idea for a large one day cleanup where each county in the Barnegat Bay participated in the Blitz. The Department collaborated with Sandy Huber of Clean Communities who assisted in the development of the Blitz and provided a contact for each town and funneling resources through their program.

This spring's Barnegat Bay Blitz occurred on an unusually cool Wednesday and attracted close to 4,000 volunteers who participated in clean-ups at 100 locations throughout the Barnegat Bay Watershed. Approximately 1,200 bags of garbage/recycling were collected.

The Blitz was a huge success. With the inception of the Rain Barrel Challenge more youth were engaged in the Blitz. The Rain Barrel Challenge is a competition that engages students and youth groups located in the Barnegat Bay watershed. The students learn the importance of the Bay, its fragile ecosystem and how everyone can help protect the Bay's water quality and natural resources. The students investigate the annual Challenge theme then work together to design rain barrels that best address the theme. United Water embraced the idea and became the main sponsor. The Council discussed if the Clean Communities funding used in the Barnegat Bay Blitz is available in other areas too.

Another initiative that was developed from the Blitz was the Department's illegal dumping campaign. Volunteers noticed large electronics and other garbage collecting at the same locations year after year during the cleanups. The Illegal Dumping Campaign began approximately 1 year ago and already over 100 people were given citations and/or arrested.

2015 Public Hearing:

Then, the Council discussed the potential public hearing topics. The Council discussed applying the successes derived from the Barnegat Bay Program to other areas of the State. One concern is that a topic closely focused on the Barnegat Bay Program may not gain significant comments from other parts of the state. The broader issue is how similar partnerships could be generated elsewhere, and where the best future targets might be. The general concept agreed to by the Council was to focus on the question of where the most robust partnerships could be developed, using the lessons from the Barnegat Bay Program but not necessarily trying to duplicate it. The Chair suggested he would draft a Save the Date Notice for review by NJDEP and the Council.

New Business:

The Chair stated his term ends in January. Vice Chair Jim Cosgrove and Second Vice Chair Jessica Sanchez will move up and the Council will vote a new second vice chair.

Mohammed Ferdows Ali will be retiring in January 2016; Frank Minch will be his replacement for the time being.

The next meeting is November 10, 2015.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 pm.