

NJDEP Science Advisory Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2021

Attendance:

SAB Members

Judith Weis, Chair

John Dyksen

Tavit Najarian

Lisa Axe

John Gannon

Nancy Rothman

Michel Boufadel

Chuck Harman

David Velinsky

Tony Broccoli

Rick Kropp

Dan Nachman¹

Tina Chu

Rob Lippencott

Rita Sousa¹

DSR Liaisons

Gary Buchanan, Co-Lead

Heather Genievich

Nick Procopio

Heidi O'Neill, Co-Lead

Sandra Goodrow

Metthea Yepsen

Joe Bilinski

Lee Lippincott

Mihaela Enache

Alex Polissar

DEP Staff

Dick Dalton

Steve Reya

Chairperson Judith Weis called to order at 10:05am. The SAB report on sea level rise and salt marshes has been published. (Weis, J. S., E. B. Watson, B. Ravit, C. Harman, M. M. Yepsen. (2021) The Status and Future of Tidal Marshes in New Jersey Faced with Sea Level Rise. *Anthropocene Coasts*. 4: 168–192.) [Abstract](#)

Dr. Gary Buchanan gave a status update on current issues to the SAB. DEP employees will be returning back to the office full time on October 18th. The Ecological Processes, Public Health, and Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committees are always looking for new members, so the members were encouraged to reach out to their colleagues. The final report on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping as well as the final report on Vernal Habitats have been presented to Senior Staff, accepted, and have been posted to the SAB website.

¹ External member of the Water Quality & Quantity Standing Committee for the HDD issue.

DRAFT, DELIBERATIVE

Dr. Tony Broccoli gave a brief update of the Climate & Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. The Committee has been charged with peer reviewing a precipitation report completed by NOAA and Cornell University. He hopes to have this completed by October 11th. The full SAB will review through email. The Committee has recently been charged with a question regarding biofuels. The current committee does not have much expertise in this area, so Dr. Broccoli recruited Gal Hochman, Ph.D. (Rutgers University), Pankaj Lal, Ph.D. (Montclair State University), and Serpil Guran, Ph.D. (Rutgers University) to join as external members. A kick-off meeting has been set for October 12th.

Mr. Chuck Harman gave the brief update of the Ecological Processes Standing Committee. There is an upcoming charge question regarding carbon storage capacity of forest soils, but the program is still finalizing the charge question.

Dr. Michael Gochfeld was unable to attend so Heidi O'Neill gave a brief update on the Public Health Standing Committee. The Committee has been charged with a report on the human health impacts of estrogens and pharmaceuticals. A background document has been prepared by the requesting program and a kickoff meeting has been set for October 28th.

Dr. Lisa Axe introduced the Horizontal Directional Drilling report that the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee was charged. Dan Nachman (TRC Companies) and Rita Sousa (Stevens Institute of Technology) were external members that joined the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee to work on this charge. They presented the report and gave recommendations to the Department. A discussion followed with only minor editorial suggestions, e.g., provide clarification on the types of HDD, request to quantify risk, and tone down the recommendation to possibly suggesting the need to expand existing well regulations to include this new technology. The SAB agreed that once these changes were made the report was acceptable and consensus was given.

This was followed by an open discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.