

NJDEP Science Advisory Board Meeting
February 10, 2011
Minutes

Judith Weis called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members in attendance were:

Judith Weis, Chairperson
Clinton Andrews
Raymond Ferrara
John Gannon
Robert Laumbach
Mark Robson
Nancy Rothman
Robert Lippencott
Jonathan Husch
David Vaccari
Emile DeVito
Paul Lioy
Peter Lederman
John Dyksen

DEP Staff:

Ray Cantor, Chief Advisor
Gary Buchanan, OS Liaison
Robert Mueller, OS Liaison
Tom Belton, OS Liaison
Swati Toppin, SRP
Judy Louis, OS Liaison
Linda Bonanno, OS Liaison
Mike Aucott, OS Liaison
Gloria Post, OS Liaison
Barbara Hirst, WRM
Jeff Hoffman, NJGS

After introductions and confirming the agenda, there was a brief discussion about how the SAB could better communicate with DEP Liaisons and each other. It was requested that when draft responses on issues are ready for review they be posted on the secure portion of the website and an e-mail marked 'urgent' be sent out. The entire board was in agreement with this procedure. It was also reiterated that the board be given at least a week to review any material.

David Vaccari, Chair of the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committees presented the draft response to the questions concerning the Nitrate Dilution Model. This led to a discussion about the nature of the questions to the SAB, and particularly how they choose to answer them. Emile DeVito expressed concern about general answers to questions when there are such diverse areas in the state. The SAB questioned whether it was appropriate for the SAB to modify questions in order to provide more accurate answers. Dr. Vaccari completed his report by asking for some advice and input on the draft response and asking whether there was consensus that his committee was on the right track. He is awaiting more information from some committee members to complete the report. He committed to providing a final report to the SAB by February 28. The SAB will then confer by email and/or teleconference and submit a final report to the Commissioner by March 7. A conference call will be set up for discussion and approval of the Standing Committee's response subsequent to receipt of the report.

Updates of Standing Committee work was reported by:

Ecological Processes - Emile DeVito

Public Health – Mark Robson

Climate and Atmospheric Sciences – Mike Aucott, OS Liaison

Each of these committees has met several times both in person and on calls. Answers to Standing Committee issues/questions should be on the agenda for the May SAB meeting.

SAB working group updates were discussed next. Robert Lippencott gave an update on the Impact to Groundwater Soil Remediation Standards. The working group met with DEP personnel to review questions and discuss the strategy. They plan to do that again within the next month and feel that they are making good progress. Raymond Ferrara gave a brief update on the Nutrient Criteria Workgroup. John Dyksen reported on the Emerging Contaminants Workgroup. In each case the workgroups have met in person and discussed the issues. They plan to continue meeting and feel that they are making good progress.

Throughout this meeting, the type and structure of SAB reports to the Department was discussed. There was some debate about how long the reports should be and the content. All agreed that responses would vary depending upon the topic. Gary Buchanan reiterated that OS staff and the Department's Information Resource Center would be made available to the SAB for support. Gary offered to provide the SAB with an outline of a typical response for the SAB to discuss.

As part of the wrap up, the SAB confirmed commitment to providing an answer to the Department regarding the Nitrate Dilution Model and a conference call will be set up to review the Water Quality & Quantity Standing Committee report.

The next meeting will be in mid May.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.