



New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute

December 10, 2024, 10:00 AM
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street, Public Hearing Room
Trenton, NJ 08625

Virtual Option Available

Meeting Minutes

Members Present (13):

Phoebe Stapleton (Chair)*, Josephine Bonventre*, Leslie Brunell, Rich Calbi*, Perry Cohn*, Tina Fan, Michael Furrey*, Jessie Gleason*, Patricia (Trish) Ingelido*, Judith Klotz*, Oleg Kostin*, Andrea McElroy*, Michele Potter*

Members Absent (1):

Norm Nelson

Public Attendance (29):

Chase Ballas*, Chelsea Brook, Brandon Carreno*, Ellenore Craine, Patricia Gardner, Alyssa Greco, Xena Itzkowitz, Lori Lester, Kelley Meccia*, Robert Newby, Filina Poonolly*, Nick Procopio, Tyler Rowe, Kristin Tedesco (*New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, DEP*)
Charlie Stegner-Freitag* (*New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety*)
Raza Ali (*American Chemistry Council*)
Amy Goldsmith (*Clean Water Fund*)
Ryan Berger (*Drinking Water Coalition of New Jersey*)
Harvey Klein (*Garden State Laboratories, Inc.*)
Chris DeMarco (*IAPMO, Field Services*)
Tiffany Sollog (*Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Bioenvironmental Engineering*)
Erik Person (*Langan*)
Sylvia Reeves (*NOAA, National Integrated Drought Information System*)
Diane Schrauth (*New Jersey Future*)
Maureen Kneser (*North Jersey District Water Supply Commission*)
Jeffrey Baker (*Remington and Vernick Engineers*)
Rachel Dawn Davis (*Waterspirit*)
Sandra Krietzman*, Bill Wolfe (*unaffiliated*)

*Attended in-person

1. Chair Remarks

Phoebe Stapleton (Chair) opened the meeting.

Filina Poonolly took roll call of Drinking Water Quality Institute (Institute) members present and absent.

2. Review of July 2, 2024, Minutes

Chairwoman Phoebe Stapleton asked if there were any corrections or modifications to the July 2, 2024, meeting minutes and received no comments. Rich Calbri motioned to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded by Oleg Kostin. Members moved to accept the meeting minutes.

3. Membership Updates

Trish Ingelido first acknowledged the DEP support staff for the Institute – Chase Ballas, Brandon Carreno, Kelley Meccia, and Filina Poonolly.

Trish Ingelido then introduced Josephine Bonventre as a new member of the Institute, assuming the vacancy in the Health Effects Subcommittee left by the retirement of Gloria Post. Bonventre is a member of the Division of Science and Research (DSR) at the DEP, where she is a Research Scientist who assesses the potential human health effects of environmental chemicals. Bonventre's main role is to provide technical support to the DEP and DSR in areas related to toxicology, human health risk assessment, and impacts of climate change on human health, as well as to develop health-based criteria for various environmental media as needed by the DEP programs. Bonventre co-edited the 2022 supplement to the DEP's 2020 Scientific Report on Climate Change in New Jersey focused on Climate Change Impacts on Human Health and Communities. Bonventre also coordinates DSR's outreach efforts through social media. Prior to joining the DEP in 2020, Bonventre was a Postdoc and Research Associate at Oregon State University and spent a year working as an Environmental Toxicology Consultant. Bonventre received her doctorate in toxicology from the Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 2012.

Trish Ingelido noted that there is one vacancy remaining on the Institute, an assembly spot for an environmental health expert.

4. Update on Institute Research from Testing Subcommittee

At the previous Institute meeting (July 2, 2024), the Institute voted to finalize the draft recommendations from the Testing and Treatment Subcommittees on addressing

cyanotoxins in public drinking water systems, pending full Institute review of the draft reports.

The Treatment Subcommittee received no additional comments regarding its draft report from Institute members.

Tina Fan, the chair of the Testing Subcommittee, addressed comments received by the Testing Subcommittee from Institute members regarding their draft report. Fan reported that all comments received were editorial and had been addressed by the Testing Subcommittee. Fan confirmed that there were no changes to the Testing Subcommittee's draft recommendation.

Chairwoman Stapleton called for a vote from the Institute to post the draft Testing and Treatment Subcommittee reports for a 60-day public comment period. The Institute unanimously approved (13-0). Chairwoman Stapleton then directed the DEP to publish the draft reports for public comment for a 60-day period, including notifying interested parties of the posting. Stapleton remarked that after the conclusion of the public comment period, the Institute will consider any comments received and will finalize the recommendation for cyanotoxins at a future public meeting.

Michael Furrey asked for clarification on the status of the Treatment Subcommittee's draft report. Brandon Carreno explained that the Treatment Subcommittee received no additional comments from the Institute on its draft report and therefore the report would be posted for public comment in addition to the Testing Subcommittee draft report.

Trish Ingelido reminded the Institute members to submit any outstanding ethics documents and to complete any required training. She noted that DEP support staff would follow up separately with any members that have outstanding requirements.

5. Institute Workplan

Trish Ingelido acknowledged that with the Institute concluding its work for cyanotoxins, it would be appropriate to discuss what the Institute should work on next. Ingelido stated that the DEP put together a survey that would be sent to Institute members for input about what contaminants of emerging concerns the Institute should prioritize in its workplan. Ingelido noted that the survey was developed with input from DEP's DSR and takes into account contaminants that are currently being considered under the federal regulatory framework. She noted that there would be opportunities in the survey for the Institute members to suggest additional contaminants of interest based on their industry expertise.

Michael Furrey asked what current legislations direct the Institute's work. Trish Ingelido responded that the Institute will have a consultative role in reviewing ongoing research done by DEP in evaluating the feasibility of regulating PFAS as a class, in addition to other possible requests for consultation in *Legionella* and microplastics. Furrey noted that the legislation regarding *Legionella* refers to a minimum chlorine residual, not *Legionella*

management or best practices. Ingelido responded that the Institute's input would focus on management and maintaining chlorine residuals, and that the legislation requires the New Jersey Department of Health to develop testing and associated fines.

Michael Furrey asked about the status of the Institute's prior 1,4-dioxane recommendation. Trish Ingelido responded that the DEP is continuing to hold focus groups and will move forward with a broader stakeholder effort.

Chairwoman Stapleton requested for the survey to be sent to the Institute members following the meeting. Josephine Bonventre asked how long members would have to complete the survey. Trish Ingelido responded that the goal would be for the surveys completed before the next Institute meeting, with an anticipated due date near the end of January 2025.

6. New Business

Chairwoman Stapleton stated that she would like to continue holding Institute meetings regularly in a hybrid format at least half of the schedule. She stated her intent that the next Institute meeting should be scheduled for early 2025 after the completion of the cyanotoxin 60-day public comment period. Rich Calbi suggested holding in-person Institute meetings in rotating locations, with the possibility of facilitating a tour of a drinking water facility for members. Stapleton agreed with Calbi, noting that it would also lessen the burden of traveling on certain members as well.

Judith Klotz posed a question about what actions the Institute and DEP might be able to preemptively accomplish in consideration of possible anticipated changes in policy at the federal level. Trish Ingelido assured Judith that the Institute would continue to meet regularly and develop a workplan in consideration of which contaminants pose the greatest harm to public health in the State, based on the best available science.

7. Public Comments

Bill Wolfe (*independent*) asked if the Institute workplan survey would be open to the public. Chairwoman Phoebe Stapleton responded that inquiries regarding the survey can be submitted via email to the Institute.

Bill Wolfe asked about the status within the DEP of a previous Institute report from approximately 15 years ago on utilizing a treatment-based approach to regulation as a means to abandon individual risk assessment-based maximum contaminant levels for contaminants. Trish Ingelido responded that the Institute could follow up on said report, but that the comment was outside the scope of this meeting.

Bill Wolfe asked about the Institute establishing a policy to meet at minimum on a quarterly basis. Chairwoman Stapleton responded that a recent pause in meetings was due to the

Chair position being vacant. Wolfe expressed his concerns of past pauses in Institute meetings due to political pressures in the State government.

Bill Wolfe asked about monitoring and communications programming with respect to the ongoing Statewide drought and water quality and data availability. Trish Ingelido suggested that it would be more appropriate to address these comments to the Water Supply Advisory Council. Ingelido added that the DEP does have established guidance documents available regarding a change in source and change in treatment for drinking water systems. Ingelido further responded that purveyors that have treatment installed are required to monitor water quality parameters in source and treated water on a regular basis.

Harvey Klein (*Garden State Laboratories, Inc.*) commented that the State has authority in establishing drinking water standards that are more stringent than federal limits.

Rachel Dawn Davis (*Waterspirit*) asked about the availability of drinking water data. The Institute advised Davis to explore the DEP's Drinking Water Watch tool.

8. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.