

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

January 13, 2009
Meeting Highlights

Location:

New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Conference Room, 3131 Princeton Pike, Office Building 6, Suite 201, Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Attendees:

Members: Ferdows Ali, Bob Breslin, Stan Cach, Jim Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Pam Goodwin, Tony McCracken, Jim Requa, Chris Sturm, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Zabihach.

Others: Karen Cerra, Gerry Skrajewski.

The meeting was convened by Russ Furnari at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Jim Cosgrove made the motion to approve November's minutes, and Dan Van Abs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as distributed.

DEP UPDATES:

Stan Cach gave the DEP update. He noted that copies of the Safe Drinking Water Rule Launch, Readoption with Amendments which he had discussed at November's CWC Meeting were attached to the Minutes.

A copy of the Notice of Rule Adoptions for the Department was distributed for the Council's information.

Acting Commissioner Mark Mauriello met with the Department's Managers this week. One positive is that the past DEP Commissioner, Lisa Jackson, will be the new USEPA Administrator. The proposed Budget was also discussed. The hiring freeze is still in effect and staffing limitations continue to be a major problem. The Governor is proposing a freeze on salaries for all State employees. Stan also discussed the status of the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS). It is imperative that New Jersey maintain their national ranking (#7). Tony McCracken proposed the CWC issue a national call for immediate action to all NJ's local governments to submit the request CWNS forms so NJ's Clean Watersheds Needs are accurately counted in the 2008 CWNS. The CWC supported that proposal.

This year the NJEIT financing program is dealing with the largest pool and dollar amount of projects in the 20 year history of the program. In the Clean Water Program, there are eighty (80) projects at just under \$820M, eight (8) land projects for \$72M, for a total dollar amount of Clean Water Projects at just under \$892 million for this year. On the Drinking Water side, there are 72 projects for just under \$280M. Therefore, the grand total for 160 projects is just over \$1.17 billion. Note that this amount does not include any additional stimulus funding. Call for Projects' Notices were sent on December 18, 2008 regarding the NJ Economic Recovery Program for 2009. The Call for Projects under the stimulus program were seeking projects that can proceed to construction by July 2009. The Congressional Stimulus Funding Program was to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Pre-application meetings are being held in January 2009.

Concurrently, the Trust and DEP are holding 2 State-wide SRF Seminars – one at Rutgers Law on February 3rd and one at Mt. Laurel @ the Enterprise Center on February 6th. All those scheduled for this year's State's Program and those interested in the Stimulus Program will be attending. The morning session will include Presentations by the Trust and NJDEP staff, and the afternoon session will be roundtable consulting session between project applicants and Trust and NJDEP staff to review project specifics.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Transcript of the CWC Public Hearing held on December 8th and the written comments received from the public concerning the Public Hearing were distributed to the CWC Members.

Overall, the feedback was good for the CWC Public Hearing. The CWC is taking all the testimony and written comments, and formatting them into specific recommendations for the Commissioner. Russ said that the document Jessica and Dan prepared (and which has already been distributed to the CWC Members) is a good starting point to present to the Commissioner. The purpose of the Public Hearing was for the CWC to compile all public comments and prepare recommendations to the Commissioner. It is requested that the document, Draft NJCWC Recommendations on Water Infrastructure Financing, be sent to all CWC Members, and that they be given a date of February 2nd to provide any additional comments/input back to Dan. Dan will bring the final document to the CWC Meeting on February 10th. In addition, Russ will draft the cover letter to go with the document to Acting Commissioner Mauriello. At the February CWC Meeting, a motion will be made to approve the documents so that they can be sent to the Acting Commissioner, and we will have him attend the March CWC Meeting to discuss our recommendation report.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Schedule of CWC Meetings for 2009 were distributed.

In response to Bob Breslin's invitation to the Council to schedule a future CWC Meeting at PSEG's nuclear facility in Salem County, the Council set a tentative date of June 9th.

Development of topics for the CWC Work Plan for 2009 – please come prepared to the next CWC Meeting with an outline of possible areas of recommendations for future topics for the CWC's next Public Hearing. Pam Goodwin reiterated that the Climate Change and Water topic is important and timely. Dan said that there is a fairly recent document out from the NJDEP on this issue. If anyone has any additional suggestions, please come prepared to the next CWC meeting to discuss them.

The CWC needs to fill the vacancy left by Mary Beth Koza when she left the State. Her replacement should come as a result of a nomination from NJBIA (Dave Brogan). Stan will contact Mr. Brogan for their nomination. Also, it was noted that Ella Fillapone is not able to attend the CWC Meetings, but she forwards the info from the CWC Meetings to her membership. It was suggested that a Rep from their organization (possibly Joe Mattle) attend in Ella's absence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m. with a motion from Bob Breslin, and it was seconded by Ray Zabihach.

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****