

# NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

February 13, 2007

## Meeting Highlights

### **Location:**

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ

### **Attendees**

**Members:** Fedrows Ali, Jim Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Amy Goldsmith, Pamela Goodwin, Mary Beth Koza, Ray Nichols, James Requa, Jessica Sanchez, Dan Van Abs

**Others:** Chris Sturm (representing George Hawkins)

**Meeting convened** by Pamela Goodwin, Chairperson, at 10:07 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2007 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

The highlights were approved as amended at the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

***Educational event*** Ray Nichols announced there were no funds available in the Division of Watershed Management's current budget to support the type of educational event open to the public that the CWC has been discussing. He also described the quotes for conducting such a program that he had obtained from the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education based upon the 2004 public hearing scenario. It was agreed that the quotes seemed high. Members noted that there were several areas in which the proposed educational event could be conducted for substantially less.

Interest in having such an event was high despite the lack of DEP funding. Pamela has been discussing with Larry Baier the possibility of having the event billed as sponsored by the Clean Water Council and underwritten by a few corporate sponsors. It was suggested that DEP could be asked to provide a mailing list for publicizing the event. The idea of expanding the forum to include representatives from BPU, COAH, and the Highlands Commission as well as DEP water managers was put forth. Upon reflection, the members realized that such an event was last held in the early 1990s. MaryBeth Koza agreed to host a conference call to frame the issues involved in conducting such an event. Dan Van Abs, Amy Goldsmith and Jim Cosgrove agreed to participate in the conversation. Meanwhile, Pam Goodwin will have someone from her office look into various venues and a budget.

***Topics for public hearing:*** Members reviewed the list of potential topics identified last month and agreed that it was premature to select a topic before meeting with the Commissioner and getting suggestions from her and her senior staff. The following additional topics were developed:

- Something to do with strategic planning of water resources, possibly framed by the following question: "What would you do to improve water quality in NJ if you had one billion dollars to spend?"
- Members also considered possible links to the topic of energy conservation and global warming, namely: the cost of energy needed to treat waste water; possible savings due to beneficial reuse, such as using waste water for cooling; the high cost of developing additional potable supplies for coastal communities if they must go with desalinization, etc.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Commissioner Jackson has invited the members of the Clean Water Council to meet with her on Tuesday March 13 at 10:00 am to go over the recommendations contained in the letter sent to her on December 21, 2007.*** Members discussed what facets of the Water Quality Management Planning rules and associated implementation processes they wanted to emphasize during this meeting. Various members noted:

- More resources (money and staff) are needed for both DEP and the Counties;
- The existing process is broken and does not work;
- There needs to be a comprehensive strategic plan for improving water quality.
- This strategy must include integrating the new WQMP rules with the Water Supply Master Plan and the Water Allocation Plan;
- The process needs to be a scientific process rather than a political process;
- There needs to be clear guidance in the rules.
- The last Statewide WQMP was developed in 1985 and has not been revised since then. The document is not readily available and should be revised to reflect the various changes that have occurred in the past 20+ years.
- Despite the diversity of the members of the Council and the panelists at the Public Hearing, there has been remarkable consensus and unanimity regarding what is needed.
- The members are most willing to consider questions posed by the Commissioner and provide their consensus.

***Other topics discussed:*** These may be brought to the Commissioner's attention:

- The need for permit writers to spend time in the field seeing what enforcement staff see in terms of how processes work at the facilities they are writing permits for, and vice versa.
- A way to adopt good solutions to problems when a regulated entity proposes a novel solution, program managers agree the solution is beneficial to the environment, but then say the rules don't allow it.
- What the Council members might do after the proposed rules are published.

**Members agreed to meet in the DEP cafeteria about 9:30 a.m. on March 13** to prepare for the meeting with the Commissioner which will be in her conference room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the DEP building, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Following the meeting with the Commissioner, the Council will reconvene in the large conference room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor to conduct such business.

***CWC By-laws*** Ray distributed copies of NJSA 58:25-11 & 12 (L.1979, c.321, s. 22, effective Jan.18, 1980), which established the present Clean Water Council and copies of the "By-Laws and Rules" which date from the early 1990s. It was noted that Articles IV and V establish standing committees and give the CWC authority to invite other people to give input. To facilitate discussion and possible revision of these by-laws, which are only available as paper copies, Russ offered to have an electronic copy made and distributed to all members. (A copy is attached to these minutes.) Amy Goldsmith was designated Chair of a By-laws Committee to study the need possible revisions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The deadline to publish the proposed amendments to the WQMP Rules was extended from Jan 31 to April 1, 2007.

Commissioner Jackson has finalized the DEP Priorities and Action Plan. The 32 page document is available on the DEP web site. Ray handed out copies of the four pages devoted to “Clean and Plentiful Water.”

Ray also handed out the Summary of the 2006 Annual Report on “Implementation of the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program.”

*Future Meetings:* Jessica Sanchez will look into hosting the April 10 meeting at the offices of DRBC. MaryBeth Koza will look into hosting the May 8 meeting at the Hopewell Campus of BMS.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

**\*\*THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING of the Clean Water Council will be on March 14, 2007, beginning at approximately 11:00 A.M., at the DEP Building, 401 East State Street, Trenton, in the large conference room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor \*\***