

**NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL**  
**March 14, 2006**  
**Meeting Highlights**

**Location:**

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

**Attendees**

**Members:** Russ Furnari, Pamela Goodwin, Tony McCracken, Sr., Lou Mason Neely, Ray Nichols, Pat Pittore, James Requa, Jessica Sanchez, Dan Van Abs, Ray Zabihach

**Others:** Larry Baier and Helen Heinrich.

**Meeting convened** by Pamela Goodwin, Chair.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

The highlights were approved as distributed at the meeting,

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Status of Transmitting Recommendations Based on the 2005 Public Hearing to Commissioner Jackson:** Pamela reported on the meeting that she had with Ken Klipstein, Chief of the Bureau of Watershed Planning, together with Kerry Pflugh and Ray Nichols, on March 3. Ken recommended that the best way to get the recommendations to the Commissioner is for her to it directly to the Commissioner, rather than through internal channels. Also, due to the desire to complete the CWC's mandate to present recommendations to the Commissioner as quickly as possible, and the unfortunate delays experienced in coordinating with the Water Supply Advisory Council, Pam would not try to get the letter approved by both bodies, but would send it over her signature, and attach the report. The letter will note that the public hearing was sponsored by both Councils, and would include a request to meet with the Commissioner to discuss the contents of the report. Also, it will acknowledge that in early January, the Legislature adopted, and Governor Cody signed, legislation appropriating \$2.5 million, to be used to complete a new Statewide Water Supply Master Plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SETTING COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES FOR 2006**

Ray Nichols distributed a list of possible topics that he had assembled as the result of discussions at previous council meetings. Pam noted that during her meeting with Ken Klipstein, Ken had elaborated upon what the role of the CWC might be with respect to the Section 319(h) Grant Program. The Division has about \$3.5 million to distribute annually. He would look to the CWC for guidance on how to prioritize for the use of those funds,

At this point, Larry Baier, Director of the Division of Watershed Management, joined the meeting. The discussion of the Council's participation in the evaluative process of future 319(h) grants continued. Council members noted the necessity to take into consideration the fact that

some of the Council members were likely to be applicants for these grants, also. Therefore, there are ethical considerations regarding how potential conflicts of interest would be avoided.

Larry then announced that he was preparing a response to USEPA's Strategic Architecture (Framework) for the 319 Program planning through the year 2012. The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has directed EPA to get the States to set several measurable targets (goals) for restoration of impaired waterbodies, based upon the impairments identified in the 2002 version of the State's list of impaired waterbodies. Larry distributed copies of the draft guidance document from USEPA, described how they were looking for quantifiable goals. He noted that while it is laudable to establish measurable goals, there are difficulties with achieving the goals as stated in the guidance document. Therefore, he was asking for suggestions in how DEP should respond.

Dan noted this seemed to the type of activity that the CWC was seeking, i.e. helping to determine long term objectives. He also noted that \$8 Billion was spent to clean up point sources of water pollution of water pollution in NJ. Now they are spending \$3 Million to clean up non point sources. The question needs to be asked how DEP can best use the limited funds to restore impaired waterways.

The council members engaged in a lively discussion of the related issues. One observation is that DEP functions well as a regulator. But it could be doing a lot more to facilitate change that will eventually result in clean water. Several members expressed interest in pursuing this topic (how DEP should use the available 319 funds to best advantage to clean up impaired waters). They noted the Council would have to address the challenge of reaching consensus, which may be difficult given the diverse perspectives of the members.

In wrapping up the discussion, Larry suggested that the Council could consider tackling one of two types of issues in the coming year that would be of assistance:

- The global issue of how does DEP shape something that works; or
- The more specific issue of how to best implement the 319(h) grant program to get stream restoration projects completed.

Larry noted that he is also in the process of completing an Annual Report to EPA, which is due on April 1. He will provide copies at the next Council meeting.

In asking for assistance from the council, Larry also offered to make his staff available to provide any information or training that the council members need. Larry then left the council to figure out what it wants to do.

Dan proposed that a separate subcommittee be set up to frame the question of the council' goals for the coming year, to be presented at the April Meeting. The subcommittee members are Dan, Jessica, Russ, Tony, and Pam.

Pam noted that she is still interested in having the Council sponsor an essay contest for high school students.

**ADJOURNMENT**