

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

April 10, 2007
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, Amy Goldsmith, Mary Beth Koza, Tony McCracken, Lou Mason Neely, Ray Nichols, James Requa, Dan Van Abs

Others: Helen Heinrich, Larry Baier, Narinder Ahuja, Stan Cach, Gautam Patel, Sandra Brodbeck

Meeting convened by Tony McCracken at 10:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2007 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The highlights were approved as distributed.

DEP UPDATES:

Ron Nichols announced that due to a re-organization within the DEP, he would no longer be serving as the Department's Liaison to the Council. A resolution and motion was made by Tony McCracken and seconded by Dan Van Abs to thank Ray for his efforts and contributions to the Clean Water Council.

The DEP Organizational Chart was distributed. The Clean Water Council's coordination with the NJDEP will now be through Environmental Regulation. Narinder Ahuja, Director of the Division of Water Quality, stated that Assistant Commissioner Nancy Wittenberg wanted to but couldn't attend today's meeting because of other existing commitments. She is enthusiastic about working with the Council and will try to attend the next meeting. Also, Stanley Cach, Assistant Director of the Municipal Finance and Construction Element, will be the new Liaison from the Department for the Clean Water Council Meetings.

Mr. McCracken explained that the Clean Water Council meets once a month. The Council brings issues to the Commissioner's attention. It hosts a public hearing to receive public comments once a year on selected issues, and there is usually a good turnout. (Nancy Wittenberg has participated in the past.) The Council then submits its recommendations to the Commissioner. Pam Goodwin is the Chairperson of the Clean Water Council, and Russ Furnari is Vice Chair. The Council hosts other events throughout the year. The Council is considered to be a sounding board for the Commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS:

A discussion was held regarding which topic should be chosen for the 2007 Annual Public Hearing to be held on October 23rd. Upon the Department's suggestion, Topic #3, "Water Infrastructure", was tentatively selected as the subject for the public hearing. However, the final decision will be made only after it has been discussed with Chairperson Goodwin and Vice Chair Furnari. An Ad Hoc Committee will be formed to begin working on the topic.

The Council acknowledged and thanked Larry Baier for his assistance in the past. Larry also expressed his appreciation to the Council for the opportunity to work with them and will continue to support the Council in the future.

Report of the By-laws Review Committee: Amy Goldsmith gave the By-Laws Report. The By-Laws Committee did not meet, but Dan Van Abs had e-mailed Russ Furnari comments. In Article 4 - Standing Committees versus Ad Hoc Committees – one of the questions was, what do we want as Standing Committees versus rules for Ad Hoc Committees? Also, regarding duties of the Council, Dan suggested generic language compared to the specific language which is in the by-laws. Mary Beth Koza commented on Succession. Amy will include Mary Beth's comment into her notes. Once again, Clean Water Council Committee Members were requested to get their comments/revisions to the By-Laws Committee as soon as possible.

Report of Education Event Planning Committee: The Education Event Planning Committee did not meet. There had been some discussion of having 2 educational forums during the year. We were not able to do it this year, but hopefully will do so in the future. Ideas for the forum should be relevant and of value, and cover cutting edge topics.

NEW BUSINESS:

After the Clean Water Council met with DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, representatives of the Council were invited to accompany the Department to a meeting with Governor Jon Corzine on April 3, 2007. Larry Baier provided the summary of the meeting. He thanked the Council, particularly Russ, Amy and Tony for accompanying the Commissioner and himself to the Governor's Office to present the proposed WQMP Rule Amendments to the Governor. It was important to have the support of independent stakeholders in the overall concept of the Rule, though specific support could not be stated because members had not seen the actual Rule proposal. The meeting went well and the Department is confident that the rule proposal will be signed before the end of April.

Larry also informed the Council that it is Commissioner Jackson's position that actual draft rule language should not be shared with those outside of the Department unless there is a procedure to share the rule with all interested parties through a formal process such as an IPR.

Clean Water Council Members will be on a panel at the Water Environment Association Conference in Atlantic City in May.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**** THE NEXT MEETING of the Clean Water Council will be on May 8, 2007, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****