

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

May 10, 2005

Meeting Highlights

Location:

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

Attendees:

Members: Russ Furnari, Amy Goldsmith, Mary Beth Koza, Steve Lenox, Pat Matarazzo, L. Mason Neely, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Nichols.

Others: Helen Heinrich (NJ Farm Bureau).

Meeting convened by Chairman Pat Matarazzo

APPROVAL OF APRIL'S MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The highlights were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

November Meeting date: Since the regular date (second Tuesday of the month, Nov. 8) is Election Day, and a State Holiday, the scheduled date was changed to the following day, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005. Since this date happens to be the regularly scheduled meeting date for the Clean Air Council, the CWC members expressed interest in having a joint meeting with the CAC, if its members agree. Possible topics for discussion include pollution prevention and water conservation: industrial processes with multi-media impacts, such as selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology.

Council Member Status: There were no substantial changes since last month. The appointments office was seeking the home address and phone numbers for a few of the nominees.

Ethanol and MTBE: Helen Heinrich reported on the legislative hearing held on 4/27 about the proposed ban of MTBE (A-3547). Russ Funari is drafting a position statement supporting the abolishment of MTBE as an additive, noting that there is much less need for any oxygenate than there had been when USEPA imposed the oxygenate requirement, and encouraging the State to seek relief from USEPA from the oxygenate requirement.

NEW BUSINESS:

DEP Update: Ray Nichols noted that the governor had granted the DEP a four month extension, to August 17, 2005, to propose revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards Rules. He had discussed with Debra Hammond the CWC's invitation to her to come to a council meeting, as soon as possible, to discuss the proposed changes. She is willing, but presently unable. Due to the current status of the rule revisions, she anticipates that the July meeting would be the soonest time that it would be practical for her to discuss the rules with the CWC. Upon learning of the new schedule for the rule proposal, the CWC members expressed interest in having her attend the July meeting.

In April, the DEP issued a Draft Progress Report on the NJ Statewide Water Supply Plan. Pat suggested that whereas the DEP is in the process of revising that plan, which was last revised in 1996, it might make a good topic for the public hearing.

Other new business: Amy Goldsmith informed the group that the Public Health Advisory Council is planning to hold a public hearing on June 6 on its proposal to require the addition of Fluoride to all public drinking water supplies in NJ. Following discussion, she was authorized to draft and submit comments at that hearing, discussing why the CWC was opposed to the proposal.

Ray was asked to try to get a DEP representative from Water Resources Enforcement to come to the June meeting to update council members on the recent enforcement initiatives, including regarding USTs.

OPEN DISCUSSION on planning for the annual CWC public hearing:

Ray announced that the Public Hearing Room on the first floor of 401 E. State Street was heavily booked already. The only available dates in October for having the hearing there were Monday the 3rd, Friday the 7th, Monday the 24th, and Friday the 28th. After discussion, it was decided to aim for the 24th, with the 28th as backup.

Several possible topics for the hearing were discussed. Given the delay in the publication of the SWQS rules, that topic was deemed inappropriate due to timeliness issues. Council members then considered focusing on the topic of the water supply plan. They noted that the CWC has held joint public hearings in past years with the Water Supply Council (WSC) on topics of mutual interest.

Pat will contact the chairman of the WSC, Gene Golub, to ascertain if they would be interested in holding a joint hearing in October on the Water Supply Plan. At the same time Ray Nichols will discuss the matter with Joe Mattle.

In the event that a different topic is deemed desirable, then council members suggest that it might be worthwhile to re-visit the topic of Beneficial Re-use, in order to review beneficial re-use projects that have been developed since the Council last held a hearing on this subject.

ADJOURNMENT

******THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 14, 2005, BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. ******

DEP Guest Speakers: James Hamilton, Administrator of the Water Enforcement & Compliance Program, and Jonathan Berg, Coordinator of the Underground Storage Tank Inspection Program, will discuss recent enforcement initiatives, with emphasis on Underground Storage Tanks.