

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

June 10, 2008
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, Stan Cach, Jim Requa and Jessica Sanchez

Others: Helen Heinrich and Gerry Skrajewski

The meeting was convened by Jessica Sanchez at 10:20 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2008 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Since there were not enough members present to have a quorum, May's Minutes will not be approved until July's CWC meeting.

DEP UPDATES:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

As a result of a Conference Call held on June 5th, there was a suggestion to prepare a strategy document and distribute it for comment to the public prior to the public hearing. If the CWC decides on this process, that would require the public hearing to be held later in the year (December) instead of the proposed October 15th date. Gerry will check on the availability of the Public Hearing Room for December and then coordinate the Commissioner's calendar so that she's available, also.

Jessica said that Chris had called her and recommended that we streamline the Proposed Topics even further to two basic issues: raising funds for environmental infrastructure improvements and asset management. A discussion followed in ways to integrate the institutional planning component and the economic/financial component. We need to continue asset management, but explore other creative alternatives. Is the current system of Asset Management completely broken? Is there someone out there who is already doing a good job of Asset Management? Funding and financing of environmental infrastructure projects are important to the current Administration. How could NJ get maximum funding? We need to continue to press our Congressional and State representative delegates for their continued support in providing additional funding for NJ's environmental infrastructure projects.

The adequacy of New Jersey's infrastructure impacts New Jersey's economy. Incorporating smart growth initiatives in development planning is consistent to our vision of New Jersey. Public Hearing topics could include innovations for financing, cost pricing, and green technology while defining the obstacles to implement smart growth development projects. Public Hearing speakers could include Commissioner Joseph Doria (DCA), Commissioner Jackson (DEP), Professor Eric Wolfe from Princeton, and a leading private sector representative. More time for public testimony will be allotted.

The Commissioner challenged the CWC to present their vision for New Jersey. Defining a strategy would be beneficial to local and state officials. A strategy based on expert testimony and input on innovation, asset management, and all relevant aspects of smart growth projects. Consider a Public Hearing Logo similar to the Olympics Logo; i.e., 5 interlocking rings symbolizing Energy/Water/Wastewater/Stormwater/Economy. The CWC could consider developing an interagency "CWC Strategic Implementation Plan". Then the CWC will hand it off to the Governor's Policy Director to quarterback for the whole process like they did for the Energy Master Plan.

Municipal representatives want a proven model before they invest their time and money into an innovative smart growth project. Does New Jersey have a good model project such as New York City's Battery Park Development? Experts in smart growth planning, finance, academia, local government, and green technology would be suggested good speakers.

Invite Rhea Brekke to speak at July's CWC Meeting to explain the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology. Stan will check with Rhea's schedule.

We should solicit feedback from all the resources we already have available from the Associations that are represented on the CWC. They could provide the needed feedback to provide the agenda for the upcoming Public Hearing, and assist in developing the strategy. We need to ensure that the CWC Members carry the info from the CWC Meetings/Hearing back to their respective membership, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jessica requested Gerry to update the list of CWC Members so we can see where we need to request a replacement (as in the case of Mary Beth Koza from Business and Industry).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with a motion from Jim Requa, and it was seconded by Jessica Sanchez.

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on July 8, 2008, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****