

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

July 8, 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, Robert Breslin, Stan Cach, Jim Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Pamela Goodwin, Tony McCracken, Lou Neely, Jim Requa, Jessica Sanchez, and Tony Valente.

Others: Narinder Ahuja, Helen Heinrich, Dick Magee and Gerry Skrajewski

The meeting was convened by Russ Furnari at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MAY AND JUNE 2008 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Tony Valente made the motion to approve May's minutes, and Pam Goodwin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Jessica Sanchez made the motion to approve June's minutes, and Jim Requa seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as distributed. Even though June's meeting was sparsely attended, there was good discussion held among the attendees.

DEP UPDATES:

Narinder Ahuja said that the Department is gearing up for the impact of the ERI (Early Retirement Incentive). Since there is still a hiring freeze, the Law says that if 10 people retire, the State can fill 1 position.

A request was made for Narinder to share the list of fee increases in the Department with the CWC.

The Permit Efficiency Task Force has been meeting, and on July 23rd they will be making their recommendations.

The Licensing of Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Operators was published in the Federal Register and put on the DEP Website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Russ reported that as a follow-up to the 2007 hearing, the CWC met with the Commissioner and presented information to her about some of the key areas of concern. After the meeting, the general consensus was to gather addition information from experts before-hand as a prep to developing a Council White Paper on one or two specific sub-areas of the water infrastructure topic for the CWC's 2008 public hearing.

Jessica said that after the conference call of the Public Hearing's Ad-Hoc Committee, there was a recommendation to prepare a White Paper and circulate for comment. She raised two points: 1) drafting the White Paper; and 2) the timely completion of the White Paper. We should continue to seek expert advice regarding improving our past practices. There is a need to identify innovative technologies that are cost effective and incorporate green technologies and sustainable water infrastructure. Regarding Innovative Technologies, we want to know how we can do things better. Also, the funding remains a critical issue. With respect to the financial shortfalls, how can monies be allocated in new ways since there is less of it. That is why the CWC had decided to invite Dennis Hart, Executive Director of the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust speak on the money issues and Dick Magee from NJ ACT on the innovative issues. (Dennis was out of the office and not available to participate in today's meeting.)

From a procedural standpoint this year, note we will be moving the Public Hearing from October until later in the year. The DEP Public Hearing Room has been reserved for Monday, December 8th, and it is on the Commissioner's calendar.

There will not be a monthly CWC Meeting on August 12th, but the date will be saved to hold a Public Hearing Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting to discuss and prepare the White Paper draft.

In the past, the CWC had many non-members who would participate on the Council and on Committees. Russ requested the Members to bring additional people with them to the meetings who may have a different perspective and could bring their expertise and knowledge to the CWC.

What is the role of DCA in this year's Public Hearing? Do we need to put together relevant questions to help focus the discussion of the Public Hearing and the White Paper? In September, we should have Dennis Hart and a representative from DCA attend the Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dick Magee, the NJCAT Technical Director, gave a Presentation on NJCAT's Technology Verification and Certification Process (Attached).

The New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) was created in 1997 as a public/private partnership that pools the best talents and diverse resources of business and industry, entrepreneurs, university research centers utilities, and government to promote the development and commercialization of exciting new energy and environmental technologies. NJCAT works with the NJDEP to develop and implement cost-effective innovative technologies that will benefit the environment and allow the growth of environmental technology companies in NJ. The Energy and Environmental Technology Verification Act fully integrates NJCAT's multi-media environmental and energy technology verification program with the state's regulatory programs. The criteria a vendor must meet is that they have to be able to meet DEP's permitting requirements; must reflect sound scientific and engineering principles; and must provide an environmental benefit as compared to current technology.

NJCAT authors the verification reports. They verify the performance claims of innovative environmental and energy technologies. NJCAT validates to ensure that the submitted technologies must be scientifically quantifiable and then verifiable. Vendors pay an application fee of \$1000 to NJCAT. After meeting with NJDEP to ascertain the viability of the technology,

and if the technology is accepted, the process usually takes 4 – 6 months and costs from \$20,000 - \$40,000. An academia peer review is conducted by either Stevens Institute of Technology, Rutgers University or New Jersey Institute of Technology. DEP receives no funds in this process. The verification report is then submitted to NJDEP by NJCAT for certification. The verification report substantiates the claims of the vendors. NJDEP ensures that the verification was done according to the agreed upon protocols and then prepares a draft certification report. NJDEP certifies technology if it satisfies DEP's regulatory requirements and demonstrates a New Beneficial Effect. Because of DEP cutbacks, NJCAT has been challenged by NJDEP to consider handling the whole certification/verification process.

NJCAT and CWC could work together in the future in several ways: 1) by knowing that the technology that will be put in place will deliver compared to the cost; 2) look at process that would allow regional authorities to have decentralized treatment systems; and 3) have a 3rd party, neutral group, look at doing certifications. It was recommended to have Rhea Brekke be a part of the working group for the Public Hearing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m. with a motion from Ferdows Ali , and it was seconded by Jim Cosgrove.

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on September 9, 2008, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****

****There will be an Ad-Hoc Meeting regarding the 2008 Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 12th, at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****