

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL
July 12, 2005
Meeting Highlights

Location:

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

Attendees

Members: Ferdows Ali, Russ Furnari, Pamela Goodwin, Mary Beth Koza, Pat Matarazzo, Pasquale Pittore, James Requa, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Nichols.

Meeting convened by Chairman Pat Matarazzo

APPROVAL OF JUNE'S MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The highlights were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Planning for the Annual CWC Public Hearing:

Ray Nichols announced that in order to hold the hearing in the Public Hearing room on the first floor of 401 E. State Street, the hearing date had to be rescheduled, from October 24th to Monday, October 31st.

Ray reported that he attended the meeting of the Water Supply Advisory Council (WSAC) on June 24, to explain the CWC's desire to hold a joint hearing on a topic that relates to both water quality and water supply. The WSAC discussed the matter and then agreed to be co-sponsors. Noting that she had to be elsewhere on July 12, Ella Filapone subsequently transmitted a list of possible topics that the hearing might address. They included:

- 1) Safe yield of our water supplies
- 2) Ground Water availability and quality
- 3) What does the public see as the most critical issue?
- 4) What is the public's perception of reused water?
- 5) What is the most serious problem facing water supply today?
- 6) Can the State of New Jersey meet water demands to the year 2040 if it continues to grow?
- 7) Can New Jersey sustain adequate flows to maintain water quality in all of its river systems?
- 8) Does New Jersey need a new funded program for lakes as they apply to water supply/quality?

After reviewing Ella's list, the CWC members present, identified the following additional possible issues:

- a) Regional considerations
- b) TMDLs interplay with Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- c) Water Allocations and Re-Use
- d) Statewide standards vs. Uses for particular streams

- e) Grey water
- f) Safe drinking water
- g) TMDLs
- h) How much are “known polluted sites” actually impacting water supply?
- i) Water allocations for farmers vs. water allocation permits for public supplies & industry – legal and policy issues
- j) Brownfields development: infrastructure & water supply
- k) Proposal to require site plan approvals for commercial & industrial uses to include provisions (infrastructure) for water re-use
- l) Failing septic systems
- m) NPS- stormwater runoff

Following discussion, the Council members realized that there are a number of critical issues that need attention and careful consideration. They then decided that rather than have the hearing focus on one topic, as had been done in the past few years, this year they would ask members of the public to identify the most critical issues for DEP to consider over the next several years. Due to the increased awareness of these issues and the costs involved in implementing policy, they decided to ask people to focus on the one most critical water quality related issue from their perspective when giving testimony. Furthermore, as the CWC has been discussing during the past year, when examining any particular water quality or supply issue, there are often crossover impacts and/or unintended consequences which involve other environmental media, such as air quality or land uses.

Therefore, while targeting testimony on critical water quality issues, they decided that the hearing will seek input from the public on the relationship between environmental media. Furthermore, as water quality affects water supplies, the CWC will also seek information on what issues are of critical importance in the various regions of the state. The Council members agreed that after the hearing they will then evaluate the testimony and prepare a report to DEP outlining the issues raised and their thoughts on how policy should be shaped to address these issues.

Following this discussion, the following working title for the hearing was agreed upon: “Clean Water for NJ: Public Perspectives on Critical Issues for the Near Future”.

Members then discussed having three panels of experts representing various stakeholders’ perspectives “testify”. The first panel would consist of planners and representatives of statewide organizations which advocate for clean water and general public concerns. The second panel would be composed of representatives of the various major user groups, e.g. Developers, Agriculture, Industry, Water Utilities. The third panel would be designed to elicit the concerns of various regional interests, such as the Highlands, Pinelands, Meadowlands, Delaware River Basin and coastal areas.

Discussion then focused on who should be invited to present testimony via these panels.

A Public Hearing Planning Committee was then formed to recruit the speakers and do the necessary follow-up. Initially it consisted of: Russ Furnari, Mary Beth Koza, Pat Matarazzo,

James Requa, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Nichols. [NOTE: Subsequent to this meeting, Pamela Goodwin and Amy Goldsmith agreed to serve on the committee, together with Joe Mattle, DEP's liaison to the Water Supply Advisory Council. Pat Matarazzo found it necessary to remove himself from the committee.]

CANCELLATION OF AUGUST MEETING:

Following brief discussion of its long standing tradition, the council members agreed to cancel the August meeting. Instead, the members of the Public Hearing Planning Committee would conduct a teleconference to discuss the status of their planning efforts and what remained to be done. Mary Beth Koza volunteered to arrange the conference call.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Pat Matarazzo and Russ Furnari briefly reported on the annual national TMDL conference which they attended in Philadelphia on June 27-29, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

****THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2005, BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. **
In addition to discussion of the upcoming Public Hearing, an election of officers will be held.**