

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

September 8, 2009
Meeting Highlights

Location:

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ.

Attendees:

Members: George Bakun, Stan Cach, Russ Furnari, Pam Goodwin, Tony McCracken, Lou Neely, Jim Requa, and Jessica Sanchez.

Others: Karen Cerra, Helen Heinrich and Gerry Skrajewski.

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

APPROVAL OF JULY'S 2009 MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS:

July's Minutes were distributed. Jim Requa made the motion to approve the minutes, and Tony McCracken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as distributed.

DEP UPDATES:

Stan Cach provided an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. He said that 60 percent of NJ's ARRA funds have been issued an authorization to advertise for the solicitation of bids. There will be two Bond Sales at the Trust this year - one in October and one in January. This could be the largest year for the SRF financing program. The CWC asked Stan to provide them with a list of ARRA projects with the start date/end date identified. Stan referred the CWC to the Department's Website www.nj.gov/dep/arra/ to review the weekly updated CW/DW ATTA project lists. Also, Gerry will forward the Council the information on the ARRA Clean Water/Drinking Water "living lists".

Stan said he'll get an update from Barry Chalofsky regarding the Stormwater Program.

The Water Supply Master Plan has been delayed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Infrastructure Financing Committee – Dan Van Abs was absent from today's CWC meeting, but Russ provided an update. He said that Dan is coordinating the first meeting of the Water Infrastructure Financing Committee. Dan now has most of the members of the Committee in place, and a meeting will be scheduled before the next CWC Meeting.

The tour of PSEG's nuclear facility in Salem County was held on August 18th. CWC Members discussed some of the interesting facts they saw and heard during the tour. The amount of energy produced by the nuclear plants in a day is equivalent to the power generated by 10,000 tons of coal. Nuclear fuel is small in volume relative to coal. Also, the PSE&G nuclear facility is the largest employer in Salem County with over 5,000 employees. Members were impressed also with the very high security at the facility. Helen said that she was amazed when she saw the Control Room. Russ explained how the Operators are trained off line on a simulator so that when they use control equipment, they are prepared for any situation.

Climate Change: Public Hearing Topic - the Subcommittee met prior to today's CWC Meeting. Tony McCracken, Chair of the Subcommittee, reported on their discussion. Subcommittee recommended that the title for this year's public hearing be: ***How is Climate Change Affecting Water Quality in NJ?*** Tony said that the Committee discussed the Topic; how it should be presented; speakers the CWC would invite; etc. It was recommended to have Speakers discuss: Trends and Forecasts; Assessments from DEP and how climate change has affected Department policy (possibly USGS involvement in this discussion); someone from Regulating Community; and where are we going in the future (do we need to change our attitudes about water resources.) Break the rest of the session into questions targeting water quality issues as it affects wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water. Discussion followed for comments on proposed format and suggestion of Speakers. DEP Commissioner Mark Mauriello, Dave Robinson, Eric Woods, Debra Hammond and Carol Collier were some of the names which were recommended to be Speakers at the Public Hearing. The Council needs to develop three questions which the speakers will address, and also a list of potential invited guests. Also, it was discussed to address short-term and long-term issues that are affected by Climate Change. How do we build in adaptability and flexibility into systems needed to meet water quality in face of the forecast of increased variability? Ultimately, how would Climate Change factors impact the development of the Department's water quality/resource policies? The Committee will consider today's comments and develop an outline and series of questions which will be sent to the CWC Members for their feedback. The flyer/agenda needs to be finalized and distributed in October for the Department's Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. with a motion from George Bakun. It was seconded by Pam Goodwin.

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. ****