

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

November 12, 2008

Meeting Highlights

Location:

New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Conference Room, 3131 Princeton Pike, Office Building 6, Suite 201, Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Attendees:

Members: Bob Breslin, Stan Cach, Jim Cosgrove, Amy Goldsmith, Tony McCracken, Jim Requa, Jessica Sanchez, Tony Valente, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Zabihach.

Others: Rick Kropp, Gerry Skrajewski.

The meeting was convened by Jessica Sanchez at 10:00 a.m. Jessica said that Russ Furnari could not make today's meeting,

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2008 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Jim Cosgrove made the motion to approve October's minutes, and Dan Van Abs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as distributed. There were 2 abstentions.

DEP UPDATES:

Stan Cach gave the DEP update. He reported that a new Commissioner has not yet been named to replace Lisa Jackson. There should be nominal restructuring after the new Commissioner is announced. The one new creation is the Office of Climate Change.

It is becoming clearer that President-Elect Obama will institute a Stimulus package. ASWIPCA is communicating to all its agencies to be ready to go. We need projects ready to be designed and constructed when the Stimulus package hits. At the Clean Water Council Public Hearing, the Speaker from EPA should address the proposed Stimulus package.

Stan discussed an e-mail related to the Safe Water Drinking Rules - NJAC 7:10A (attached).

OLD BUSINESS:

CWC Public Hearing on December 8th – Jessica recommended that the title on the flyer be shortened. The Council agreed, and it was decided that the new title on the flyer would be “Water Infrastructure: Sustainable Funding”.

The Agenda for the Public Hearing will be as follows: Russ will open the Public Hearing with a Welcome and then summarize the letter that was sent to Commissioner Jackson with the Council's recommendations after last year's hearing. Gary Sondermeyer will speak after Russ; then EPA with the national speaker/perspective; and Mr. McManimon with the local perspective. A discussion was held regarding those who will be giving public testimony. The Council wants to ensure that all five questions which the Council was seeking input on will be addressed by those testifying. Also, the EPA Speaker should address President-Elect Obama's proposed Stimulus package.

The CWC Members will sit in the front of the public hearing room and accept the testimony from the public. The Agenda is formatted this year so that the formal section with Speakers will be completed by 10:30 am, and the public testimony will begin then and should be finished by noon. Each person testifying will be allotted 5 minutes to testify. Written testimony will be accepted also.

The CWC Public Hearing Flyers will be taken to the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City for distribution. It is requested that each CWC Member electronically distribute the CWC Flyer (and eventually the Agenda) to their constituents. An Agenda will be developed for distribution since we now have the confirmed speakers.

The Clean Water Council Meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th is cancelled due to the Public Hearing being held on December 8th. The 2009 schedule of CWC Meetings will be forwarded to the Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

The article that was in the local newspaper related to the Hamilton Township sewer systems was distributed. A discussion followed, and it was generally agreed that user charge systems should include operations, maintenance & replacement costs of the environmental infrastructure facilities. However, it was noted that not every local government unit is reserving funds for capital replacement of their environmental infrastructure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bob Breslin invited the Council to schedule a future CWC Meeting at PSEG's nuclear facility in Salem County. Bob suggested that after the CWC Meeting, the Council Members would be given a tour of the facility.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2008, beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ ****