

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

November 13, 2007
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, Jim Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Amy Goldsmith, Pamela Goodwin, Albert Lundgren, James Requa, and Ray Zabihach

Others: Helen Heinrich, Rick Kropp, Narinder Ahuja, Debra Hammond, Stan Cach, and Gerry Skrajewski

The meeting was convened by Pam Goodwin at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The Minutes were approved as distributed. Russ Furnari made the Motion to approve the Minutes, and Ray Zabihach seconded the Motion.

DEP UPDATES:

Narinder Ahuja provided the DEP update. He said that Debra Hammond will provide an overview of Water Quality Standards today, and Tom Micai will cover the Flood Hazard Rules, Public Access & Freshwater Wetlands at next month's meeting. Narinder also noted that DEP has made significant changes in its 2008 Proposed Priority System for the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program in view of the projected reduction in funds that may be available for the Program. The changes include revamping of the project ranking system resulting in higher priority being assigned to traditional category of projects. The details are readily available at the DEP website.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Clean Water Council Public Hearing was held on October 23rd and discussed New Jersey's Water Infrastructure. A number of people in the public were not pleased with the structure of the hearing because even though the panel was informative, many of the CWC members were gone by the time the public was asked to provide their testimony. It was suggested that we have a different format for next year's Public Hearing to address this concern. One suggestion is to keep the Panel Presentations to a hour. Another suggestion is to mix up the panel and public portions of testimony. Also, we could consider getting the panel presentations ahead of time and having them on the Website so people could present more informed testimony. It was generally agreed that the format for next year's Public Hearing will be revised based on these thoughts. A positive about the hearing was the record attendance and tremendous interest in the subject selected this year. All the public testimony and documentation will be reviewed by the CWC Members and incorporated into the Report to the Commissioner. Also, Pam was commended for the way she handled the duties as Public Hearing Officer.

Pam requested volunteers to work on a Committee to take the lead in synchronizing the comments and drafting the Report for the Commissioner. It was decided that the CWC members would wait until January to begin working on the Report. It was recommended that some of the members of the Committee should be Russ Furnari, Amy Goldsmith, Mary Beth Koza, Chris Strum (attached are Chris' notes from the Public Hearing), and Dan Van Abs (if his schedule permits.) Pam requested that anyone else that has notes from the Public Hearing to share them with the Council.

The Public Hearing was shown on NJN News, and there also was an article on the Public Hearing in the Bergen Record. Pam asked that the Commissioner be thanked for her participation in the Public Hearing. The Council also asked that the Court Reporter to provide an electronic version of the Public Hearing in addition to the original and one copy that has been requested previously.

Report of Education Event Planning Committee: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Debra Hammond gave a detailed report on the status of the Water Quality Standards. Attached is a one-page summary that she drafted of the comments received. The comment period closed in August, and they are reviewing the over 2000 comments that were received. Many of the comments are significant. One interesting fact is that with the Rule needing to be adopted by March 2008, the Department reached out to see what the Stakeholders thought were the most pressing issues that need to be addressed with Water Quality Standards. The Department only received comments from 18 groups which is quite a contrast to the 2000 comments received on the C1 proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A number of Council Member terms have expired or are due to expire. Pam said that Stan needs to check with the Liaison between the Department and the Governor's office. There are names that the Department has put forth which are currently in the Governor's office. Russ commented that he had been contacted by them to fill out a form and have it notarized. Also, note that a vote on the new Chair, Vice-Chair and 2nd Chair will be taken at December's meeting so we need a quorum. If you are unable to attend, please appoint a proxy to vote for you.

Pam said that the new Website is wonderful. However if you go on Google, the old Clean Water Council Website is still there so we need to have that changed. Stan will contact the Department's Webmaster to have this problem corrected.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a motion from Jim Cosgrove, and it was seconded by Ray Zabihach.

**** The next Clean Water Council Meeting will be held on December 11, 2007 beginning at 10:00 A.M., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. Note that a vote on the new Chair, Vice-Chair and 2nd Chair will be taken so we need a quorum. ****