

NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

May 12, 2009
Meeting Highlights

Location:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 401 East State Street, 7th floor, Trenton, NJ

Attendees:

Members: Ferdows Ali, George Bakun, Bob Breslin, Stan Cach, Jim Cosgrove, Russ Furnari, Pam Goodwin, Tony McCracken, Lou Neely, Jim Requa, Chris Strum, Tony Valente, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Zabihach.

Others: Marken Belfort, Karen Cerra, Helen Heinrich, Dave Robinson, Gerry Skrajewski, Jenny Vickers and Eric Wood.

The meeting was convened by Russ Furnari at 10:05 a.m. Russ, the CWC Members, and all others in attendance introduced themselves to today's two Speakers, NJ State Climatologist Dave Robinson and Princeton University Professor Eric Wood.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Dave Robinson, Rutgers Professor and NJ State Climatologist - Dave discussed state and local water resource issues. He explained past and present observational records and models that seek to project the future climate of the region. Climatologically, NJ has experienced warmer and wetter conditions in the past few decades compared to earlier in the 20th century. Warming is expected to continue throughout this century, while models suggest precipitation may remain the same or increase. Extremes in rainfall, and even drought, may accompany a more energized climate system. Hydrologically, this may result in more extremes, with more information needed on the seasonality of changes in future decades as NJ prepares for, and adapts, to a different climate regime. (Presentation is attached.)

Presentation by Eric F. Wood, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University – Eric gave a presentation on the NE climate change impact assessment study coordinated by the Union of Concerned Scientists. In the discussion, he highlighted the projected changes to the hydrology and water resources of the New Jersey Region, including how these changes may affect water quality. (Attached is the NE Climate Change Report and the NJ focused summary.

Russ thanked Dave and Eric for coming to the CWC Meeting and for their informative Presentations.

APPROVAL OF APRIL'S 2009 MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS:

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

DEP UPDATES:

On May 5th, Governor Corzine and Acting Commissioner Mauriello held a Press Event at Middlesex County Utilities Authority regarding New Jersey's ARRA stimulus program. Russ was able to attend and represent the Clean Water Council. Stan was also at the Press Event. The Public Hearing regarding the Drinking Water and Clean Water Priority System/Intended Use Plan Proposal will be held on May 18th in the Public Hearing Room on the First Floor of the DEP Building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Russ said that he's been talking to PSE&G, and it appears that August 18th is the best date for the tour of the nuclear facility in Salem County. CWC Members planning to attend the tour on the 18th will need to provide personal information (i.e., social security number, etc.) for security purposes.

Dan Van Abs had prepared a draft letter (which was distributed to CWC Members) to be sent to the appropriate people requesting them to participate on the CWC's Ad Hoc Committee on Water Infrastructure Financing. Russ asked if anyone had any comments on this draft letter. If not, he asked for a motion to approve the letter so that it could be sent out. Ray Zabihach made the motion, and Tony Valente seconded it. It was unanimously approved to send out the final letter.

Amy Goldsmith was unable to attend today's CWC Meeting. She is continuing to work on updating the fluoridation letter and will share it with the CWC Members for their comments/input.

Lou requested that at a future CWC Meeting, we have someone speak about the Well Testing Program – data on private well testing reporting and local well testing. At June's CWC Meeting, it was recommended to continue the discussion from today's meeting while there is a lot momentum. Also, it was noted that Michele Putnam will speak at July's CWC Meeting. The CWC asked for the update of when they might see the Water Supply Master Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan announced that the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association is having an Infrastructure Planning Workshop on June 5th, and Dan was invited to be on the panel because of his involvement with the Infrastructure Financing Issue with the CWC.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. with a motion from Jim Cosgrove. It was seconded by Lou Neely and approved.

**** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. ****