NEW JERSEY CLEAN WATER COUNCIL
March 2, 2010
Meeting Highlights

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

Attendees:
Members:  Stan Cach, Jim Cosgrove, Amy Goldsmith, Tony McCracken, Lou Neely, Jim Requa, Jessica Sanchez, Dan Van Abs, and Ray Zabihach.
Others: Helen Heinrich, Howard Woods and Gerry Skrajewski.

The meeting was convened by Jessica Sanchez at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY’S 2010 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:
February’s Minutes were distributed. Lou Neely made the motion to approve the minutes, and Jim Cosgrove seconded the motion. Jessica Sanchez noted a few corrections so the Minutes will be amended. The Minutes were approved as amended.

DEP UPDATES:
Stan Cach said that the Department is still looking at the schedule of Rule proposals which he distributed at February’s CWC Meeting (Executive Order No. 1 - List of DEP rule proposals suspended and not suspended, dated January 21, 2010). Acting Commissioner Bob Martin hasn’t had his Confirmation Hearing yet. It will be scheduled shortly.

OLD BUSINESS:
Ad Hoc Committee on Infrastructure Financing: Jessica thanked Dan Van Abs and the Water Infrastructure Financing Ad Hoc Committee for all the work they have done in developing its Report. Jessica asked Dan to develop recommendations that the NJCWC could use, potentially as the basis for its 2010 Public Hearing, as a springboard for putting these ideas out to the public. The intent is to focus on two issues - asset management (preventive maintenance; routine asset management; accountability) and accounting/finance (increased transparency and a standard for all utilities) - pulling from the ideas presented by the Water Infrastructure Financing Ad Hoc Committee, but leaving out a lot of the detail. The CWC would also like to include some case examples of utilities that have done great work in asset management, and how they fared. Camden County MUA is one possibility based on Andy Kricun's testimony in 2008. Are there any other good examples out there? We are looking for a combination of asset management (as we have discussed the concept) and good rate structures and accounting to achieve it. Dan will send out a really focused draft to the CWC Members for any additional comments they may have.
The Council wants to develop a Strategy over the next three meetings, produce a proposal for public release, and then hold the 2010 Public Hearing in October. Jessica asked Stan to invite both Jeff Reading and Michele Putnam to the next CWC Meeting on April 13th. The Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Public Utilities and NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust would be invited to May’s CWC Meeting, and at June’s CWC Meeting, there would be an Internal Wrap-Up and Briefing.

Results of 2009 Hearing on Climate Change & Recommendations for Acting Commissioner Bob Martin: 3 of the 4 Members of the Ad Hoc Climate Change Committee were absent from today’s CWC Meeting; therefore, it was decided that this issue would be tabled for the immediate future since the Council is concentrating on the Water Infrastructure Financing Issue.

NEW BUSINESS:
Topic for 2010 Clean Water Council Public Hearing: Suggested to continue discussion on Water Infrastructure Financing (see above).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None

ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with a motion from Lou Neely. It was seconded by Ray Zabihach.

** The next meeting of the Clean Water Council will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6, Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ. **