



**New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI)**

July 2, 2024, 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present (12):**

Phoebe Stapleton, Jessie Gleason, Tina Fan, Oleg Kostin, Rich Calbi, Perry Cohn, Michael Furrey, Patricia (Trish) Ingelido, Judith Klotz, Andrea McElroy, Norm Nelson, Gloria Post, Michele Potter

**Members Absent (1):**

Leslie Brunell

**Public Attendees:**

Chase Ballas, Josephine Bonventre, Brandon Carreno, Karola Endara, Alyssa Greco, Sabrina Hill, Ryan Knapick, Lori Lester, Lee Lippincott, Kelley Meccia, Robert Newby, Nick Procopio, Benjamin Swartz, Filina Poonolly, Kristin Tedesco, (*New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, DEP*)

Charlie Stegner-Freitag (*New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety*)

Raza Ali, Abigail Linsk (*American Chemistry Council*)

Mary DeWaters (*Citizen*)

Samantha Jones (*Chemistry Council of New Jersey*)

Harvey Klein (*Garden State Laboratories, Inc.*)

Rayna Laiosa (*The Chemours Company*)

Dipti Raja (*Pennoni*)

Jim Scarborough (*International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials*)

Mark Theiler (*Middlesex Water Company*)

Jyoti Venketraman (*New Jersey Future*)

Nadine Weinberg (*ERM*)

**1. DWQI Chair Remarks**

Phoebe Stapleton (Chairwoman) opened the meeting and introduced themselves as the new Chair of the Drinking Water Quality Institute.

Brandon Carreno took attendance of committee members.

## **2. Review of May 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Phoebe Stapleton asked if there were any corrections or modifications to the May 25, 2023, meeting minutes and received no comment. Michael Furrey motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Judith Klotz seconded the motion. Members moved to accept the meeting minutes.

## **3. Membership Updates**

Trish Ingelido welcomed and further introduced Phoebe Stapleton:

Stapleton is currently an Associate Professor at Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy within the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and a resident scientist within the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) at Rutgers University. Stapleton's training and studies have focused on how ultrafine (or nanosized) particles impact the cardiovascular system, and more specifically how exposure to these small particles can influence maternal health and fetal development during pregnancy. Recently, Stapleton's work has started to focus on nanoplastic particles and associated pollutants.

Stapleton will act as the chair and not serve on any subcommittees at this time.

Ingelido informed the attendees that Environmental Health Expert position appointed by the Assembly remained vacant, but all other seats had been filled. Ingelido also reminded the Institute members that they are considered Special State Officers by the State of New Jersey and, as result, are subject to the State's Uniform Ethics Code. This requires completion of ethics trainings and the submission of the Outside Employee Questionnaire. Ingelido requested that members refer to an email that was sent out prior to the meeting for more information.

## **4. Update on DWQI Research from Testing and Treatment Subcommittees**

Tina Fan provided an update for the Testing Subcommittee's work on cyanotoxins. Fan reported that a copy of the draft report was sent to the Subcommittee on January 3, 2024, and had received minor comments. These comments have since been addressed.

Michael Furrey asked whether the draft would be circulated to Institute members.

Trish Ingelido responded that, if there was no need for additional discussion, the Institute could vote to share the draft reports with the public for public comment. There were no further questions for the Testing Subcommittee.

Oleg Kostin provided an update for the Treatment Subcommittee's work on cyanotoxins. Kostin shared a brief [presentation](#) on the draft recommendations from the Treatment Subcommittee.

Furrey asked whether the Treatment Subcommittee report would be circulated amongst Institute members. Kostin confirmed that the report would be circulated.

Stapleton asked for members to vote to approve the Testing and Treatment Subcommittees' draft recommendations for cyanotoxins. All members voted to finalize the draft recommendations.

Stapleton asked the Subcommittee Chairs to circulate the draft reports to the Institute members for final review and noted that this process might take a few weeks. Stapleton noted that once the Subcommittee reports were final, they would be published for a 60-day public comment period. Stapleton noted that there would be an email blast to the interested parties' email list once the draft reports were published and that anyone interested in being placed on this list could sign up on the DWQI website.

## **5. DWQI Workplan**

Trish Ingelido provided an update on the DWQI Workplan. Ingelido noted two pieces of legislation passed by the Senate and General Assembly of New Jersey which may impact the Institute's Workplan. The first [act](#) requires the review of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as a class. The second [act](#) requires the NJDEP to conduct a study on microplastics, including the feasibility of treatment for removal of microplastics from drinking water. Ingelido noted that NJDEP may look to the Institute for additional input and evaluation of these contaminants as it concludes its study.

Other items that were on the previous workplan include the review of existing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and recently updated Ground Water Quality Standards. Ingelido suggested that a survey be sent out to Institute members to get additional input on the workplan.

Gloria Post clarified that the legislation regarding PFAS in drinking water requires the NJDEP, in collaboration with the Institute, to assess the feasibility of establishing a regulatory standard for the entire class, or for certain subclasses or mixtures, of PFAS. The legislation does not require the NJDEP to regulate PFAS as a class or subclass.

Michael Furrey asked how the PFAS legislation relates to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) final PFAS regulation.

Ingelido responded that in addition to individual MCLs, USEPA has established a Hazard Index to regulate mixtures of two or more PFAS. Ingelido added that the NJDEP and DWQI's review would be broader in scope than the Hazard Index, which encompasses mixtures of four PFAS.

Oleg Kostin suggested endocrine-disrupting compounds may be of concern in drinking water. He noted that endocrine-disrupting compounds, such as birth control pills, can end up in wastewater and are recycled into drinking water as microcontaminants.

Post noted that the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) required monitoring for estrogens sourced from contraceptives. Post noted that the results of this monitoring showed that estrogens were not found in the sampled systems at impactful levels.

Ingelido noted the importance of considering occurrence of specific contaminants in New Jersey when prioritizing contaminants for the DWQI Workplan. Ingelido suggested utilizing UCMR data to help with this evaluation and to help identify where additional research needs may exist.

Judith Klotz added that they sit on the Public Health Standing Committee of the New Jersey Science Advisory Board (SAB), and the SAB is evaluating the prevalence of endocrine-disrupting compounds in drinking water. Klotz suggested that there may be an opportunity for additional evaluation by the Institute once the SAB's report is finalized.

Furrey recalled filling out a DWQI Workplan survey when he first joined the Institute in 2021. He suggested that another survey of Institute members be conducted to gather input on the DWQI Workplan.

Phoebe Stapleton agreed and recommended that the results of the member survey be used to reevaluate the DWQI Workplan.

## **6. New Business**

Phoebe Stapleton suggested holding the next meeting in-person before the end of the calendar year. Stapleton also recommended that future meetings should alternate between remote and in-person.

Gloria Post announced Lee Lippincott's retirement from NJDEP and expressed her enormous gratitude for Lippincott's work supporting the Institute. Other Institute members echoed Post's gratitude and congratulated Lee on his retirement.

Nick Procopio announced that Post was also retiring from NJDEP and stepping down from her position as a member of the Institute. Post served on the Institute's Health Effects Subcommittee for close to 20 years. Several Institute members expressed their immense gratitude to Post for her expertise and extensive contributions to the Institute. Institute members emphasized the impact her work on Institute in advancing public health and science at the national and international level.

Post expressed thanks and encouraged newer members to review the full body of the Institute's work to understand its history and continue advancing its vital purpose.

## **7. Public Comment**

Phoebe Stapleton opened the floor for public comments. No comments were made.

Stapleton issued her closing remarks and recommended that the Institute aim to update the DWQI Workplan by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30am.