



NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council

Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

May 20, 2009
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Leslie McGeorge, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Randy Braun, Tom Fikslin, Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), Jack Gibs, Nancy Immesberger, Mike Kennish, Rick Kropp, Al Korndoerfer, Judy Louis, Karl Muessig, Caitlyn Nichols (for Boris Rukovets/Howard Golub), Nick Procopio, Bob Reiser, Bob Tudor, Eric Vowinkel, Paula Zevin

Absent

Kirk Barrett, Gary Buchanan, Bob Connell, Danielle Donkersloot, Jawed Hameedi, Ed Konsevick, Todd Kratzer, MaryAnne Kuserk, John Kushwara, Diana Morgan (for Chris Obropta - NJWRRI), Steve Nieswand, Manisha Patel, Ed Santoro, Mike Serfes, Bill Simmons

Guest Speakers/Discussion Leaders

Ray Bousenberry – NJDEP/NJGS
Steve Domber - NJDEP/NJGS
Eric Evenson – USGS NJ Water Science Center
Paul Morton – NJDEP/WM&S

Guests

William Atkinson – Gloucester County Health Dept
Loretta Blake – Camden County Health Dept
Lynn DiSebastian – Somerset County Health Dept
Ann Marie Fournier – Monmouth County Health Dept
Kurt Hendricks – Burlington County Health Dept
John Maxvitat – Camden County Health Dept
Ashley Pengitore – PVSC

➤ **Council Business**

- Minutes from the 1/21/09 Council meeting were approved.
- Rick Kropp and Bob Tudor provided an update on follow-up items from the USGS Mid-Atlantic Cooperators' Roundtable meetings. Bob Tudor announced that local cooperators are working through a national organization, the Interstate Council on Water Policy, to support the gauge funding issue. They also mentioned that Congressman Hinchey is planning to push for full funding for both the Coop monitoring program as well as the stream gauging program. A suggestion was made that the NJWMC also send a letter of support to the NJ Congressional Delegation (esp. Senator Pallone and Congressman Pascrell). Members of the Council Steering Committee agreed to discuss this further.
- Ashley Pengitore was asked if, at the September Council meeting, she would provide an update on the NJ Harbor Dischargers' ambient monitoring program. She agreed to do so.

- Continuous Monitoring Inventory: Alena Baldwin-Brown announced that the Continuous Monitoring Inventory (and accompanying map) is complete and would be posted shortly on the Council's webpage under "Products". The Council agreed that the Inventory should be updated annually and agreed to revisit it in January 2010.
 - March 2009 National Water Quality Monitoring Council Meeting Information – Leslie McGeorge and Eric Vowinkel provided a recap of important information from the March National Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. Among those items mentioned were: discussions on the upcoming 2010 National Monitoring Conference, to be held in Denver; updates on the National Monitoring Network (inc a presentation on the pilot inventory & demonstration project in the Delaware River Basin); and updates on the National Environmental Status and Trends (NEST) effort. Leslie also provided a summary of the panel discussion on State and Regional Monitoring Councils – on which she represented the NJ Council - including suggestions for assistance to State/Regional Councils from the National Council. Both of these presentations are available on the Council's website. In addition, the draft agenda for the July NQWMC meeting was shared with Council members as there are expected to be many opportunities for participation via WebEx for those who may be interested.
 - Water Quality Data Exchange Project: Paul Morton provided an update on development of the overall NJ Water Quality Data Exchange System, including the NJ Water Monitoring Inventory. Testing for the "data in" portion of the WQDE system has concluded. In addition to various DEP programs, DRBC, IEC, USGS, NJWSA, Montclair/PRI, MERI and PVSC participated in this phase of testing. WM Inventory testing is scheduled to be rolled out in 3 phases – phase 1: USGS data, phase 2: EPA data, and phase 3: WQDE data. It is expected that testing of phase 1 should begin sometime in June (NOTE: beta testing of phase 1 began in late-July; formal testing has not yet begun). Paul's presentation is available on the Council's website.
 - Emerging Contaminants Subcommittee: Caitlyn Nichols (IEC) and Ray Bousenberry (DEP/NJGS) reported that the subcommittee continues to work on drafting a white paper which is expected to include recommendations related to priority contaminants and related monitoring – Ron McGillivray (DRBC), Judy Louis (DEP/OS), and Eric Vowinkel (USGS) are assisting in the white paper development. Some of the outstanding issues include: leachate, land application, biosolids, wastewater reuse and sludges. The subcommittee is also interested in developing a list of ongoing EC-related projects being conducted by Council orgs – Caitlyn/Ray will draft an email request for this information which will be sent to Alena to forward to the full Council. They are also looking for additional volunteers for the subcommittee – an EPA rep would be of particular assistance. Ray also briefly discussed an EC-related joint project between NJGS and USGS dealing with pharmaceuticals, personal care products and organic wastewater compounds. The study is looking at the impact these compounds have on shallow ground water down gradient from wastewater disposal systems that discharge to ground water (e.g., septic systems and spray irrigation). Nineteen sites throughout NJ will be sampled, beginning in the end of June 2009. In 2010, there will be another study (conducted in conjunction with DEP/OS and USGS) which will be looking at wastewater treatment plants with large pharmaceutical inflows.
 - County Health Departments: Representatives from five County Health Departments – Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Monmouth and Somerset – attended this meeting. Each rep was asked to briefly describe any ambient water monitoring performed by the county. Information provided is as follows: *Burlington County HD* – septic monitoring, private well testing, and stream monitoring; *Camden County HD* – periodic stream monitoring (for bacteria) and private well testing; *Monmouth County HD* – 82 ambient stream sites, 58 bathing beach monitoring sites, adding 7 coastal lakes, bacterial stream monitoring, private well testing, non-community well inspections, participation in rapid beach water quality (qPCR) project; *Somerset County HD* – public non-community system monitoring, ambient stream monitoring (with NJDEP).
- **Technical Presentations** (Copies of all of the following presentations have been posted to the Council's webpage - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/wmccpresentations.html>)

The Council heard technical presentations on the following related to the Private Well Testing Act, Groundwater as well as the National Water Census on Water Supply and Demand (& what it means for NJ):

Private Well Testing Act

Private Well Testing Act and 2008 Results – Judy Louis (NJDEP/OS)

Judy Louis provided an overview of the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA), including a summary of the rules, requirements under the Act, as well as sources of additional information (including a website designed for people who are buying/selling a home with a private well). Judy also summarized the PWTA results from Sept 02 – April 07. During that time period, over 50,000 wells were sampled. A variety of contaminants were tested including total coliform, arsenic (some counties), nitrate, mercury (some counties), gross alpha (some counties), uranium (some counties), VOCs and lead. Judy explained that perchlorate is to be added to this list of contaminants and will be required, statewide, for testing. Radon is also being recommended for addition but has not yet been proposed.

Groundwater

A. *NJ Ambient Shallow Groundwater Network Update* – Ray Bousenberry (NJDEP/NJGS)

Ray Bousenberry provided an update on the state's ambient shallow groundwater monitoring network. The 150 well network, which is a cooperative effort between NJDEP (NJGS & WM&S) and USGS, samples 30 wells/year on a rotating basis, with the entire network being sampled 1x/5yrs. The second round of sampling for the entire network was just completed in 2008. Preliminary results indicate that, while it's still too early to draw conclusions or site trends, the frequency of Nitrite + Nitrate exceeding the GWQS has decreased between rounds, the variety of VOCs detected in both southern and northern NJ decreased, there was an overall decrease in MTBE detections statewide, the most commonly detected pesticides are: atrazine, deethylatrazine, metolachlor, prometon, and simazine, and the increase in radioactivity seen in both northern and southern NJ appears to be due to agrochemicals and lawn chemicals. Ray stated that there will be more information available this fall and offered to update the Council again, either in fall or winter.

B. *National Groundwater Monitoring Workgroup* – Eric Vowinkel (USGS NJ Water Science Center)
Eric Vowinkel provided the Council with information on a new ACWI workgroup designed to develop a national groundwater monitoring network. The network is being designed as a result of an ACWI charge to develop and implement a network to provide long-term information on groundwater quality and quantity necessary for planning, management and development of groundwater resources for current as well as future needs. The draft framework document, for this network, is available on the ACWI website (<http://acwi.gov/sogw/pubs>). As part of this framework, an inventory of state ground water monitoring activities (levels and quality) has been developed as well as a summary of existing monitoring. Network goals and design include developing a relationship between groundwater levels and groundwater quality, including comparable field practices, data standards and management, and a stepwise approach to implementation (inc. pilot programs – similar to the national surface water monitoring network).

National Water Census on Water Supply and Demand

National Water Census and Water Use/Availability in NJ – Eric Evenson (USGS NJ Water Science Center) and Steve Domber (NJDEP/NJGS)

Eric Evenson and Steve Domber briefed the Council on a national water census effort and what it means for NJ. The national effort is designed to provide water availability information for decision-making purposes. Indicators of water availability include (among others) precipitation, evapotranspiration, water stored in snowpacks/large lakes/ice fields, ground water levels/recharge/storage, stream & river runoff/baseflow characteristics, water withdrawals, interbasin transfers, consumptive uses, & return flows. As part of the SECURE Water Act, passed by Congress in March 2009, a National Water Availability and Use Assessment Program is to be developed. In order to do so, USGS is trying to bring together all existing plans and legislative mandates, integrate

existing science efforts to enhance available resources to tackle water availability questions, and develop an implementation plan for the Water Census. According to Eric, NJ is well positioned to be part of this effort – it has great monitoring station coverage for trends analysis (water quality, surface water & ground water), large water use dataset, NJ Water Tracking Model and consumptive use coefficients for hypothesis testing, NJAT and HIP tools for ecoflow analysis, large coverage of groundwater models for the state, and the State Water Supply Master Plan lays out many future alternatives for evaluation. Steve explained the NJ Water-Tracking Data Model – a tool for storing and analyzing water use data that was developed with USGS – which links various datasets together and allows the user to look at the conveyance of water from withdrawal to discharge. The NJ Tracking Model contains sites, conveyances and transfer volumes and can be used to determine water source(s), where it is being used and for what purpose(s), how much is being used and by whom, where does it go, & how do these facts change over time. 2000-2007 data are expected to be available, for use with this model, during summer 2009.

- **Technical Topics for Next Meeting**
HUC 12/Stream Hydrography, NY/NJ Harbor Dischargers' Ambient Monitoring

- **Next Meeting**
September 30, 2009 at NJDEP HQ