



# NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council

## Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

May 30, 2007  
MEETING MINUTES

### Attendees

Leslie McGeorge, Rick Kropp, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Lisa Barno, Randy Braun, Gary Buchanan, Bob Connell, Danielle Donkersloot, Tom Fikslin, Jack Gibs, Jawed Hameedi, Nancy Immesberger, Mike Kennish, Ed Konsevic, Al Korndoerfer, John Kushwara, Judy Louis, Diana Morgan (for Joan Ehrenfeld), Karl Muessig, Boris Rukovets (for Howard Golub), Ed Santoro, Mike Serfes, Amy Shallcross, Bill Simmons, Dave Stedfast, Bob Tudor

### Absent

Kirk Barrett, Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), MaryAnne Kuserk, Nick Procopio, Steve Nieswand, Bob Reiser, Eric Vowinkel, Mike Weinstein, Paula Zevin

### Guests

Darvene Adams – EPA Region 2

### ➤ **Old Business**

- Minutes from the 1/31/07 Council meeting were approved.

### ➤ **Announcements**

- Rick Kropp announced that Dave Stedfast is retiring, effective August 3
- Leslie McGeorge announced that, since the last Council meeting, the following NJDEP programs have been transferred to Water Monitoring & Standards: Volunteer Monitoring, Coastal Cooperative (Beach) Monitoring, and Clean Shores

### ➤ **National Water Monitoring Council Meeting**

Leslie provided a summary of the National Council meeting that was held in March in Louisiana. Updates included status of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network as well as planning for the 2008 National Conference.

National Network - The Delaware Basin was chosen as one of the 3 pilot areas for the National Network (San Francisco Bay and Lake Michigan are the other 2 pilots). DRBC is taking the lead in developing the pilot. Bob Tudor provided a presentation (detailed later in these meeting minutes) on the Delaware Basin Pilot development to date.

National Conference – May 18-22, 2008, Atlantic City.

Council members provided ideas for potential field trips, workshops, posters & displays for the National Conference, which Leslie will provide to Eric Vowinkel for Conference Planning Committee Consideration at the upcoming NWQMC meeting in July. These included:

### Field Trips

- Horseshoe crab monitoring (Reed's Beach, Cape Shore)
- Whale watching (Atlantic City, Cape May)
- Back bay kayaking trip in Barnegat Bay
- Pine Barrens canoe trip
- Rutgers' COOL Room (New Brunswick)
- Rutgers' coastal ocean lab (Tuckerton)
- NJDEP's marine water monitoring lab (Leeds Point)
- Marine Mammal Stranding Center (Brigantine)
- Bird watching trip to Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (Barnegat or Brigantine)
- New windmills (powering Atlantic City Utilities Authority)
- Visit to an arsenic in groundwater site in NJ (Vineland or Hunterdon County)
- Pinelands trip (sponsored by the Pinelands Commission?)

### Workshops

- Coastal ocean observing systems/IOOS
- Microbial source tracking for shellfish water and recreational impairments
- Stressor Identifications for biological impairments
- Volunteer monitoring
- Innovative technologies
- Rapid methods for testing beach water quality
- Ecosystem assessment using chemical and biotic indicators
- Shellfish water quality/ecological monitoring (inc. toxic blooms)
- Water quantity
- Precipitation monitoring
- Priority pollutants of concern (e.g., emerging contaminants)
- Monitoring support for modeling activities (surface & ground water monitoring, oyster populations, specific examples – Passaic, Pinelands, etc.)
- Real-time monitoring
- NJ's shellfish industry and monitoring associated with important resource
- Substrate (benthic) monitoring
- Using GIS and Spatio-Temporal Geostatistical Methods to Evaluate Environmental Data

### Displays/Posters

- NJ's Coastal ocean observing system (inc. gliders)
- NJ's WQ Information Exchange Network
- NJ Water Monitoring Council

Council members interested in participating in the planning of the Conference were asked to submit their names to Alena. Danielle Donkersloot volunteered to be part of this committee. Suggestions were made regarding 1 day registrations, student registrations, and group rate registrations as well as scholarships for presenters/moderators. In addition, a suggestion was made to approach the NJ shellfish industry regarding being a conference sponsor. Bob Connell agreed to approach the NJ Dept of Agriculture regarding this suggestion. All of these suggestions will be passed along to the Conference Planning Committee.

Additionally, Council members were invited to attend the National Council meeting in Philadelphia in July, if interested. If any members were interested in attending, or making a presentation at the meeting, they are asked to let Leslie know (NOTE: the following NJ Council members did attend at least 1 day of the National Council meeting – Rick Kropp, Bob Tudor, Bob Connell, Al Korndoerfer, & Danielle Donkersloot).

- **Technical Presentations** (Copies of all of the following presentations have been posted to the Council's webpage - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/wmccmeetinginfo.html>)

The Council heard technical presentations on the following related to Integrating National, Regional and State Monitoring Efforts:

A. *NOAA Integrated Water Resource Services* – Jawed Hameedi (NOAA)

Jawed Hameedi provided an overview of this new priority initiative within NOAA, whose primary objective is to develop integrated products and services. In the water resources area, this involves augmenting & integrating weather, water & climate services, linking NOAA's weather, water, climate & biological analysis and forecast activities, and strengthening partnerships and education. This is being accomplished via Priority Area Task Teams, with one of the ultimate goals being to support implementation of the National Water Monitoring Network. One near-term output is a White Paper – "Forecasting Surface Water Quality Conditions for the US". Council members were asked to provide Jawed with any big scale ideas for consideration for the White Paper. Rick also requested that Jawed contact Jack Gibs (USGS) regarding sampling coordination.

B. *MACOORA: Proposal to NOAA for IOOS Expansion* – Bob Connell (NJDEP/WM&S)

Bob Connell presented a summary of the NJ-related proposals that have been submitted to NOAA which, if funded, would leverage existing observational, data management and forecasting expertise in the Mid-Atlantic region to generate historic as well as real-time coastal and ocean-related information. Decisions are expected shortly and, if funded, grant money will be available by January 2008.

C. *Delaware River Basin Pilot Project for the National Water Monitoring Network* – Bob Tudor (DRBC)

As DRBC is taking the lead in this effort, Bob Tudor provided an overview of progress to date in development of the Delaware River Basin pilot project, including project partners, Steering Committee members, workgroups and their members, as well as remaining technical & operational needs. Bob announced that it is the Steering Committee's intention that all workgroups have at least 1 meeting prior to the National WM Council meeting in July, so that he can include this information in his presentation at the National Council meeting on the status of the pilot. Many of the workgroups are still looking for additional members – specifically the Contaminants and Biological Refinement workgroups. In addition, a representative from the volunteer monitoring community is needed (Danielle Donkersloot suggested the Delaware Riverkeeper), as well as representatives from EPA Region 2 (John Kushwara agreed to provide additional names). All information should be provided to Bob Tudor.

D. *National Water Monitoring Survey's: EPA's Past, Present & Future Plans* – Darvene Adams (EPA Region 2)

Darvene Adams provided an overview of the various national water monitoring surveys that EPA has either performed (e.g., wadeable streams, NCA), is performing (e.g., lakes) or has plans to perform in the future (e.g., large rivers, wetlands), including a schedule of all of the surveys so that Council members could see timeframes for commencement/conclusion of each. She also discussed NJ's participation in and key findings of the WSA & NCA surveys, as well as briefly discussed the just-underway lakes survey. In addition, she provided some brief information regarding EPA's Lake Fish Tissue survey (which was discussed by Jim Kurtenbach, EPA Region 2, at a previous Council meeting).

E. *NJ's Ambient Lakes Monitoring Program* – Al Korndoerfer (NJDEP/WM&S)

Al Korndoerfer presented information on NJDEP's recently reinstated Ambient Lakes Monitoring program, including number of stations in the monitoring network, number of stations sampled per year, frequency of sampling, sampling parameters, as well as data collection, analysis and distribution information. In addition, he provided results and findings from the 1<sup>st</sup> round of sampling under this program. He also briefly discussed NJ's planned participation in the National Lakes Survey (which had been highlighted in the previous presentation by Darvene Adams).

- **EMAP Conference**

Several Council members attended the EMAP conference in April, in Washington, DC., including Leslie, Bob Connell, Tom Fikslin, and Ed Santoro. Items that came out of this conference that may be important to the NJ Council include: use of probabilistic tools and their integration with targeted monitoring (future Council agenda item – monitoring designs), tailoring topics/issues to regional or state priorities, as well as the importance of producing Coastal Condition Reports (NJ is in the developmental phase for producing its inaugural report; 3 other states are also producing such a report).

➤ **Member Updates**

The following updates were announced by Council members:

- *Fall 2008 NJ Water Monitoring & Assessment Workshop* – Leslie announced that a decision has been made to use the remainder of the EPA grant money to fund another NJ Water Monitoring Workshop. This workshop is planned for Fall 2008, in order to accommodate the National Conference being held in Atlantic City in May. Planning for this workshop is expected to commence this fall. Danielle Donkersloot mentioned that the volunteer community is excited about joining forces for this workshop. She also announced that this year's Volunteer Monitoring Summit is scheduled for Nov 29 & 30 at Cooper River Boathouse.
- *World Water Monitoring Day* – Alena announced that the NJ 2007 celebration of World Water Monitoring Day will be held on October 18 at Liberty State Park. NJDEP, USGS, EPA Region 2 and the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute have agreed to partner together to host this event. Any additional Council member organizations, wishing to join, should contact Alena.
- *Upcoming NJWRRI-sponsored Meetings/Workshops* – Diana Morgan announced that he was convening a meeting to discuss using the Delaware Basin as a pilot. A conference call on this was to be held on Friday, February 2. Council members interested in participating were asked to contact Bob.
- *MACOORA Annual Meeting* – Bob Tudor announced that the annual MACOORA meeting has been scheduled for October 29 & 30.

➤ **Topics for Next Meeting**

2008 National Water Monitoring Conference  
Air Deposition: Impacts to Water  
Impacts of Nutrients

➤ **Next Meeting**

September 6, 2007 at DEP HQ.