



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Chris Christie
Governor
Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Bob Martin
Commissioner

Water Supply Advisory Council

August 18, 2013

Location – Middlesex Water Company's Edison Plant

9:35 – 11:50

Meeting Summary

DRAFT

Attendees

Council Members Present: Chris Andreasen, MWC; Pam Carolan, Mount Laurel Township MUA; Neil Goldfine, Chair, ACMUA; Bill Hutchinson, SMCMUA; Steve Jany, Agriculture; Norm Nelson, 2nd Vice Chair, VNHA

Council Members Absent: Pete Haran, Joseph's Landscaping & Irrigation, Inc.; Vince Monaco, NJAWC; Mickey Stachowski, Concordia Golf Course; Dr. Taha Marhaba, NJEIT

Advisors Present: Dan Van Abs, Rutgers; Maria Moran, BPU; Tony Navoy, USGS; Bob O'Neil (for Ken Klipstein), NJWSA

Advisors Absent: Pen Tao, private

NJDEP: Jeff Hoffman

Observers: Ferdows Ali, Dept. of Ag.; Renée Brecht, ALS; Laura Cummings, SMC-MUA; Joe Stroin, NJDWSC; Frank Marascia, New Brunswick Water; Jessica Sanchez, DRBC

Discussion Summary:

1. **Welcome**
Neil called meeting to order at 9:35. Chris welcomed Council to Middlesex Water Company's Edison plant.
2. **Review of Minutes**
Council reviewed the minutes of the June 21, 2013 meeting. Bill mentioned one change needed on a comment he made. Minutes approved as changed.

3. **Status of Reappointments/Membership Issues**

The Governor's office has called all 'carry over' members who need reappointments and asked for additional information. The members called said they have submitted this information to the NJDEP in the past and also the Governor's office. But at least this is progress.

The Council's bylaws say it has ability to appoint acting members who remain on the Council until permanently appointed by Governor or are replaced by a Governor's appointment. Who will fill Ella's position? She represented private watershed protection associations. Dan points out that the Watershed Institute has links to many of these associations and conducts frequent meetings with them. Working through them may be a good way to get nominees for filling Ella's position. Dan will send Jeff the name and address of current head of the Watershed Institute. Jeff will draft a letter for Neil to send asking for the Watershed Institute to get nominations to fill Ella's position. Once the Council names an acting member he or she will be recommended to DEP commissioner for Governor's appointment. The Watershed Institute has a big meeting in September that Dan plans to attend.

4. **Drought Response**

No concerns about drought. All hydrologic indicators in all drought regions are green.

5. **Water Supply Plan**

No movement on plan. The two data reports (low flow approach methodology, HUC11 withdrawals) are moving through the editing and approval process. These are purely data – no policy and no analysis which depends on policy calls.

6. **Legislation**

No movement on either the water tax bill (A1971) or reservoir/flooding bill (A267).

Bill A4232/S2844 – An act concerning the powers of certain local authorities and amending P.L.1957, c.183 - passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk for signing. It applies to three pilot counties – Camden, Gloucester and Union. Several council members mentioned concerns that this bill allows county authorities to transfer undesignated money away from utility authorities to fund other projects.

7. **Water Supply Advisory Council Refocusing**

General discussion, at various times through the meeting, of what the Council should focus on. The Council's input on the draft Water Supply Plan isn't needed at the moment. Jeff will ask NJDEP management if there's anything specific the Department would like from the Council

Some possibilities:

- A. What is the practicality of using water-supply reservoirs for downstream flood protection. The Council continues to have an interest in making sure efforts by Governor, Commissioner and Legislature on this topic are rooted in science, are practical, and are done with full knowledge of engineering limitations and potential impact on water supply. Neil would like to see a good study that evaluates risks. Dan points out that the recent Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission published a major report with recommendations. The Council agreed that everyone should review the Commission's final report by the next meeting and this will be on the agenda. The Council asked Jeff to email everyone internet link to the Commission's report.

Some possibilities in this area:

- a. Create a study that summarizes all previous work.
 - b. Develop an RFP for a report that would document all possible impacts with risks to both water supply and flooding.
 - c. How do sustainability issues tie in? This includes preparing for drought as well as building in the flood plain.
 - d. Need a good PR campaign to highlight water supply issues that could be caused by releasing water from reservoirs. The Council could lead or assist this effort.
- B. What exactly is meant by resiliency and asset management for water supply? What can the Council do to help this along? The NJDEP's approach is currently at the DAG for review.
- C. What regs does NJDEP have in draft form now? The Council could review and comment on them.
- D. Should the Council review the WQMPs to make sure they correctly cover water supply issues? Maybe in 2014?
- E. The Council could delve more deeply into Cape May's water supply issues. Maybe in 2014?

8. **Climate Change**

Dan is working with the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance. He is the contact on water issues. He is charged with getting input on two questions and asked them of the tee Council. The questions, along with the responses from the Council, are below. (Note: responses provided by Dan).

What potential impacts of climate change are of greatest concern for water resources and water utilities?

- Uncertainties regarding rainfall patterns and amounts
- More precipitation extremes and impacts on utility operations

- Financing of changing operations in response to weather extremes
- Lengthening of growing season and effects on irrigation needs, ET
- Stress on regional resiliency
- Increased flooding of facilities
- Availability of utility power and backup
- Major storms restrict O&M activities
- Invasive species in water bodies
- High temperature effects on equipment
- Greater need for technical competence in utility staff as operations get complicated
- More intense storms will create more turbidity, increasing treatment costs and feasibility
- Sea level rise will create flooding, saltwater intrusion and wellhead flooding
- Water quality changes (chemical and biological) due to temperature increases
- Chemical needs for treatment due to temperature increases and biological impacts
- Potential ground water recharge losses that reduce aquifer yields/availability

What actions or programs are most needed in New Jersey to respond to climate change impacts regarding water resources and water utilities?

- The new NJ Statewide Water Supply plan is needed and should be released
- Improved technical training, both scholastic and utility staff. Raritan Valley Community College is starting a program for training beyond basic licensing needs.
- University “extension agent” approach for service to utilities
- Need university research faculty to focus on water utilities, resiliency and asset management. Rutgers used to have a core of faculty in the Department of Environmental Sciences, but many have retired over the years and not been replaced.
- Masters in Environmental Engineering – related to point above – significant interest
- Guidance and funding for incorporating resiliency in water utility functions
- Public education to create support for action
- Consistent set of climate change and precipitation scenarios, shared among and sanctioned by all relevant agencies, to serve as a basis for planning and design (similar to NJDEP use of design storms for stormwater management)
- Improved monitoring and data directly related to facilities and resources at risk

Dan will take the results back to the Alliance. The Council asked Jeff to email a link to the Alliance.

9. New Business

- A. Some discussion of the outputs of the recent Gibson bill. This bill had two parts – a Cape May study and a Pinelands study. We will be briefed on the results of the Pinelands study at next meeting. Renée points out that the Cape May portion called for an economic study to predict changes in water demand patterns as well as a groundwater study. Tony says that the groundwater study has been done but that the County initially disassociated itself from the economic study. The NJDEP has been working with

the purveyors to predict future water demands and to determine how to shift pumpage so as to minimize salt-water intrusion.

- B. Jessica is concerned about how to protect clusters of domestic wells. This is a concern in the Pinelands. Pam says county-based WQMPs are due to be finished this fall. The Council recently had a presentation from NJDEP staff working on this. They are basing the water supply portion of the WQMP analysis on purveyor's unused allocations.
- F. Several members mentioned that July had record low water demands. This has created lower-than-expected revenues.

10. **New Reports**
None

11. **Upcoming Council Meetings**

- The September 20, 2013 meeting will be at the Pinelands Commission. Their location is 15 Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ. They will brief the Council on how the results of recent studies affect their water supply planning and regulation processes.
- Meetings after that are 10/18/13, 11/15/13, 12/20/13

12. **Other Meetings**

The next Clean Water Council meeting will focus on Green Infrastructure. This is focuses on making necessary institutional and financial changes. It will not focus on technology.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Action Items:

- Jeff to ask what topics NJDEP would like advice from the Council on.
- All members to review outputs and conclusions of the Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission
- Jeff to distribute internet links to the Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission and the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance:
 - Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/passaicriver/>
 - New Jersey Climate Change Adaptation Alliance
<http://climatechange.rutgers.edu/njadapt.html>

Minutes by Jeff Hoffman