NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

SOUTH JERSEY SECTION

Minutes of the May 26, 2021 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Bob Carlson at 17:08 hours at Carlucci’s Waterfront located at 876 Centerton Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

 Bob Carlson, President

Joe Pantalone, Vice President

Kathy Collinge, Treasurer

Rick Eustace, Trustee

Frank Deyhle, Trustee

**Approval of Minutes**: Bill LaPorte made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 business meeting, seconded by Frank Deyhle and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President’s Report:** Bob Carlson

* We are finally coming out of the Covid pandemic.
* Attended the Executive Business Meetings on December 9, 2020 and April 20, 2021.
* Attended the Virtual Annual Meeting of the Governing Council on April 16, 2021.
* The Annual Conference, Tech Transfer and Venders Day have been postponed.
* The Golf Outing will be in 2021, to be discussed.
* Privatization of Utilities to be discussed.

**Vice President’s Repor**t: Joe Pantalone

* Attended the Executive meetings on December 9th, 2020 and April 20, 2021.
* The 2021 Scholarships have been awarded.
* Executive Committee is working on a new member solicitation.
	+ Would like to attract the younger members and have them involved.
	+ Kathy, Bob and I are working on a new member package.
* Hopes to gain new member activity from ACUA.

**Treasurer’s Repor**t: Kathy Collinge

* Attended the Executive Business Meetings on December 9, 2020 and April 20th, 2021.
* Attended the Virtual Budget Committee Meeting on January 8, 2021.
* Attended the Virtual Annual Meeting of the Governing Council on April 16, 2021.
* Made various disbursements.
* Association checking account reconciled balance as of April 30, 2021 was $44,217.01.
* The Section’s Wells Fargo Investment portfolio for April closing is as follows: $20,000 in CD’s with varying maturity dates; Closing value of $21,630.89. Cash and sweep balance is $1,343.27.
* The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted for ratification.
	+ Frank Deyhle made a motion to approve the submitted Financial Statements, seconded by Dave Kennedy and unanimously approved.

**Secretary’s Report:** Joe Weber, No Report

**Past President’s Report:** Josh Palombo, No Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Health & Safety:** Harry Smith

* Report read by Daren DiFonzo.
* The October Technology Transfer Safety Session in Eatontown is a go. Our NJWEA Safety Committee is working up a program for this event. We are confident that we will have another great program that is relevant to the workplace.
* The Safety topic for this meeting is the importance of Safety Training and Plans within your company and facility. Be advised, OSHA and NJ PEOSH are out and about in force. They began visiting Companies and Wastewater Plants performing inspections March of this year. Most importantly, let us keep our workers safe.
* Keep systems up to date.
* We will meet to plan out September Technology Transfer Safety session during the Convention when we sit down together.
* I am not able to attend this meeting, our newest NJWEA and Safety Committee member Daren DiFonzo will preside in my place. He is the President and Owner of Certified Health and Safety Services as of November 2020.

**Memberships:** Vacant, No Report

**Sick & Welfare:** Rocco Maiellano, No Report

**Nominating & Awards:** Rocco Maiellano, No Report

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**Seminar & Technology Transfer:** Jim Neville, No Report

* Rick Eustace informed members that the Seminar and Technology Transfer is being planned for October. Not sure of person count limitations at venue or Company limits for people traveling.

**Affiliates:** Bill LaPorte

* Vendor’s Day was cancelled, tentatively set for June 18th.
* Bill and Mimi from SJWP agreed that the venue limitations of 150 attendees was the reason for the decision to cancel.

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, No Report

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

* The following bills have seen action this spring. April is one of my favorite Legislative months as all the meetings are Budget meetings so no new bills for the month (Hopefully). March 25 was ridiculous with 17 pages for a total number of 332 bills. May has seen the continuing of budget meetings scheduled out to May 20th and committees have also held hearings on bills. May 12th saw 10 pages of bills for a total of 192 seeing action. Besides budget hearings, action in April and May has been the signing of several economic assistance bills and while they don’t help water and wastewater treatment and conveyance systems directly, they will help our customers and hopefully reduce delinquent accounts or get customers back open.

**A2846  Permits certain local units and authorities to reduce water, and sewer, and stormwater fees and other charges for low-income persons.**

2/20/2020 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee
3/15/2021 Reported out of Asm. Comm. with Amendments, and Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**A5016  Establishes Water Apprenticeship, Training, and Resources Pilot Program in DOLWD.** We were successful to have the bill amended to include wastewater workers as well.

11/19/2020 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Special Committee on Infrastructure and Natural Resources Committee
12/10/2020 Reported and Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee
2/24/2021 Reported out of Assembly Comm. with Amendments, 2nd Reading

**A5053 Amends list of environmental infrastructure projects approved for long-term funding for FY2021 to include new projects and modify estimated loan amounts for certain projects; modifies terms and conditions for certain loans utilizing federal funds.**

12/17/2020 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (40-0)
2/22/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.21.

**A5054 Authorizes NJ Infrastructure Bank to expend additional sums to make loans for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2021; modifies terms and conditions for certain loan utilizing federal funds.**

12/17/2020 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (40-0)
2/22/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.22.

**A5057 Authorizes NJ Infrastructure Bank to finance aviation and marine infrastructure projects; makes various other changes to bank's enabling act.**The concern is will water and wastewater projects have less funding with funding of projects in these new categories?

12/17/2020 Passed by the Assembly (79-0-0)
2/19/2021 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (34-0)

4/30/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.74.

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**A5444 Makes $35 million in federal funds available to EDA to support food and beverage establishments in need.**

3/25/2021 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (36-0)
4/9/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.45.

**A5446 Makes $15 million in federal funds available to EDA to support businesses and nonprofits in need.**

3/25/2021 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (37-0)
4/12/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.46.

**A5538 Increases income eligibility threshold for pension and retirement exclusion from gross income to $150,000.**

5/5/2021 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**A5539 Provides partial pension and retirement income exclusion for taxpayers with income between $100,000 and $150,000.**

**Both bills introduced 3-25-21 no text available.**

5/5/2021 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**A5719 Prohibits public utilities from discontinuing residential electric, gas, water, and sewer service after expiration of coronavirus public health emergency; requires those utilities to implement deferred payment agreements for those services.**(does not apply to authorities or municipal systems, public utility means investor owned)

5/17/2021 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee

**S968 Requires public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials; requires landlords to notify tenants of elevated lead levels.**

3/25/2021 Passed Senate (Passed Both Houses) (35-0)
5/11/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.82.

**S3522 Creates Local Part of PERS; creates board of trustees for Local Part of PERS.**This bill divides the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) into a State Part for employees and retirees of the State and a Local Part for employees and retirees of public employers other than State.  The bill transfers management of the Local Part from the Division of Pensions and Benefits in the Department of the Treasury to the Board of Trustees of the Local Part of PERS.

3/9/2021 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee
3/22/2021 Transferred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
3/22/2021 Reported from Senate Committee, 2nd Reading

**S3523 Makes $25 million in federal funds available to EDA to support microbusinesses (ten employees or less) in need.**

3/25/2021 Passed Assembly (Passed Both Houses) (72-0-0)
4/1/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.42

**NJWEA Report:** John Reardon, No Report

**Program:** Frank Deyhle

* Presently planning the next meeting for October.
* Planning a fishing trip in October either in Cape May or Sea Isle.
* Mark Borsky of Belzona volunteered to assist with the fishing trip.

**Golf Outing:** Vacant

* Brian Southwick of Gannett Fleming volunteered to fill the position as Chair of the Golf Outing.
* The Golf Outing is on September 24, 2021 at Valleybrook Country Club in Blackwood, NJ.
* The Golf Committee will meet to iron out the details.

**Ladies Night:** Josh Palombo

* Ladies Night is postponed until Spring 2022.
* All awards will be given to the recipients at Ladies Night Spring 2022.

**Scholarship Awards:** Joe Pantalone

* Two Scholarships have been awarded to:
	+ Kirstin Slater $1500.00 Robert Ingles Scholarship
	+ Faith Verderose $1500.00 Joseph W. Manganaro Scholarship.

**Operations Challenge:** Timothy Fisher, No Report

**Young Professionals:** Fernanda Luiz, No Report

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge, No Report

**New Business:**

* Introduced members who have joined us for the first time: John L. Manganaro, Rob Wilson, Steve Watson Jennifer Loudon, T.J. Lowden and Tony Correia.
* Privatization is live and well today. In May 2021, Cumberland County Utilities Authority was presented with a private Company from Louisiana purchasing CCUA. There are plans on awarding this purchase at the meeting in June 2021.
	+ Contact the Freeholders to stop this from happening to other Authorities.
	+ Educate those we serve and Board Members.
	+ We need to protect each other.
	+ Become aware of the company, Bernhard Capital. They are a quick fix for those who are in financial jeopardy.

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**Old Business:**

* With many members reaching retirement age, we must attract the younger generation. We need to make it worth it to become active members and licensed operators.

**Good of the Membership:**

* Glad to have an in-person meeting. Looking forward to the next.

**Adjournment / Time:**

Dennis Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Kennedy and unanimously approved at 17:42 hours.