NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

SOUTH JERSEY SECTION

Minutes of the December 9, 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 17:11 hours at Carlucci’s Waterfront located at 876 Centerton Road in 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**: Frank Deyhle made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021 business meeting, seconded by Blake Maloney and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President’s Report:** Bob Carlson

* The south Section’s activities have been limited due to the CIVID-19 pandemic, but we held a business meeting on October 14th, 2021, at DiDonato’s Bowling Alley.
	+ It was a huge success with approximately 20 participates.
* Worked with the Biosolids committee to help finalize Biosolids/Energy program for the Spring Technology Transfer Seminar and Annual Conference.
* Attended the NJWEA Executive committee meeting on September 17th, 2021.
* South Section’s Vendor’s Day is scheduled for February 4th, 2022, at the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 315 White Horse Pike in Collingswood.
* The South Section held an Executive meeting on October 7th, 2021 , at the Landis Sewerage Authority.
* The following is a list of Officers and Delegates that I would like to present for 2022:
	+ *Officers for 2022*
	+ President – Joseph Pantalone
	+ Vice President – Stephen Blankenship
	+ Treasurer – Kathy Collinge
	+ Secretary – Kevin Whitney

Dennis Palmer made a motion to approve the 2022 Executive Officers, seconded by Rick Eustace and unanimously approved.

* + *Delegates for 2022*

Dave Kennedy, Rocco Maiellano, Steve Watson, Josh Palombo, Kathy Collinge, Bill LaPorte, Bill Cathcart, Frank Deyhle, Dennis Palmer and Chris Jepson

* + *Alternates for 2022*

Jeff Rollins, Rick Eustace, Jeannie Maiellano, Tim Fisher, Danielle Farrell, Joe Rizzuto, Pat Witts, Blake Maloney and Samantha Liccketto

Frank Deyhle made a motion to approve the Delegates and Alternates, seconded by Blake Maloney and unanimously approved.

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

* Please complete the membership questionnaires to help us inform potential new members of membership advantages and to maintain a stronger organization. Provide us with new ideas to spread the news.
* Scholarship applications are being accepted. Applications are available on the NJWEA website. Deadline is March 1, 2022.

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

* Attended the General Business Meetings on October 14, 2021.
* Made various disbursements and deposits.
* Association checking account balance as of November 30, 2021 was $43,705.19.
* The Section’s Wells Fargo Investment portfolio for October closing is as follows: $20,000 in CDs with varying maturity dates; Closing value of $21,637.09. Cash and sweep balance is $1,468.28. CD’s that mature at end month will be rolled over to 1 year CDs as approved by the Executive Committee.
* The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted for ratification.

**Secretary’s Report:** Vacant, No Report

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Health & Safety:** Harry Smith, No Report

**Memberships:** Vacant

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

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

**Affiliates:** Bill LaPorte, No Report

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, No Report

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

The following bills are being followed for their impact on the association. This is a critical time of years, which comes every two years as the Lame Duck period at the end of the Legislative Session.

The BIG BILL we have been watching and preparing comments and testimony is S 3637 otherwise known as the RICH Bill. **S3637 "New Jersey Retirement Infrastructure Collateralized Holdings Fund Act";** creates trust fund for conveyance of certain assets for benefit of State-administered retirement systems; requires remediation of emergent conditions for certain public assets; appropriates $20,000,000. It would provide for the transfer of local infrastructure assets to the fund shall be administered by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank to be managed and to raise funds for the pension system. Numerous organizations have raised concerns and opposition to this bill. NJWEA should also opposed the bill.

Another troubling and of a similar nature is **A5035/S3186.**  This bill would establish the “Urban Wealth Fund Pilot Program” for the purpose of determining whether identification of undervalued publicly-owned assets, which are capable of generating revenue, and enhancing the ability of those assets to generate revenue, by depoliticizing and professionalizing management and control over those assets, is viable and should be extended statewide.

     The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (as compared to the I Bank in the above bill) would develop program details, in consultation with the State Treasurer, the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority, the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, and the Chief Diversity Officer in the State Department of the Treasury.  The purpose of the program is to:

1. Encourage State entities and pilot municipalities to identify publicly-owned assets that are capable of generating revenue;
2. Select publicly-owned assets to be held in the urban wealth fund;
3. Contract with a private asset management firm or firms to manage publicly-owned assets held in the urban wealth fund in a manner designed to enhance the revenue generated from those assets;
4. Serve as a holding company for publicly-owned assets held in the urban wealth fund;
5. Facilitate the transfer of management of selected publicly-owned assets to the private asset management firm or firms; and
6. Enable participating State entities and pilot municipalities to allocate increased revenue derived from publicly-owned assets held by the urban wealth fund to specific public purposes, including:

o   assistance to minority-owned businesses;

o   improvements to infrastructure;

o   investments in education; and

o   reductions in property taxes.

The bill would direct the EDA to establish criteria for the selection of a private asset management firm to manage assets held in the urban wealth fund and advertise a request for proposals from potential private asset management firms in an open and public manner.  The authority may award a contract to a private firm or firms to manage assets held in the urban wealth fund for a term of no more than five years.

11/15/2021 Transferred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee
11/15/2021 Reported out of Assm. Comm. with Amendments, and Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**A1536 Concerns sign fabrication and prevailing wage requirements.** This bill adds the sign fabrication to the definition of “custom fabrication” which is subject to prevailing wage requirements under P.L.1963, c.150.

10/18/2021 Approved P.L.2021, c.253.

**A5974 Modifies lists of projects eligible to receive loans for environmental infrastructure projects from NJ Infrastructure Bank for FY2022.**  This bill would amend the lists of environmental infrastructure projects for which the NJIB is authorized to make loans pursuant to P.L.2021, c. 204 to include new projects, remove projects, modify the priority of certain projects, and modify the trust loan amounts for certain projects, as enumerated in section 2 and subsections a. and b. of section 4 of the bill.  The bill authorizes the NJIB to expend up to $1.62 billion, and any unexpended balances from previous authorizations, to provide loans to project sponsors for a total of 182 eligible environmental infrastructure projects for Fiscal Year 2022.

11/15/2021 Reported out of Assembly Committee, 2nd Reading

**S4181 Establishes NJ Water Data Center at public institution of higher education; appropriates $1 million.**
     This bill would establish the New Jersey Water Data Center at a public institution of higher education in the State.  The purpose of the center would be to collect, analyze, and publish data on the provision of drinking water and the collection and management of wastewater and stormwater in the State, in order to establish benchmarking data for utilities, provide information on State-wide trends for State regulators and researchers, and promote connections between residents and their water systems.  The bill would require the Governor, within 30 days after the bill’s effective date, to designate the institution of higher education at which the data center will be housed.

11/22/2021 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee

**S3314 Requires DEP to prioritize funding for environmental infrastructure projects for applicants with established program to employ, at project or related facilities, local residents of nearby urban aid qualifying municipalities.**

6/21/2021 Passed by the Assembly (69-2-1) A5018
11/15/2021 Reported from Senate Committee with Amendments, 2nd Reading

**S4081 Prohibits certain sewer and water utility service discontinuances; establishes Winter Sewer and Water Termination Program; requires BPU to include sewer and water public utilities in Winter Termination Program.**

11/15/2021 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Economic Growth Committee

**Program:** Frank Deyhle

* Thank you for coming and to our Presenters, Frank Dykas and Tony Correia from NJ Safety Service for tonight’s 1 TCH program about the “Culture of Safety”.
* Our next meeting will be in February.

**Golf Outing:** Brian Southwick, No Report

**Ladies Night:** Josh Palombo, No Report

**Scholarship Awards:** Joe Pantalone

* Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Applications can be obtained on the NJWEA website. Deadline is March 1, 2022.

**Operations Challenge:** Timothy Fisher

* The NJWEA Cake Breakers competed at this year's WEFTEC in Chicago. There was a total of 36 teams from all over North America competing in 3 different divisions. The Cake Breakers competed in a very talented field of 18 teams in Division 2. Our team did not disappoint, they took home the First Place Trophy for the collections system event and placed 5th place overall in Division 2. It should be noted that they posted one of the fastest collections event times in all 3 divisions. The Team is eager to carry this momentum forward to the upcoming 2022 Battle by the Bay Invitational Competition at the NJWEA’s annual conference in Atlantic City.  This year's Team from Cape May County MUA is composed of Project Crew Supervisor (Coach) Art Cowan, Project Electrician and Captain Keith Wagner, Wastewater Engineer Emily Zidanic, Wastewater Operator Kevin Barstow, and Utility Worker Eric Hansen. The Team would like to thank the NJWEA and The Cape May County MUA for their Endless support and the many people that came to support them during the competition.

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

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge

* Kathy will accept any photographs or documents on behalf of the Association.
* Tom Grenci has been digitizing archives.

**New Business: None**

**Good of the Membership:**

* Ryan Booth from PSI Process shared information about a free training from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. Ryan will forward the information to Kathy.

**Adjournment / Time:**

Dennis Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Frank Hartman and unanimously approved at 17:40 hours.