

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION  
Minutes of the June 22 2023 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Joe Pantalone at 13:18 hours at the Cape May County Zoo located at 707 Route 9 in Cape May Court House, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Joe Pantalone, President  
Kathy Collinge, Treasurer  
Kevin Whitney, Secretary  
Rick Eustace, Trustee  
Rocco Maiellano, Trustee  
Bob Carlson, Past President

**Approval of Minutes:** President Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023 business meeting, approved by Bob Carlson, seconded by Chris Jepson and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Joe Pantalone

- South Section Meetings - Prior to this date, the Executive Committee met on June 1, 2023 to discuss various topics such as the upcoming schedule of events for our Section.
- The last South Section business meeting was held at the Crab Trap, Somers Point NJ on March 4, 2023 with over forty members, associates and vendors attending.
- Reports were given by the various Committee chairs.
- Action Items for this Meeting
  - Announcing the Scholarship Winners
  - Accepting Nominations of South Section Awards
  - Accepting Nominations of 2024-26 Officers
  - Accepting Nominations of 2024 Delegates and Alternates
- NJWEA Events Conference - I attended the Annual Delegates meeting in Eatontown on April 14, the May Conference in AC and the NJWEA Executive Meeting on June 16. Also, in Eatontown.
- PFAS - As previously reported, I am the Chair of the AEA's PFAS Committee. The uniform sampling workplan we developed was finalized but distribution was placed on hold until the NJDEP provided their overview and comments which they did on June 5. We are reviewing their comments as well as considering adding a recommendation to include a distinguishing test that being Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP) assay. TOP indicates if there are PFAS precursors that are not measured by the forty specific PFAS addressed by Method 1633. In one case, 1633 targeted testing revealed two landfills were 80% of the PFAS loading. TOP distinguished the landfills were 2% and that lead to a SIU who had exceptionally low targeted results but was giving the WWTP 12M ppt PFAS precursor. That company was 95% of the loading and the WWTP would never have realized that without the TOP testing.

The EPA is proposing to designate certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA; a.k.a., Superfund Act). We are urging all Water and Sewer agencies to adopt a resolution Supporting the Water Systems PFAS Substances Liability Protection Act. Passage of this Act would explicitly exempt public and private drinking water utilities, wastewater agencies (POTW), stormwater utilities, and biosolids management programs from CERCLA liability. I can provide a draft resolution for anyone who needs this for their governing body.

- ACUA Earth Day Festival - NJWEA was a Vendor at the ACUA's 31st Annual on April 23, 2023. It was estimated that over 10,000 patrons attended the event this year, the largest ever.
- Next Meeting - August 24, 2023, Awards Dinner – Including announcement of Scholarship Winners (No business meeting, except for confirmation of nominees for Officers and Delegates) - The Lobster House, 906 Schellengers Landing Rd, Cape May, NJ (TENTATIVE) 4:00 PM
- Thank you to the Officers for approving the donation in honor of the late Bob Cornforth.

**Vice President's Report:** Steve Blankenship, No Report

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Collinge

- The South Sections Association checking account balance as of May 31, 2023 was \$55,928.21.
- The Section's Harbor Lights Financial Group Investment scholarship portfolio for May 31, 2023 had a closing value of \$22,044.41. This value includes (3) \$6000.00 CDs with maturity dates of May and November of 2024 and the third in March of 2025. The cash and sweep balance is \$4,160.69. A copy of the statement is available.
- The most recent reconciliation, current budget vs. actual reports and profit/loss statements are submitted today for ratification. The reports are available for anyone who would like to look at them. Please motion for approval before the end of this meeting.
  - Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the reported reconciliation, current budget vs. actual report and profit/loss statement, approved by Joe Pantalone, seconded by Dennis Palmer and unanimously approved.
- I attended the NJWEA Annual Conference in May and had a wonderfully busy time.
  - It was exciting to see a packed conference. I enjoyed the Vendors displays and demonstrations, everyone went beyond this year. I know the hard work will show in the sales numbers.
- On a different note, on June 1<sup>st</sup> I attended a Virtual Executive Committee meeting.

## **Secretary's Report: Kevin Whitney**

### **Upcoming Conferences and Events**

- WEF Innovations in Process Engineering (June 6-9, Portland, OR) and WEF Collections System/Stormwater Conference (June 27-30, Kansas City, MO)
- Chesapeake Tri-Association Conference – August 29 – Sept 1, Ocean City, MD
- NJWEA Autumn Tech Transfer – Week of September 11, Eatontown, NJ
- South Section Golf Outing – September 22, Valleybrook Golf Club
- WEFTEC – September 30 – October 4, Chicago, IL
  - If anyone has other suggestions, please share – considering more relaxed settings, such as a brewery with pizza and wings – could incorporate, TCH credits, trivia, cornhole competition, etc. – need feedback from the membership if interested.

## **Past President's Report: Bob Carlson**

- Working with the Biosolids Committee.
- Attended the Annual Conference in May.

## **NJWEA Report: No Report**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Health & Safety: Harry Smith and Daren DiFonzo, No Report**

- Janette Kessler from ACUA spoke of First Amendment Audits.

### **Memberships: Vacant**

### **Sick & Welfare: Rocco Maiellano**

- Frank Hartman had surgery and is doing well.

### **Nominating & Awards: Rocco Maiellano**

- Provided printed out "Awards Committee Memo," South Jersey Section of the Water Environment Association Awards and the 2024 Preliminary Nomination Forms and all will be posted on the NJWEA website by July 7, 2023.
  - September 29, 2023 written Nominations to the Awards Committee are due.

### **Affiliates: Bill LaPorte, No Report**

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, report submitted

- The South Section has an Industrial WWTP tour coming up on September 7, 2023 at 10 AM. The venue is Price's Pit which is a superfund fund site. Prior to this landfill being closed – it received over nine million gallons of waste material of all types – liquid, drums, oils, chemicals, sludges, etc. This site impacted groundwater and local potable water wells including three new production wells for the ACMUA. Chemicals of concern include VOCs, benzene, chloroform, vinyl chloride, among others. The metals of concern include cadmium. Lead and manganese, among others. A groundwater extraction and treatment system is in place to treat/remove these chemicals and metals.
  - Lunch will be served at a local establishment after the tour. Thanks to Joe and Kathy for putting this together and for the support of our South Section in making all these meetings possible. This Zoo is one of my very favorite places to be.
  - Please contact me with any other ideas for an industrial meeting venue. Who has major industrial discharges in their area? Who has facilities that reuse their wastewater in innovative ways? Please check with any that may be interesting for our membership to visit.
  - The Industrial Committee needs a few more members. If you are interested, please contact President Pantalone or me. Thank you.
  - Please contact me with any questions or comments, 609-689-1100.

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

The legislature is in budget mode currently. While ten days in May were dedicated to the budget, several other committees held hearing on bills in May and into early June, the following are bills that saw action:

**Bill A1888** Directs DEP to establish pollinator habitat program for closed landfills.

- **5/25/2023** Passed by the Assembly (74-0-0)
- **6/1/2023** Received in the Senate, Referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee

**Bill A2894** Requires public water systems to provide certain notice of boil water notices and violations of drinking water quality standards.

- **6/5/2023** Reported out of Assembly Committee, 2nd Reading.

**Bill A3712** Requires disclosure of lead drinking water hazards to tenants of residential units; prohibits landlords from obstructing replacement of lead service lines; concerns testing of residential units for lead drinking water hazards.

- **5/25/2023** Passed by the Assembly (74-0-0)
- **6/1/2023** Received in the Senate, Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

**Bill A4759** Requires public water systems and landlords to provide certain notice of elevated perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances levels in drinking water; requires DEP to establish educational program.

- **5/18/2023** Reported out of Assembly Comm. with Amendments, 2nd Reading.

**Bill A4760** Requires DEP and Drinking Water Quality Institute to perform study concerning regulation and treatment of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

**Bill S278** Requires water purveyors to conduct, and report to DEP, water loss audits.

- **5/15/2023** Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

**Bill S3337** Establishes Community Hazard Assistance Mitigation Program in, and authorizes issuance of bonds by, NJ Infrastructure Bank to fund certain hazard mitigation and resilience projects; makes various changes to NJ Infrastructure Bank's enabling act; appropriates \$500,000.

**Bill S3796** This bill would authorize the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (NJIB) to expend up to \$1.782 billion to provide loans to local governments and privately-owned water companies (project sponsors) for a portion of the costs of water infrastructure projects, for the purpose of implementing the State fiscal year 2024 New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program

- **5/22/2023** Passed by the Senate (36-0)
- **5/18/2023** Received in the Assembly, Referred to Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee

**Bill S3792** Requires DEP to study methane emissions.

- **5/15/2023** Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

**Golf Outing:** Joe Rizzuto

- NJWEA - South Section Golf Outing is Friday September 22, 2023 at Valleybrook Country Club in Blackwood, NJ
- Held a Golf Committee meeting on May 4, 2023. •
- Had “Save the Date” flyers printed and Committee members distributed flyers at the NJWEA Conference.
- Preparing for Golf Outing email blast which will be sent to the membership.
- Former Golf Committee members who would like to stay on the Committee and those who would like to join the Golf Committee, please contact me at [jvrizzuto@gmail.com](mailto:jvrizzuto@gmail.com) or at [rizzutojv@cmcmua.com](mailto:rizzutojv@cmcmua.com)
- A Golf Committee meeting will take place in July.

**Recognition Dinner:** Josh Palombo

- We are in the early stages of planning the event.

**Scholarship Awards:** Steve Blankenship

- Based on the scholarship applications received directly and from the State level the Scholarship Committee recommends awarding four scholarships to the following people in the amount of \$1500:
  - *Kathryn G. Tobolski* is an ACIT Graduate who resides at 141 McDonald Avenue in Milmay, NJ 08340. She is a science major and sponsored by Anthony Tobolski.
  - *Seth Edling* is a second year student of NJIT who resides at 59 Tyler Road in Ocean View, NJ 08230. He Major’s in Civil Engineering and is sponsored by Steve Blankenship.
  - *Mia Caso* is enrolled as an Environmental Science major at Stockton University. She resides at 94 W. Charleston Avenue in Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260. She is sponsored by NJWEA.
  - Bridget McDevitt is a third year Civil & Environmental Engineering major at Rowan University. She resides at 114 Mockingbird Court in Swedesboro, NJ 08085. NJWEA is her sponsor.
- No applications were received that met the criteria for the Blake Maloney, Robert Ingles or Memorial Scholarship Awards.
  - Joe Pantalone made a motion to approve the four Scholarship recipients for 2023, approved by Josh Palombo, seconded by Chris Jepson and unanimously approved.

### **Young Professionals: Brian Carey, Report Submitted**

- As you know, the NJWEA is a large association with approximately 2,500 members. Many of these members have been involved in the Association for many years, if not decades, and have access to valuable resources because of the relationships that they have made. In such a large organization, it can sometimes be overwhelming to get involved when there are so many events being held, and the attendees are not yet "familiar faces."
- With that being said, the goal of the YP's is to make relatively young and new members feel comfortable. Meeting new colleagues who are similar in age is a great way to start building the types of relationships that the more senior members have. Not only am I calling on young members to become more active in the Association, but I am also asking for their managers and supervisors to encourage and support their involvement. The second part of that statement is especially important, because if you read this at the South section meeting, I bet that most of the people in the audience are already over the age of 35. These people can still play a huge role with the YP's, and it starts with bringing their younger co-workers along with them, whatever the event may be. YP's should be encouraged to take part in all that the Association has to offer, not just YP events. This could be in the form of going to your section's business meetings, joining a committee, or presenting/receiving training at the annual conference, tech transfers, or mini workshops.
- Over the years, the YP's have held social events for networking, facility tours, and provided opportunities to donate to the communities that we serve. The most recent event that was held was a networking social at the Harvest Moon Brewery and Cafe in New Brunswick, on April 18th. We also took part in some events at the annual conference in May, such as the 5K run, Sludge Bowl, and Student Day.
- Again, if you have anyone that can be added to the YP contacts list, please let me know. Do not assume that they are on my list, just because they already have a WEF membership. Few YP's have YP-designated WEF memberships. If they have a regular professional membership, I need to manually input them into the contacts list, so that they are not forgotten about.

### **Operations Challenge: Keith Wagner**

- The Battle by The Bay 2023 took place on May 8<sup>th</sup> and ninth at Harrah's Casino. It was the 15th Challenge Event. A total of (8) teams competed in this year's event. The teams were Sewerside Squad and Commode Commandos from Colorado, Brown Tide and GVC Water Recyclers from New York, Blue Wave from DC Water, HRSD from Virginia, Technicians from Maryland and Cake Breakers from New Jersey.
- The teams competed in (5) events in two days. On Day 1 the teams competed in the Process Event, the Laboratory Event and the new VR Safety Event. Day 2 the teams competed in the Collections Event, Safety Event and the new Pump Maintenance Event. Team HRSD placed first overall, and Team Sewerside Squad was a close second overall separated by only .53pts.
- Your team Cake Breakers which includes Captain Keith Wagner, Kevin Barstow, Adam Scheick, Matt Priest and Alternate Jim Knox received a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award in the Collections Event, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award in the Process Event.
- This was my first year as both a competitor and the Chairman. I really enjoyed the experience. The event ran smoothly thanks to the support of the NJWEA, the Cape May County MUA, the volunteers, the sponsors, Harrah's Casino and especially Kathy Collinge.
- I am really looking forward to next year.

- On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> the team Cake Breakers which included Keith Wagner, Kevin Barstow, Adam Scheick and Alternate Jim Knox attended the NYWEA and NEWEA Joint Spring Conference OPS Challenge Event. A total of (11) teams competed. Cake Breakers received a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award in the Collections Event. The team missed 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Process Event by only 50pts. The team has only been able to practice one day a week leading up to this event. Starting next week, the team will be practicing (2) days a week to prepare for Chesapeake and WEFTEC with help of Art Cowan, Emily Zidanic, Tim Fisher, John Reardon.
- I hope everyone has a great weekend.

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge

- Submit any photos or materials for digitization.

**New Business:**

- President Joe Pantalone presented the following nominations for the 2024 South Section Officers:
  - President – Stephen Blankenship
  - Vice President – Kevin Whitney
  - Treasurer – Katherine Collinge
  - Secretary – Kevin O'Donnell
    - Joe asked if there were any other nominees for Officers and there were none.
  - Dennis Palmer closed the nominations for South Section Officers. Rocco Maiellano made a motion to approve the nominations for South Section Officers, seconded by Chris Jepson
- Joe Pantalone has recommended the following Delegates and Alternates for 2024:
  - *Delegates*  
Dave Kennedy, Rocco Maiellano, Steve Watson, Josh Palombo, Blake Maloney. Bill LaPorte, Bill Cathcart, Steve Blankenship, Dennis Palmer and Chris Jepson
  - *Alternates*  
Jeff Rollins, Rick Eustace, Jeannie Maiellano, Tim Fisher, Danielle Farrell, Joe Rizzuto, Frank Deyhle, Kathy Collinge, Kevin Whitney and Samantha Liccketto
  - Dennis Palmer closed the nominations for South Section Delegates and Alternates. Rocco Maiellano made a motion to approve the nominations, seconded by Blake Maloney.

**Old Business:** Nothing to Report

**Good of the Membership:** Nothing to Report

**Adjournment / Time:**

Joe Pantalone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Dave Kennedy and unanimously approved at 14:00 hours.