



New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI)

February 22, 2023 2 PM via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Members Present (11):

Keith Cooper, Rich Calbi, Judith Klotz, Oleg Kostin, Gloria Post, Michele Potter, Patricia (Trish) Ingelido, Andrea McElroy, Jessie Gleason, Tina Fan, Perry Cohn

Members Absent (3):

Mike Furrey, Leslie Brunell, Norm Nelson

Public Attendees:

Chase Ballas, Claudia Barrantes-Kerwin, Ryon Bassi, Josephine Bonventre, Chelsea Brook, Brandon Carreno, Giacomo deFalco, Karola Endara, Tracy Fay, Patricia (Pat) Gardner, Biswarup Guha, Sabrina Hill, Lori Lester, Lee Lippincott, Kelly Mascarenhas, Kelley Meccia, Robert Newby, Brian Pachkowski, Bidya Prasad, Nick Procopio, Filina Poonolly, Benjamin Swartz (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, DEP)

Amy Stevens (New Jersey Department of Law)

Olga Azarian (SGS)

Heather Desko (NJWSA)

Raza Ali, Kuper Jones (American Chemistry Council)

John McGowan (McGowan LLC)

Trevor Mulhall (MBI)

Eileen Murphy (New Jersey Audubon)

Harvey Klein (Garden State Laboratories)

Samantha Jones (Chemistry Council of New Jersey)

Meiyin Wu (Montclair University)

Alissa Vanim (Aqua New Jersey)

Doug O'Malley (Environment New Jersey)

Karen Benson (H2M Architects)

Erik Person (Langan)

Anthony Matarazzo (American Water)

Joseph Guarnaccia (BASF Corporation)

Jon Parise, Vincent Iuzzolino (EMSL Analytical)

Karen Zaklama (Environmental Resource Management)

Charles Neslund (Eurofins)

Emilie Stander (Raritan Valley Community College)

Ryan Berger (Drinking Water Coalition)

High Garst, Josh Wallace (Unaffiliated)

1. DWQI Chair Remarks

Chairman Cooper opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. Members introduced themselves. Chairman Cooper announced that Anthony Matarazzo stepped down from his position on the DWQI and the Treatment Subcommittee, and Oleg Kostin was appointed by the Assembly to fill that vacancy.

2. Review of September 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Cooper asked if there were any corrections or modifications to the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Brandon Carreno acknowledged a minor edit from Judith Klotz. Members moved to accept the meeting minutes.

3. Member Updates

Trish Ingelido thanked Anthony Matarazzo for his work and introduced Oleg Kostin to members and attendees. He will be serving as the Assembly's Water Purveyor representative.

Chairman Cooper asked for a status update on current vacancies. Trish responded that 14 out of 15 seats are full. The outstanding vacancy is for an environmental health expert who must be appointed by the Assembly.

Chairman Cooper welcomed Oleg and stated that he is looking forward to his work with the Treatment Subcommittee.

4. Update on DWQI Cyanotoxin Evaluations

Chairman Cooper requested an update on the cyanotoxin evaluation from each subcommittee. He requested that the Testing Subcommittee speak first.

Tina Fan presented ([link for presentation](#)) the Testing Subcommittee's review of the Round Robin study for analysis of microcystins conducted by DEP's Division of Science and Research (DSR) and development of a Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL) for microcystins over the past couple of months. There were no questions from meeting attendees.

Jessie Gleason stated that the Health Effects subcommittee is supportive of the Department of Environmental Protection's evaluation of health effects and development of Reference Doses and

drinking water guidance levels for the cyanotoxins in question. The subcommittee has completed its memo and it will be posted on the DWQI website shortly.

Trish Ingelido provided an update on work that has been conducted by the Treatment Subcommittee over the past few months. The subcommittee has been focused on gathering information from other water systems across New Jersey and other states. The subcommittee has also been reviewing literature and case studies that cover source water mitigation, external treatment of cyanobacteria, and internal treatment of cyanobacteria. Trish also stated that since Oleg will be serving as the subcommittee chair going forward, he will be providing future subcommittee updates.

Chairman Cooper added that once the Testing and Treatment Subcommittee evaluations are completed, their work can be combined and shared with NJDEP for review.

5. Health Effects Subcommittee

Jessie Gleason gave a presentation on the Health Effects Subcommittee's review of the Interim USEPA Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS ([link](#)).

Chairman Cooper stated that the presentation and the Health Effects Subcommittee's memo and supporting documents, including initial request for this review from the NJDEP Commissioner and Subcommittee report, will be posted on the website, and he asked if there were any objections.

Gloria Post stated her support of posting the Health Effects Subcommittee's memo and supporting documents to the website.

Chairman Cooper expressed his gratitude towards the Health Effects Subcommittee and emphasized the challenging and extensive work that went into developing the report.

6. Public Comment

Chairman Cooper opened the floor for public comment.

Harvey Klein stated that, working for a laboratory, he often discusses PFAS with homeowners under the Private Well Testing Act. The release of interim Health Advisories by the EPA last June has led to some confusion in these discussions. He predicted that EPA's MCLs will probably be between 5 and 10 ppt, which would be lower than New Jersey's current MCLs. He asked how he could explain to homeowners that, while their testing results meet NJ's current MCL, they may not meet the MCLs in a few months or year. He also asked how this would impact the Spill Fund. He added that the EPA has missed their own deadline for releasing the proposed MCLs and asked if there were any updates as to when the MCLs will be proposed.

Gloria Post responded that the deadline for EPA's proposal is March 6th, 2023, as per the required timeframe after EPA has made a regulatory determination.

Chairman Cooper added that the Institute is aware that uncertainty around EPA's proposal poses complications and that similar situations have occurred in the past. He stated that there are not firm answers at this point in time. In his opinion, the proposed EPA MCLGs are likely to be below the PQLs, and PQLs will be a limiting factor in how PFAS will be addressed.

Doug O'Malley expressed his gratitude towards the DEP Commissioner for his letter requesting that the DWQI evaluate the interim EPA Health Advisories and towards the Health Effects Committee for its

work. He stated that DWQI did groundbreaking work in revealing the negative health impacts of PFAS at much lower levels than the EPA's original Health Advisories. A number of violations have been issued for exceedances of New Jersey's existing MCLs, and public awareness of the issue has changed. Doug inquired about whether the public information that was originally issued by the DEP when the New Jersey's MCLs were implemented would be updated.

Trish Ingelido agreed that there has been an increase in public awareness. She responded that DEP is actively evaluating how to most appropriately handle public notice and transparent communications to the public regarding these compounds. The DEP is watching to see what comes of the EPA and DWQI evaluations. Trish added that the health risks are not always easy to explain to the public. A report is available to the public in DEP's [DataMiner](#) to identify water systems with PFOS, PFOA and PFNA violations. Through this report, the public can view the water systems' compliance status. The DEP also has a public [microsite](#) dedicated to PFAS that centralizes information on these contaminants across the DEP.

Chairman Cooper added that the makeup of DWQI is its strength, as it includes members from all aspects of the water sector, water purveyors, people from analytical laboratories, and health experts. This diversity helps make for a productive conversation. For example, in the past, drinking water purveyors have brought contaminants that they have detected to the attention of the DWQI. Chairman Cooper also noted that purveyors have started to change how they communicate with the public about these contaminants. Chairman Cooper emphasized that a lack of transparency creates distrust.

Doug O'Malley replied that the Greenstein-Smith legislation (Bill S-3179) introduced to the Senate supports Chairman Cooper's point. The bill would require systems to take follow-up actions when levels of PFAS exceed the drinking water standards, including notice to the public on treatment efforts. He noted the benefit of having the public raise awareness of these issues to their municipal officials but noted that steps need to be taken to coordinate between these officials, the state, and other parties.

There were no additional comments from attendees.

Brandon Carreno stated that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 4th at 1:00pm.

Rich Calbi asked if the meeting will be virtual or in-person.

Chairman Cooper answered that the meeting will be virtual. There will be an in-person meeting at some point in time. Chairman Cooper thanked all committee members and participants for joining.

7. Meeting adjourned