R E V I S E D

NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council
Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

January 25, 2006
MEETING MINUTES

<u>Attendees</u>
Leslie McGeorge, Rick Kropp, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Kirk Barrett, Randy Braun, Bob Connell, Becky Cosgrove (for Bill Simmons), Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), Jawed Hameedi, Nancy Immesburger, Mike Kennish, Ed Konsevick, Al Korndoerfer, MaryAnne Kuserk, John Kushwara, Karl Muessig, Danielle Donkersloot, Pete Rowe (for Mike Weinstein), Boris Rukovets (for Howard Golub), Ed Santoro, Mike Serfes, Dave Stedfast, Bob Tudor, Paula Zevin

<u>Absent</u>
Lisa Barno, Jeannine Der Bedrosian, Jack Gibs, Judy Louis, Steve Nieswand, Nick Procopio, Bob Reiser, Amy Shallcross

➢ **Old Business**
A. Minutes from the 9/26/05 Council meeting were approved as drafted
B. 2006 Work Products for the Council include: a review and progress report on NJ's Long Term Water Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, review of the use of Supplemental CWA section 106 funding that was awarded to NJ specifically for enhanced monitoring efforts, and completion of the online NJ Water Monitoring Inventory (note: once complete, the Inventory should be used as a tool to identify new or additional monitoring gaps)

➢ **NJ Water Monitoring Technical Workshop/Training Session (April 19 & 20, 2006, Rutgers EcoComplex, Columbus, NJ)**
The Announcement for the April 19 training session on macroinvertebrate identification, to be conducted by Bob Bode from NYDEC, has gone out. It is also posted on the Council's website. Participation is limited to 20 for this hands-on class. Kevin Berry (NJDEP/WM&S) and Al Korndoerfer are coordinating details for the training session. Questions and/or needs for this session should be directed to Kevin or Al. Rutgers' Office of Continuing Professional Education is handling registration for this training session.

The flyer for the April 20 workshop is almost complete; WMC members wishing to have their agency logos on the flyer should email them to Alena. The flyer is expected to be mailed in mid-February. Rutgers' Office of Continuing Professional Education will be handling logistics, including registration, for the workshop. The agenda consists of a Plenary Session followed by 3 concurrent breakout sessions. There will also be a lunchtime speaker. For the Plenary Session, Rick will provide Opening Remarks, Tracey Mehan has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker, Leslie will speak on use and coordination of monitoring in NJ (including the Council), followed by a Panel discussion covering current & future directions in monitoring in NJ. Bob Tudor will moderate this panel. The breakout session moderators are coordinating development of each breakout session. There will also be a Poster Session, which is being coordinated by

Dave Stedfast & Anna Signor (NJDEP/WM&S). Candidate poster topics should be sent to Alena.

➢ **Technical Presentations** (Copies of all of the following presentations have been posted to the Council's webpage - **http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/wmccmeetinginfo.html**)
The Council heard technical presentations on the following:

A. *National Water Monitoring Network Design* – Al Korndoerfer
Al Korndoerfer, who chaired the workgroup responsible for the Network design, provided a summary of the development of the design for the National Water Monitoring Network. This included the history of the recommendation for creation of the network, participants in the design workgroup, goals, objectives and features of the design (including elements that would not be included in the network), as well as next steps for network implementation.

B. *Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA): Formation
 & Future Initiatives* – Bob Tudor and Bob Connell
Bob Tudor and Bob Connell provided both an overview of MACOORA, its connection with the larger IOOS concept, benefits of its formation, its goals, membership, as well as future directions. This included how MACOORA's components could tie in with NJ's coastal real-time monitoring efforts. Bob Tudor is on the Board of Directors, while Bob Connell is the NJDEP representative.

C. *Water Quality & Habitat Assessment of NJ's Coastal Bays* – Mike Kennish
Mike Kennish presented information on the current water quality and habitat of NJ's coastal bays, with particular emphasis on Barnegat Bay Estuary. Issues presented included physico-chemical conditions, habitat, anthropogenic impacts, management actions, as well as research technologies.

➢ **Subcommittees**
<u>Data Management/Data Exchange</u>
Paul Morton, NJDEP/WM&S, provided a presentation on the NJ Information Exchange Grant which included an update on receipt of the grant for development of a NJ information exchange network, data exchange needs, list of users for the network, components of the network as well as a draft design for the network.

Danielle Donkersloot provided an update on development of the volunteer monitoring on-line data management system. Danielle explained that the system is mostly focused on benthics, visuals and habitat (less so on chemical monitoring) and then walked the Council members through the components of the system. There are screen shots available of the various menus that are part of the system; if anyone is interested in viewing them, please contact Danielle (danielle.donkersloot@dep.state.nj.us).

➢ **Member Updates**
Kirk Barrett announced the Mid-Atlantic NJ American Water Works Association's conference in June. The conference will focus on stream restoration and protection in the Mid-Atlantic. If Council members are interested in either attending or more information regarding the conference, they should contact Kirk (kirk.barrett@montclair.edu).

➢ **Topics for Next Meeting**
- Water Quantity/Water Supply
- NJ's Long Term Water Monitoring & Assessment Strategy
- Planned Perchlorate MCL for Drinking Water (rescheduled from this meeting)

➢ **Next Meeting**
May 31, 2006 at EPA Region 2 (Edison).