

JERSEY WATERWORKS CONFERENCE 2021

DECEMBER 8-10, 2021 | COMING TOGETHER VIRTUALLY

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Asset Management and Finance Committee

1. **Sent a letter** to the governor's office, DCA, BPU, and other key stakeholders with recommendations on a state low-income water assistance program.
2. **Published Affordability Report (phase 2)** that showcases a new methodology to estimate affordability of water and sewer utility costs in New Jersey.
3. **Created a list of resources** to help with recent lead service line legislation for replacement and implementation (to be published in late December 2021).
4. **Expanded committee diversity through outreach** to work toward closing gaps and expanding committee racial, gender, and sector makeup.

Green Infrastructure Committee

1. **Launched the new JWW Water Risk and Equity Map** to show where overburdened communities experience water-related risks.
2. **Published** a memo on the ways that stormwater utilities can support green infrastructure.
3. **Helped to shape two** chapters of the Green Streets Handbook (completed) and four green infrastructure advocacy fact sheets (in progress).
4. **Developed** a document that showcases green infrastructure use on Green Acres projects (to be published in late December 2021).
5. **Began to draft a brochure** on green infrastructure maintenance and a list of green infrastructure workforce training programs.

Education and Outreach Committee

1. Via a letter to all New Jersey mayors, **informed elected officials** about the benefits of investing in water infrastructure and how to utilize Jersey WaterCheck as a resource.
2. **Conducted** a listening session with the New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group to learn more about their challenges and continue to identify opportunities for synergy.
3. With AWWA-NJ Young Professionals, hosted a **Young Professionals Networking Event** where those in—or interested in—the water sector met and connected.
4. **Created a new Stormwater Ad-Hoc Subcommittee** that combines all four committees' efforts. Currently, they are in the process of creating **educational materials** and a **model scope of work** for feasibility studies.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Committee

1. **Provided recommendations** for the next CSO permits after reviewing the NJDEP's technical response letters on the Long Term Control Plans.
2. **Co-hosted** a workshop with APA NJ to discuss using redevelopment as a tool to improve CSOs and stormwater issues in general.
3. **Helped plan and promote** the *Construction Opportunities Forum for Diverse Business Owners*, hosted by NJ I-Bank and NJ Office of Diversity & Inclusion
4. **Laid the groundwork** for a pilot program as part of a collaborative regional water workforce development initiative.

Lead in Drinking Water Task Force

- **Helped shape legislation** authorizing a statewide program to replace all lead service lines within 10 years by providing best practice recommendations
- **Helped shape** the Department of Education's regulations for distributing state grants for water infrastructure improvements in public schools.
- **Published a new report on lead in drinking water in NJ child care facilities**, which includes 10 recommendations to improve testing, remediation, communication, protective measures, and financial support.
- **Sent a letter to the DEP Commissioner** urging the NJ Drinking Water Quality Institute to study the health effects of lowering the lead action level from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb to align with many other states..

Data Advisory Committee

- **Launched Jersey WaterCheck** data dashboard on March 1, 2021 with metrics on over 500 drinking water and wastewater systems..
- **Launched Jersey WaterCheck 2.0** with new metrics, trend data and user-friendly enhancements. **Promoted Jersey WaterCheck** via blogs, social media, and video explainers.

Steering Committee

Welcomed new co-chairs Nicole Miller and Andy Kricun and new Steering Committee members Joel Rosa and Christine Ballard.

Jersey Water Works Members and Backbone Organization

- **Launched** a new Jersey Water Works website in July.
- **Engaged 168 members** at the annual membership meeting.
- **Educated NJ's Congressional Delegation** on priorities for federal investment in water infrastructure via a letter signed by 56 members.
- **Provided members with an opportunity** to educate NJ's elected officials on priorities for directing federal funds on water infrastructure via a sign on letter.
- **Updated members** on important water infrastructure policy wins in 2021

New laws signed by the Governor

- [A4825/S647](#)—Revises cybersecurity, asset management, and related reporting requirements in “Water Quality Accountability Act.”
- [A2863/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. (signed May 11)
- [A5887/S3960](#)—Awards project grants under “Securing Our Children’s Future Fund” for water infrastructure projects in certain school districts; appropriates \$6,608,212. (signed July 1)
- [A5343/S3398](#)—Requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years; provides for recoupment of costs by investor-owned public water systems.
- [A5407/S3459](#)—Removes restrictions on special assessments and bond issuances for replacement of residential lead service lines; revises budgetary requirements for operators of certain water systems.
- [A2134/S830](#)— Requires public water systems to offer drinking water tests to customers in certain circumstances.
- [A2135/A829](#)—Requires property condition disclosure statement to indicate presence of lead plumbing in residential property.

Recently Introduced Bills

- [S4011/A5987](#)--Directs DEP to develop State water infrastructure investment plan; requires NJ Infrastructure Bank to publish additional information about water infrastructure projects; appropriates \$200,000 to NJ Infrastructure Bank.
- [S4018/A5994](#)--Establishes "Household Water Assistance Program"; appropriates \$75 million.
- [S4182](#) --Provides for establishment of New Jersey Water Infrastructure Center at institute of higher education designated by DEP; appropriates \$5 million.

FY22 Budget Items

- \$60m appropriation to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
- \$5m appropriation to reimburse school districts for the cost of testing lead in drinking water
- \$5m appropriation to administer Water Quality Accountability Act amendments, including cybersecurity.
- \$42.3 m in Appropriations from the American Rescue Plan funds for water infrastructure projects and planning.