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## July 2022 Committee Updates

### Asset Management and Finance Committee

1. Subcommittee met to **identify ways to expand awareness and participation** in the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program with the Department of Community Affairs.
2. Subcommittee sought to support the New Jersey Department of Protection (NJDEP)'s implementation of the Water Quality Accountability Act (WQAA), providing feedback on reporting requirements, expanding outreach and access to information, and exploring data's connection to Jersey WaterCheck (JWC). **Committee will share feedback—potentially through comments—to NJDEP** on proposed rules for WQAA once released. Members provided feedback on WQAA-related metrics for JWC.
3. **Submitted nine recommendations** via comments on the proposed Water Infrastructure Investment Plan.
4. The Stormwater Utility subcommittee is working on **education and outreach efforts**. They are finalizing a video and will be sharing samples of various Request for Proposal (RFPs).

### Climate Resilience Committee (New Committee)

1. **Drafted and confirmed committee goal** to establish a utilities plan for climate change impacts and to implement solutions allowing for continued operation during extreme weather events that are reliable far into the future. Municipal and county governments employ solutions to build resilience around flood events to protect infrastructure, public health, and livelihoods.
2. **Drafted work plan items:**
  - a. Share and/or collate helpful resources for utility staff and local government decision-makers, collaborating with the relevant CSO subcommittee as needed, and prepare for an information session that helps those stakeholders understand how to apply federal and state funds towards climate resiliency projects.
  - b. Create a proposal for a visual roadmap demonstrating a continuum of resilience for water utilities, on-ramps for each phase, and opportunities for funding to build it out.
  - c. Gather input across the collaborative, especially from water utilities, on the NJ PACT rules after their release, and submit recommendations during the public comment period.
3. **Solicited input** on this committee's priority areas from other committees.
4. **Facilitated discussion** about possible crossover during the Stormwater Utilities subcommittee's May meeting.

### Green Infrastructure Committee

1. **Published [four fact sheets](#) to help local advocates promote green infrastructure in their towns.** Each fact sheet is unique for a specific audience: general population, environmental experts, transportation specialists, or school stakeholders.
2. **Published new [program inventory](#)** to inform municipalities, professionals, and others interested in green infrastructure to identify suitable training programs for specific needs. Find training programs that could help or further a career path in green infrastructure, including certifications and other credentials.
3. **Drafting a fact sheet for municipalities** with resources linking green infrastructure to climate change, health outcomes, and equity (with the help of a Rutgers University research student).
4. **Conducted four presentations** facilitated by Green Infrastructure Champions and submitted a conference workshop proposal to educate about the benefits of green infrastructure and the Green Infrastructure Champions program, with a goal of 10 total presentations over the year.
5. **Held two outreach sessions** to introduce and promote the Water Risk Equity Map. Working on a new blog post to explain how to use the map.

### Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Committee

1. **Drafting a fact sheet** to send to NJDEP to ensure that the JWW "Smart CSO Control Plan" goals are reflected in the next CSO permits, which entails reviewing and commenting on permits. The workgroup will design a workshop that will be held following the release of the first permit, before the 60 day comment period is over.
2. **Coordinating with Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) subcommittee to create a one-pager** to educate stakeholders and ensure the CSO permits incorporate current climate change data, utilizing relevant resources. Also drafting talking points for use at public meetings, including general CSO workshop, Association-Environmental Authorities (AEA), partner organization meetings, and community meetings.
3. **Planning a meeting with the CSO Permittee Network** to discuss opportunities to apply for both I-Bank and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resilience funding to reduce the overall ratepayer burden of implementing the CSO Long Term Control Plans, while accelerating benefits.

### Lead in Drinking Water Task Force

- The Lead Service Line Implementation Workgroup of the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force **published five documents** to help utility members navigate the implementation of lead service line replacements.
  - Procurement Toolkit Draft for Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
  - Alternative Procurement Options for Lead Service Line Replacement
  - Model Ordinance: Access to Private Property
  - Fifth Liter Sampling: Environmental Protection Agency's Newly-Mandated Technique for Sampling Lead in Drinking Water

- The Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Task Force’s Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Implementation Workgroup **partnered with New Jersey Water Association to offer guidance** to NJ Water Systems Operators on the implementation of the New Jersey statute (P.L. 2021, c.183). Over 160 participants participated.

#### Data Advisory Committee (Jersey WaterWorks)

- **Received updated LSL inventory data from NJDEP** in May, which will be added to the Jersey WaterCheck website. Requested data from NJDEP for annual JWC update with the goal to release the third update of JWC metrics, including addition of new data related to lead pipes and WQAA.
- **Engaged Asset Management and Finance committee members** during the May meeting to identify frames for the statewide analysis using JWC data (especially WQAA data), aiming to release a statewide analysis of water infrastructure progress using the data to highlight successful communities and their underlying conditions.
- **Working to identify two water utilities** to showcase how they replaced lead pipes or completed other capital improvement projects demonstrating related costs.

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**Successful Steering Committee Retreat** was held on April 5. Members affirmed the collaborative’s purpose and envisioned **four major strategic directions**. In the next three to five years, the collaborative will:

1. Integrate climate resilience in JWW committee work.
2. Promote the need and prioritization of funding for water infrastructure projects to remove barriers that under-resourced and systemically marginalized communities face.
3. Pursue partnerships to advance water workforce development and career pathways.
4. Enhance understanding of the importance of clean, affordable, access for all New Jerseyans to essential water, wastewater, and stormwater services via education and outreach.

#### Jersey Water Works Members and Backbone Organization (Education and Outreach)

1. [Jersey Water Works](#) (JWW) and [New Jersey Future](#) (NJF) won the award’s Equity category for their development of the [New Jersey Water Risk and Equity Map](#) and [Jersey WaterCheck](#).
2. Published 18 blogs and latest news since January of 2022.
3. Submitted application for US Water Alliance Prize consideration.
4. Published 12 newsletters to date.

*Not a member? Become a member today! Email [info@jerseywaterworks.org](mailto:info@jerseywaterworks.org).*

New Jersey faces a wide range of water-related risks, from flooding near to sea level rise and the presence of lead and other contaminants in drinking water. These and other issues affect people differently in different parts of the state. The **New Jersey Water Risk and Equity Map** contains information to help residents, advocates, and policymakers understand water risks in their communities.

<https://njwaterequity.rutgers.edu/>



**Jersey WaterCheck** is a data dashboard designed to help people understand and connect to their water and wastewater systems and to measure key parts of our state's water infrastructure. By putting all this information in one place, Jersey WaterCheck can help New Jersey residents, decision-makers, and water system managers understand the status of water utility systems at the state and utility level.

<https://www.njwatercheck.com/>

The **Lead Service Line Implementation Workgroup** was created to identify best practices that would help water utilities comply with the statutory goal of replacing lead service lines in 10 years. Resources are available to help utility members navigate the implementation of lead service line replacements.

<https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/topics/lead/resources/>



The **Planning for Our Future: Effects of Climate Change on CSOs** report, published by the **Combined Sewer Overflow Committee**, highlights the need to look at climate change's impact on planning for CSO communities.

<https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/resources/planning-for-our-future-effects-of-climate-change-on-csos/>

The **Green Infrastructure Committee** aims to support communities in employing green infrastructure to maximize community benefits, including reduced flooding and improved water quality, local economies, community health, and long-term resiliency. The committee has made available resources to advance green infrastructure.

<https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/committees/green-infrastructure-committee/resources/>

