



Solutions eNewsletter

January 2014

Volume 8, Number 1

In This Issue

[2013 BOD Election Ballot](#)

[NJFC Voter Action Plan](#)

[RAB meeting yields nothing](#)

[Monthly Joint Clearwater-Sierra Event](#)

[Whale Pond Brook Cleanup](#)

[Victim of its own Success](#)

[Assault on Common Sense](#)

[LNG Ship Crashes in Singapore](#)

[Support NJFC Enviro Actions](#)

[NJFC Website
Become a Member](#)

NJFC Circle of Song
January 5 2014, 12:30PM
TURNSTILE COFFEE BAR,
1607 Highway 71, Belmar, NJ

FMERA Environmental
Advisory Cmte Meeting (Cancelled)
Monday January 6, 5pm
502 Brewer Ave, (Ft Monmouth)
Oceanport, NJ

Restoration Advisory Board
(RAB) Meeting
January 9, 7:00pm
Building 455
Fort Monmouth, NJ

NJFC Board of Directors Mtg

BOD Election Results and Congratulations!

The Annual NJFC Board of Directors Election was held at the December's General Membership, according to NJFC BOD Bylaws.

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the following full slate of nominees that were elected unanimously. No write-in votes were elected:

- **Ben Forest**
- **Jim Franchi**
- **Sue Goedkoop**
- **Ingrid Heldt**
- **Andrea Spinelli**

These members join the remainder of the Board whose term hadn't expired. The remaining member are:

- **Ed Dlugosz**
- **Chrissie Goedkoop**
- **Lynn Humphrey**
- **Joellen Lundy**
- **Brian Ostering**
- **Isis Ra**

Officers will be elected at the next BOD meeting being held on January 14, 2014. Committee leaders will also be appointed or re-appointed at this meeting.

NJ Clearwater 2013-2014 Voter Action Plan

"Like all pollution we encounter, the cause is human and so is the solution."

NJFC has praised the methodology and thoroughness of the monumental **NJEF 2010-2013 NJ Legislative Scorecard** and looks forward to working with NJEF to

Board of Directors Mtg
January 14, 7:00pm
82 Main St (Rt 520), Holmdel, NJ

Clearwater Sloop Club Congress
Meeting,
January 18, 1:00pm
Sloop Clearwater Maintenance
Facility,
Kingston NY, or
Teleconference via Phone/Skype

Navesink Maritime Heritage Assoc.
Annual Dinner Meeting
January 22, 6:00pm
Bahrs Landing Restaurant,
2 Bay Ave., Highlands, NJ

FMERA Environmental
Advisory Cmte Mtg
Monday February 3, 5pm
502 Brewer Ave, (Ft Monmouth)
Oceanport, NJ

Joint Clearwater--Sierra Club Event
Monday, January 27, 6-8:00pm,
Student Life Center (SLC)
Brookdale Community College

Whale Pond Brook Watershed
Cleanup
March 8 2014, 9:30am
Cindy Lane
Ocean Township, NJ ,

NJFC Circle of Song
February 2, 12:30pm
(Actual Venue TBD)
TURNSTILE COFFEE BAR,
1607 Highway 71, Belmar, NJ

FMERA Environmental
Advisory Cmte Mtg
Monday February 3, 5pm
502 Brewer Ave, (Ft Monmouth)
Oceanport, NJ

**Annual NJFC Membership
Clearwater Sail
Saturday, May 31 2014, 3-6:00pm
Departing from Alpine, NJ Marina**



help educate the public on using this timely tool. Making use of the 2010-2013 NJ Legislative Scorecard, NJFC will implement the strategy to hold each and every legislator and leader accountable for their voting record by praising those legislators, in detail, who have stood up for public health and the environment during 2010-2013 period or seek an explanation for each of their voting actions from those who voted the wrong way and call on them to Vote Environment now and in the future.

Using the media and detailed letters, NJFC will contact targeted legislators and publicly question them whose voting actions are counterintuitive to their constituents interests. NJFC will use the vetted data made public on NJEF website at:

www.CleanWaterAction.org/NJScorecard.

TAKE ACTION!

NJFC is now actively seeking volunteers--both members and readers of this plea--to answer this challenge. Please open the Scorecard link above and choose a legislative district and or the legislators that you'll be targeting and let us know by emailing us at one or both email addresses. Be sure to ask, if you have any questions. Contact us at volunteers@njclearwater.org or info@njclearwater.org.

Fort Monmouth News: Latest RAB meeting yields nothing, new.

by Ed Dlugosz

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met for the second time in two months, i.e., December 4, 2013 and January 9, 2014. More than two years after Fort Monmouth closed, RAB members were treated with first new test results of the 9 landfills and other contaminated property. The Fort was closed on September 15, 2011. Almost all support activity, including environmental remediation activity, was suspended at that time with no budget or personnel until recently--only essential personnel including NJ State Police were present. During that "down-time" buildings and property continued their demise that started with the original Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) announcement in 2005.

Since the closure we had a few minor weather events like Superstorm Sandy and Hurricanes Irene and Katia to add to the demise. The properties east of the Eatontown border with Oceanport were under water caused by the surges. Almost all the buildings east of Oceanport Avenue had been inundated with 4 feet of water and extensive damage to the infrastructure, buildings and their contents. Relevant RAB computer and paper files--located in the easternmost buildings of the DPW--were damaged or destroyed according to first reports. We also learned that previous 7 years worth of reports and data provided to



Google Directions from Your Location to Monthly Meeting @ Student Life Center, Brookdale

Board of Directors
 President: Ed Dlugosz
 VP: Jim Franchi
 Treasurer: Joellen Lundy
 Secretary: Lynn Humphrey
 Ben Forest, Andrea Spinelli, Marylin & Tim Johnson, George Moffatt, Ingrid Heldt, Isis Ra, Chrissie Goedkoop, Brian Ostering

Article Deadline for Next Issue is Last Friday of Month

Donate to NJFC



RAB members and NJDEP were not in the correct format that the Army BRAC officials now required and that they needed to be rewritten to comply.

We had continually asked for the impacts of Irene and Sandy on the Fort's contaminated sites--most notably the 8 Main Post dumps, more politely landfills--and infrastructure. We were well aware of the impact small rain events had on the sewer and other infrastructure pollution pathways. We were kept in the dark for months. We asked for tours like in the early days but I guess they were gunshy after earlier tours yielded problems they, in retrospect, didn't want us to see--dangerous erosion of landfill streambanks, missing fencing around landfills and other targeted sites, test well readings that were higher than advertised. But we were told all was well after Sandy and we should trust them.

Most of the RAB meetings since the closure were dull affairs with no new test results to review and critique. This lull allowed other important issues to come to the forefront, chief of which was the Clearwater's and Eatontown Environmental Commission's (EEC)* issue of the heavy metal contamination of Wampum Lake and the scary reality of a similar fate for the Shrewsbury River. As readers have learned in local news media, the town councils of Eatontown, Tinton Falls, and Oceanport--and the Community RAB members--unanimously supported us with formal Resolutions that our contention that Fort Monmouth was a major contributor of the Lake's contamination was true and further testing and remediation were the responsibility of the Army. This issue occupied the RAB for over a year and the Army still denies it.

Getting back to the present... The January 9th meeting featured a presentation of a former Pesticide Storage facility and the 2013 Baseline Groundwater Sampling Event. The former Pesticide briefing was a straightforward, professional report of a single site. The latter "event" gave limited results of the each site's selected test wells for the 24 contaminated groundwater sites. These sites included 9 landfills, several former oil and gasoline products (SVOCs) spills at former gas stations, soldier do-it-yourself automobile repair facility, and Army vehicle motor pool areas. Other sites included leaking aboveground and underground storage tanks (UST). At the start of the presentation, we were introduced--after 7 years of testing using 2 standard methods, i.e., the "regular flow method" and a curiously-named method called Low Flow Purge Sampling (LFPS) which yielded more optimistic results than the regular flow--to a new and even more ominously optimistic method entitled Passive Diffusion Bag (PDB) sampling method which they admitted had to be tested

against the LFPS to validate its results.

After 7 years of review, study, MOD FLOW investigation of groundwater flow, and terrible test results of these sites showing high levels of lead, SVOCs, VOCs, heavy metals, pesticides, and other contaminant readings, we treated to readings that showed almost no contamination. It was amazing. What accounted for the miracle? Two years of neglect? Two hurricanes and a Superstorm flushing out the groundwater contaminants on landfills that were neither capped nor correctly stabilized? New testing methodology? Or direction from above to get things moving??

* This author, Ed Dlugosz, is the President of the Clearwater and the Chairman of the EEC and the chief non-Army investigator and critic.

**Joint NJ Clearwater/Sierra Club Event:
NJ Audubon Officials Will Describe Plans To Make State's
Forests Healthy and Sustainable**

John Cecil, Vice President of NJ Audubon, and Don Donnelly, Audubon's Stewardship Project Director and Forester, will evaluate NJ's proposed management program to make about 600,000 acres of state-owned forests more sustainable when they speak at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, at 6 pm, Monday, Jan. 27. They will be speaking to the joint membership meeting of the college's Environmental Club, the Monmouth Sierra Club, and the N.J. Friends of Clearwater. The meeting is open to the public.

The Healthy Forests Act, which was passed by the legislature last year and conditionally vetoed by Gov. Christie, is controversial to some environmental organizations because they fear that political influence will force the state Department of Environmental Protection to water down regulations designed to control private logging companies. They argue that the DEP often yields to special interest groups, to the detriment of scientific management and environmental protections. Supporters of the plan are more optimistic, claiming that selective logging will improve the health of forests and animal habitat, while reducing the threat of forest fires by removing dead undergrowth.

One opponent, the New Jersey Sierra Club, fears the effects logging will have on park access for recreation and the possibility that fees paid by logging companies would be diverted to the general fund and not used on forestry issues. The bill "does not include adequate protections for natural resources and has a plan without any rules or enforcement," said Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Sierra Club. However, NJ Audubon's Cecil argued last year that the DEP "can and should move forward. It doesn't need legislation if it does the right thing in forest stewardship."

Christie conditionally vetoed the bill because it required the DEP to adhere to the standards and oversight of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a third-party organization.

The presentation is hosted by Brookdale's Environmental Club to encourage students to be involved in statewide and national debates on important environmental issues. At the Lincroft meeting,

a pizza and subs buffet begins at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

To get to Brookdale's Lincroft campus, take Parkway Exit 109 to Route 520 West (Newman Springs Road, which becomes E. Main Street at the Lincroft campus). Take the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC) and parking lot 7, where the meeting will be in the SLC Twin Lights Rooms 1 and 2. As you walk eastward towards the building complex, Warner will be on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map can be found at:

http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf ; or, exact directions from your location can be found by clicking the link found below the satellite map of the campus in the right-hand column of this newsletter.

Whale Pond Brook Cleanup

Who?: NJ Clearwater & EEC in coordination with Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association

What?: WHALE POND BROOK CLEANUP

When?: March 8, 2013, 9:30AM Registration until NOON



Where?: On southern tributary branch of Whale Pond Brook that parallels Cindy Lane in Ocean Township. See light blue branch on the bottom left, west from Rt 35. WPB Tributary #1 starts west of Cindy Lane (crosses Rt 35 near Sunoco) and travels northeasterly to connect with Whale Pond Brook east of Branch Rd and north of Peach Tree Rd in Ocean Township.

Why?: This Cleanup is part of the effort to restore/renew Whale Pond Brook Watershed to its pre-sprawl beauty and natural fish spawning activities. Sandy accelerated need to re-clean this area in preparation for creating an end-to-end Greenway from Eatontown to the Ocean.

How?: Physical Activity; teams will be formed & assigned in locations on south side of Whalepond adjacent to Hess

Parking: Along Cindy Lane.

Equipment: Gloves & bags provided; Bring sturdy boots, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, hats & other clothing.

NJFC Circle of Song--February 2

Victim of Its Own Success

NJ Friends of Clearwater's monthly Circle of Song (COS) will be welcoming Sharleen Leahey as its lead performer in February. Sharleen has been writing and performing topical folk music for the past 30 years. From 1993 to 1999, she was the founding editor of Songs for

Peace Magazine, publishing over 100 songs that advocate peace, human rights and ecological responsibility. Sharleen was strongly influenced by the songwriters of the 1960s, including Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs and Buffy Sainte-Marie. Her songs challenge us to question our leaders and ourselves on the issues of war and peace. Among other original songs, she will be performing "What Would Woody Write" from her most recent CD "Rumors of Peace," and "Corporate News" from her CD "So Frail." She can be reached at songs4peace@earthlink.net or www.rumorsofpeace.net.

Late Breaking News!! COS has been so successful that we've been invited to leave our cozy Turnstile Coffee Bar. This month's event was attended by over 40 singer/songwriter and audience and the Coffee Bar itself was serving 40 non-COS customers. Not enough space for both or perhaps coffee drinking on our part. We will be looking for a new space and let you know ASAP!!!

Again, the COS will be held on Sunday, February 2, 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Please don't forget to bring your voices and instruments.

Location: The leading candidate venue is the centrally-located Eatontown Community Center where we held our Holiday Party and Membership Meetings in the past.

Assault on Common Sense

Proposed Federal legislation that threaten human health and the environment while protecting polluters from liability for the costs of toxic cleanups.

by Ed Dlugosz, NJFC President

For the past decade, both in my annual NJ Clearwater Festival President's Addresses and in my Clearwater presentations around the state, I've been warning the public concerning the tea party's, big business lobbyists', and irresponsible legislators'--at all levels of government--irrepressible assault on environmental protection agencies and the laws that we have come to rely on to protect our health, water, air, and soil.

For example, this year Clearwater had joined with NJEF to take action against NJ legislators anti-environment assaults by using a letter-writing campaign based on NJEF's

[2010-2013 NJ Legislative Scorecard](#).

One of the latest and most egregious examples of this irrepressible assault was brought to my attention late on January 6 by our watchdog friends at Earthjustice and TCE. This heinous Act presented by a US House

of Representatives cabal was entitled "Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013". There was almost no time for the public to react, ironically, because of its deadline and the the way in which it was introduced. I took it upon myself to act on my own behalf and on behalf of NJ Clearwater by signing onto the following urgent letter provided by Earthjustice to fight one such battle on the Federal level.

"January 7, 2014

Re: Opposition to the Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2279)

Dear Representative:

The undersigned public interest groups urge you to oppose H.R. 2279, the Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013, a package of three bills that threaten human health and the environment while protecting polluters from liability for the costs of toxic cleanups. The bill amends the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Superfund (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)) in a manner that substantially increases the potential for harm in communities across the United States. As one in four Americans live within three miles of a hazardous waste site, safe management and prompt cleanup of toxic waste sites are essential to our nation's health and economy. Because the majority of hazardous waste sites disproportionately harm communities of color and low income communities, Congress should afford great attention to protecting our nation's most vulnerable communities.

The three bills that comprise H.R. 2279 weaken the nation's hazardous waste laws and place American communities at increased risk of toxic exposure and financial liability in the following ways.

Title I- Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2279)

Title I will:

*Eliminate the requirement for EPA to ensure in a timely fashion that its hazardous waste regulations are current, relevant and effective to protect human health and the environment. The bill removes a requirement for periodic review of regulations under RCRA, making the timing of review wholly discretionary.

*Eviscerate the longstanding principle of the Superfund law that polluters must pay for cleanup of hazardous waste releases by allowing insufficient existing requirements to block Superfund obligations, thereby leaving communities unprotected and taxpayers at risk of

funding expensive cleanups.

- *Fail to ensure full liability for toxic waste cleanup, thus endangering the health of communities, causing significant delays in remediation, and placing a great burden on taxpayers to cover the shortfall, which is often substantial, particularly at hardrock mine sites and large chemical facilities.

- *Place burdensome and unnecessary roadblocks to delay establishment of financial assurance requirements to ensure polluters have bonds or other insurance in place to cover the nation's most costly and high risk Superfund cleanups.

Title II- The Federal and State Partnership for Environmental Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 2226):

Title II will:

- *Cause delays in emergency Superfund cleanups by requiring unnecessary consultation prior to initiating urgent, time-sensitive removal actions.

- *Allow states to reduce their cost share for cleanup, thereby decreasing the funds available for additional cleanup efforts.

- *Establish roadblocks to listing new toxic waste sites on the National Priority List (NPL) by giving states the power to veto such listings. The NPL is the list of the most dangerous toxic waste sites in the nation, and the listing of a site is often a prerequisite to its cleanup.

Title III- Federal Facility Accountability Act of 2013 (H.R.2318)

Title III will:

- *Potentially increase costs and delay cleanups at hazardous waste sites owned by federal facilities, some of the largest and most dangerous Superfund sites in the nation.

- *Increase litigation at federal Superfund sites without necessarily speeding or improving cleanup. Federal facilities would be liable for attorney's fees and oversight costs incurred by others.

In summary, we oppose amendments to RCRA and CERCLA contained in H.R.2279 because these three bills place the health of our communities and our environment in great danger and increase the cost of hazardous waste cleanup for U.S. taxpayers.

Respectfully,
Edward J. Dlugosz
07724"

I'm sure you'll agree the passing of the legislation would be disastrous at so many levels as to defy any

and all common and uncommon sense.

A Ship Laden with LNG Crashes in Singapore

by www.tradewindsnews.com

A Qatari chartered and part-owned LNG carrier carrying a full cargo destined for Japan has been damaged after a collision involving a Greek-controlled containership in southeast Asia.

In a statement OSG Ship Management confirmed that the 215,000-cbm Al Gharrafa (built 2008) was in collision with the 10,114-teu Hanjin Italy (built 2011) collided on 28 December at 1224 UTC while transiting the Singapore Strait.



Photos sent to TradeWinds show Al Gharrafa appears to have suffered serious bow damage while the Hanjin Italy appears to show dents and scrapes to its hull and a split container amidships on its starboard side.

Electronic data show Hanjin Italy, which is listed as owned and managed by Danaos Shipping Co of Greece, is also currently at anchor off Singapore.

OSG, which is the operator and manager of Al Gharrafa, said: "There are no reported injuries of seafarers, no damage to the containment system, no pollution risk or other impact on the environment." The company continued: "As at January 3, 2014, Al Gharrafa is safely at anchorage in Singapore. The classification society has surveyed the vessel and stated that the incident did not adversely affect the vessel's integrity or ability to sail.

"The incident is under investigation and OSG Ship Management (UK) Ltd, as manager is working closely with the appropriate authorities," OSG added.

It is unclear, as yet, if the LNG cargo will need to be offloaded from the Q-Flex. Al Gharrafa is understood to have been en route to Tokyo Electric Power Co's Futtsu LNG terminal in Japan. The vessel, in which OSG has a 50.1% stake with Qatari shipowner Nakilat holding the balance, is on long-term charter to Qatargas.

NJ Friends of Clearwater Needs Your Help to Continue Its Environmental Action Campaigns

As you've seen month after month in this newsletter and media throughout the state and region N.J Friends of

media throughout the state and region, the Friends of Clearwater has been active in fighting for clear water, clean air, environmental justice, and human and the earth's health, wherever it occurs. We need your financial support to continue the fight and the educate the children and public about many issues that occupy our every waking moment.

One example is our local fight for a clean bill of health for the 1200 acres of contaminated property of the former Fort Monmouth which soon becomes incorporated back into Eatontown, Oceanport, and Tinton Falls and still continues to pollute the surrounding streams, lakes, rivers, and our Atlantic Ocean.

While we have no paid staff like most of our coalition partners to generate sponsorships and grants, we do ask from time to time for our friends and neighbors to help with expenses like our website, this newsletter, educational and seminar costs, and travel expenses.

Donate to NJFC



Look in this newsletter, in future blasts, our website, and emails for lists of events and opportunities to help. For those NJFC members who've fallen behind in their dues, now is a perfect time to re-up. For those seniors, youth, or in financial need, we have a low \$10 fee. For those who have continuing to need assistance, write us at membership@njclearwater.org to find ways other than financial to lend a hand to Clearwater.

NJ Clearwater Urges You To Help

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to newsletter@njclearwater.org by newsletter@njclearwater.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

NJ Friends of Clearwater | P.O. Box 303 | Red Bank | NJ | 07701