

MINUTES FOR MARCH 27, 2019

The Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board (“Board”) meeting was held on March 27, 2019 at DEEP located at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Call to order:

Denise Ruzicka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. It was stated the Board had a quorum.

Board members present:

Astrid Hanzalek (by phone), Eric Lindquist, Marie Moylan, William Norton and Thom Tyler

Board members absent: Joseph Michelangelo

DEEP Staff present:

Katie O’Brien Clayton, Rowland Denny, Jennifer Perry and Iliana Raffa

Public Comments

None.

New Business

Approval of October 17, 2018 minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Tyler moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2018.

Mr. Norton seconded the motion.

Discussion of the 2018 data

Ms. Raffa mentioned that in 2018 the State did not meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation of 9,148 equalized pounds of nitrogen per day (eq. lbs N/day) because the cold weather through the first half of the year followed by extreme heavy rains during the second half of the year .

Approval of the 2018 value of nitrogen credit

Ms. Raffa stated that in 2018, buyers purchased 2024.57 credits per day at \$7.07 per credit per day to meet their General Permit limits. This amounts to \$5,255,058 in payments with those payments being shared among the sellers who produced 1319.31 credits per day resulting in \$10.9427 being paid to the sellers per credit per day. The 2018 year data is traded in 2019.

Mr. Tyler requested that the Operation and Maintenance Survey form be revised to standardize the data and reflect better the price of a nitrogen credit.

Ms. Ruzicka stated that at the next Nitrogen Board Meeting, July 24, 2019, a revised Operation and Maintenance Survey will be presented to the Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board for their comments.

MOTION: Mr. Tyler moved to approve the price of equalized nitrogen credit.

Mr. Norton seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Arbitration Panel

Three members of the Board were asked to volunteer to serve on the arbitration panel for appeals of the nitrogen credit bills. Mr. Lindquist, Mr. Norton and Mr. Tyler agreed to serve on the panel.

MOTION: Ms. Ruzicka moved to approve the members of the arbitration panel for appeals of nitrogen credit.

Ms. Hanzelek seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Draft Nitrogen Report

Ms. Raffa stated that the 2017 Report of the Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board was emailed for the Nitrogen Board Members review and comment. After the comments are addressed the report will be sent to Joint Standing Environment Committee of the General Assembly.

Status of the Long Island Sound

Ms. O'Brien Clayton mentioned that seventeen stations are sampled year round for physical and chemical parameters. In addition, 31 stations are sampled during the summer months of June, July, August and September for physical parameters. The objective of the additional samples is to evaluate the temporal and spatial extent of hypoxia.

Although annual variations can be large, subject to changing weather conditions that affect the severity of hypoxia each year, the underlying trend in hypoxia is downward. Since 1987, the affected area has averaged about 167 square miles and the second healthiest year was in 2018 with just eight days of low Dissolved Oxygen under 3.0 mg/l. in an area of 51.6 square miles.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.