

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2021

The Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board (“Board”) meeting was held on November 9, 2021, at 2:00 pm as a conference call.

Call to order:

Nisha Patel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Ms. Patel stated there was a quorum.

Board members present:

Kimberly Mason, Tom Tyler, and Gary Zrelak

Board members absent:

Eric Lindquist. Matt Pafford attended instead on behalf of OPM

Board member resigned:

William Norton

DEEP Staff present:

Rowland Denny, George Hicks, Mark Parker, Jennifer Perry, Iliana Raffa and Kelly Streich.

USGS Staff:

Denise Argue, John Morrison and John Mullaney

Public Comment:

None.

New Business

Motion: Ms. Patel moved to approve the minutes March 15, 2021
Mr. Zrealek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of the 2020 and 2021 Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program:

Ms. Raffa stated that the status of the administration of the Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program for 2020 was completed with the exception that one facility (Farmington) has not made payments for the credits they need to meet the Nitrogen General Permit.

Ms. Raffa mentioned that the facilities have reported nitrogen data from January through September using a new procedure by submitting the nitrogen data directly to DEEP’s shared drive instead of sending the data by email which then requires DEEP staff to manually input that data into the database.

The average nitrogen per day (eq. lbs. N/day) for 2021 from January through September is lower than 7,000 equalized pounds (eq. lbs. N/day) and the state is expected to comply with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation of 9,148 (eq. lbs. N/day) by the end of December 2021.

Status of the Results of the 2021 Operation and Maintenance Survey:

Mr. Denny indicated that the O&M Survey was revised one more time this year to attain more accurate data of the O&M expenditures for nitrogen removal. The O&M Survey provides operational cost data, which is a component the calculation used to determine the cost of a nitrogen credit. The survey was sent to the superintendents in September and the deadline to receive all the surveys was November 1st, but unfortunately, the department has not received all of them.

USGS update of projects.

Ms. Patel introduced Mr. Morrison of USGS for a presentation of their proposed contract for nutrient monitoring to present a summary of their research to date regarding nutrient loads in the Connecticut River.

The presentation covered the nitrogen load trends for the Connecticut River and the nitrogen loads at different watersheds.

Mr. Morrison presented their proposed contract to continue monitoring nitrogen loads in the Connecticut River at Middle Haddam and to Long Island Sound. The total amount of the project is \$341,000 with work to be performed in federal Fiscal year 2022 (10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022). The contract seeks \$237,000 to be funded from the Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program.

Board member Tom Tyler commented that other funding for USGS monitoring should be evaluated due to a concern related to depleting the Nitrogen Credit Purchase Funds reserve over time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

Additional Notes (to summarize actions subsequent to the November 9th meeting):

1. The Town of Farmington made the outstanding payment on January 4, 2022.
2. On December 3, 2021, based on email communications subsequent to the meeting, as the majority of the Board members were agreeable to the proposed expenditure, the use of \$237,000 of the Nitrogen Credit Purchase Funds was authorized to contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide water quality monitoring as outlined in its proposal entitled “Monitoring and Reporting in Support of Nitrogen Management Activities for Long Island Sound, Water Year 2022”. The Department also indicated that alternate sources of funding for USGS monitoring would be investigated in the future.