



COASTAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay Dredge Management Forum

On November 10, the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council (BRWC) hosted a public forum in Atlantic Highlands to discuss the development of a regional dredged material management plan in the Raritan Bay-Sandy Hook Bay area. The forum was well-attended by local citizens from towns on the Bayshore. Speakers for the evening included Commissioner Bradley Campbell, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); Genevieve Boehm, NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) - Office of Maritime Resources; Cindy Zipf, COA; Valerie Montecalvo, Bayshore Recycling Corporation; and, Michael Sinnema, Tom Rospos, and Joe McGinty from Birdsall Engineering.

Each speaker presented insight into the need for regional solutions for the current dredging problems and ways in which their expertise may be useful for the development of a regional plan. In his remarks, NJDEP Commissioner Campbell stated, "I want to really encourage this effort, because it is the right way to approach [dredging] on a short-term and long-term basis."

Members of the public raised important issues and expressed concerns about the implementation of a plan. However, the consensus was to move forward with creating a regional plan. According to Joe Reynolds, co-chair of BRWC, "The next step will be to review the information and public input received during the forum. From there, I would like to go about acquiring grant funds to complete a dredge management study for the Bayshore region that will analyze the dredging needs in the bay, list possible Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) sites to manage the material, and catalog all the potential, cost-effective uses for the dredged material from the Bayshore."