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GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI  
Executive Director

JOSEPH F. KELLY  
Acting Clerk

***“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”***

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# NEWS

**For Immediate Release:**  
May 22, 2017

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## **PVSC Hosts Local Officials For Municipal Day Event**

**Newark, NJ** – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) hosted municipal officials from several of its 48 member/contributing municipalities for PVSC Municipal Day last week. The objective of the event was to showcase some of the services and programs that the agency – which operates the country’s fifth-largest wastewater treatment plant – offers to its municipalities.

“At our Municipal Day Event, we reviewed services, programs and opportunities that demonstrate PVSC’s commitment to its most important stakeholders – its contributing municipalities and ratepayers,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci Jr (below). “Significantly, PVSC will continue to conduct its critical operations while charging fees that are well below the national average.”



The day began with welcoming remarks from Chairman Tucci and Executive Director Gregory Tramontozzi, followed by a series of short presentations. Among the presenters were David Zimmer, Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT), and Jeremiah Bergstrom of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE).

Zimmer informed the various municipal officials about low interest financing opportunities available through the NJEIT to all New Jersey municipalities. Since its inception in 1986, NJEIT

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has partnered with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to issue approximately \$7.2 billion in loans at below market rates. The loans have provided interest cost savings to the State’s taxpayers and ratepayers estimated at over \$2.37 billion. Bergstrom spoke about PVSC’s Green Infrastructure Municipal Assistance Program, through which PVSC and RCE have partnered to provide guidance and direction to PVSC’s municipalities regarding the opportunities and benefits associated with implementing green infrastructure practices.

Several members of the PVSC management team also presented. PVSC Chief Financial Officer Joseph Kelly spoke about how a recent PVSC refinancing transaction is saving the agency’s ratepayers more than \$14 million in debt service payments over the next four years, which will allow PVSC to maintain what are among the lowest user charges in the nation. PVSC’s average per household user charges of \$142.52 per year are less than one-third of the national average of \$435.

PVSC Chief Engineer John Rotolo spoke about PVSC’s Shared Services Initiative, through which PVSC is able to provide its municipalities with certain services and loaned equipment at prices that are well below what the municipalities would have to pay an outside vendor. Brian Davenport, Superintendent of River Restoration, and Chris Brooks, Multimedia Program Coordinator, discussed PVSC’s award-winning efforts to clean local waterways and to educate K-12 students in PVSC’s municipalities about the importance of protecting the environment. Rotolo and Eric Granholm, a PVSC Engineer, then discussed PVSC’s ongoing assessment of and improvements to its sewer line infrastructure. The day concluded with a plant-wide tour and a demonstration of the work performed by PVSC’s River Restoration Program.



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