

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
Commissioner



MICHAEL DeFRANCISCI
Executive Director

GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI
*General Counsel
Acting Clerk*

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105
(973) 817-5700
(973) 817-5738- fax
www.pvsc.nj.gov

NEWS

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Contact Information: Hollie A. Gilroy
hgilroy@pvsc.nj.gov
Office: 973-817-5735

PVSC HOSTS 2013 GOVERNING OFFICIALS WORKSHOP: DEP COMMISSIONER MARTIN DISCUSSES POST-SANDY REBUILDING EFFORTS

(NEWARK, NJ) –The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) hosted a briefing, tour and workshop today for representatives of the 48 member municipalities in the PVSC service area. The event is part of the agency’s on-going reform and outreach efforts. Highlights included the latest on PVSC’s Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts, fiscal updates, the unveiling of two new PVSC-sponsored initiatives for municipalities, and keynote remarks from Commissioner Bob Martin of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Commissioner Martin discussed issues related to rebuilding and environmental issues pertaining to last year’s Superstorm.

“I want to welcome all the local officials from the municipalities proudly served by PVSC,” said DeFrancisci. “We are pleased to once again provide an opportunity for everyone here to learn more about the operations of the agency, hear about some exciting new initiatives and learn about our Post-Sandy rebuilding plans. PVSC is fully committed to ensuring that the agency is well-prepared for future storms and catastrophic events so that we may continue to serve the people in our region.”

Mayors, business administrators, municipal engineers, and DPW superintendents attended today’s event. Attendees were also offered an optional guided bus tour of the 140-acre facility located in Newark, learning first-hand the complex science involved in treating wastewater and the agency’s plans for rebuilding after the Superstorm.

DeFrancisci and PVSC Chief Financial Officer Joseph Kelly also gave a brief presentation entitled, “Your User Charge at Work,” which gave a comprehensive overview of how the local ratepayers’ user charges are determined and how they are utilized to fund PVSC operations.

PVSC Chief Engineer John Rotolo conducted a presentation on Shared Service opportunities. Additionally, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Water Resources Program, unveiled a new opportunity for municipalities to get assistance for flood control through the program’s “Green Infrastructure Municipal Outreach & Technical Assistance.”

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“Today’s various discussions on issues ranging from PVSC’s budget to shared services and green infrastructure initiatives are essential for municipal officials, as they look for cost effective partnerships for their cities and towns,” said Commissioner Kenneth Lucianin. “As a former local official, I know that events like this are important as you move your municipality’s agenda forward.”

The workshop also provided attendees with the opportunity to meet PVSC senior staff, visit exhibits and information tables, and network with state and local officials.

“I’m glad to return to PVSC and see how much operations have improved since Superstorm Sandy struck the facility more than six months ago,” said Commissioner Martin. “The storm caused a great deal of devastation to the state and especially showed us the vulnerabilities of our water and wastewater infrastructure. We’re focused now on fixing the problems and improving the resiliency of that infrastructure here at PVSC and across our state.”

“As we continue to move PVSC in a new direction, it is my hope that we will be able to continue this very important dialogue,” said DeFrancisci.

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In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey, serving over 1.4 million people in five counties.