



Membership Meeting Breakout Group Takeaways

July 2021

Paying for Water Infrastructure

1. Support smaller or under-resourced utilities so they can best implement incoming funding. Consider pre-qualification processes, or “lowest responsive bidder” using good metrics, criteria, and precise project standards.
2. Leverage new funding beyond the standard NJ Water Bank approaches without creating brand new programs, new staffing, and losing time to build up capacity from scratch.
3. Continue to prioritize customer affordability, especially in low-income areas.

Community-Driven Infrastructure Decision Making

1. Prioritize education and communication so the community is able to get more engaged.
2. Find trusted partners, which could be an outside expert or expert in the local area that can champion the cause. Engage stakeholders with toolkits, art, and activities.
3. Schools are an important ally. Send information on water infrastructure home through the school.

Water Map and the Power of Data

1. Participants recommended several new layers to add to the Water Risk and Equity Map, such as one that shows public and private utilities.
2. Integrate local pollution data into Water Risk and Equity Map and Jersey WaterCheck
3. Connect communities with facts and opportunities for data input on Jersey WaterCheck and the Water Risk and Equity Map to build trust.

Combined Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Solutions

1. Want to see federal funding come to New Jersey and to utilities directly. There needs to be opportunities for it to go to environmental justice communities with disproportionate burdens.
2. Public participation is important. It doesn't cost nearly as much money as infrastructure, but still requires funding.
3. Figure out a way to get CSO permittees to the finish line faster, otherwise they may miss federal funding opportunities.