



**Minutes
Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

10:30am-12:30pm

(Note: Later meeting time to allow for travel)

**IEC
BioBAT
140 58th Street
Building A, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11220**

Please note: All voting items are indicated by an *

1. Call to order and Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Philip DeGaetano, Chair (NY), John Scagnelli (Vice-Chair, NJ), John Atkin (Chair-CT), Selvin Southwell (NYSDEC), Robert Schuster (NJDEP), Nisha Patel (CTDEEP), Patricia Bisacky (CTDPH), Christopher Kelly (CT AGO), Virginia Wheatley (NJDOH), Loel Muetter (NJDOH), Rose Trentman (NY)

A quorum was present.

Others in Attendance: Michael Flood (US EPA Region 2), Evelyn Powers (IEC), Azeem Chaudry (NJ GAU)

2. Approval of minutes from the March 4th, 2026 Annual Meeting (Appendix A)*

The minutes of the March 4th, 2026 annual meeting were included in the meeting materials as Appendix A and distributed prior to the meeting. A motion, duly made by Vice-Chair Scagnelli, and seconded by Selvin Southwell to approve the minutes of the March 4th, 2026 Annual Meeting (Appendix A), was unanimously approved.

- a. April 8th, 2026 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix B)
- b. May 6th, 2026 Executive Meeting Summary (Appendix C)

Evelyn reviewed the summaries of the April 8th, 2026 Executive Committee meeting (Appendix B) and May 6th, 2026 Executive Committee meeting (Appendix C) which were included in the meeting materials distributed prior to the meeting.

3. IEC Finances and Current Grant Funds Update

a. Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet (Appendices D and E)

Evelyn presented the budget versus actuals for the first six months of the fiscal year, noting that expenses were at 80% of budget, with supplies at 69% and overall being \$191,000 under budget in terms of expenses over income. Evelyn explained that this discrepancy was outstanding invoicing and federal drawdowns, particularly for projects like Long Island Sound and New Jersey, amounting to approximately \$480,000 outstanding invoices and drawdowns. The discussion highlighted concerns about cash flow and the need for timely payment of invoices, with insurance costs being a notable overage due to annual premium prepayments. Evelyn discussed that the organization's insurance premiums are increasing due to higher revenue, particularly from the \$2 million septic work project in New York State. She suggested analyzing the coverage details with the broker and including the increased insurance premium as a direct cost in administering the Septic System Replacement Program. Evelyn also noted that the \$515,000 advance from the NYSDEC has been reclassified on the financial statements as an escrow account rather than income, as it's not being used for operations but is reserved for reimbursements.

Evelyn discussed financial updates and the current financial position, noting that Chase checking was down to \$78,000 due to accounts receivables (\$536,310). She reported that approximately \$100,000 in payments were received for outstanding NJ DEP invoices dating back to March 2025, with ongoing efforts to clear these accounts receivables.

b. Funding and Grants Update

- CWA §106 FFY26 submission (\$730,000 allocation)
- LISS FFY26 Base Program Submission (\$821,380)
- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project (Year 6, Proposed Budget \$436,782)
- CWA §106 FFY25 Status (\$726,000 remaining)
- CWA §106 FFY24 Status (\$132,375 remaining)
- LISS Prior Year(s) Remaining Funding (\$642,977 remaining)
- Save the Sound Unified Water Study Funding (\$47,200)
- NYSDEC 604(b) funding August 1, 2026-July 31st, 2027 estimated at \$227,182). Final Year of Program.
- NYSDEC Long Island Sound Septic Replacement Project (Federal EPA LISO Bipartisan Infrastructure Law pass-through funds) \$2,062,500 annual budget.
- HDR/NYCDEP Bronx River LTCP monitoring and analyses (~\$16,000)
- State Appropriations

Evelyn announced the award of a \$730,000 Clean Water Act 106 grant for FY 26, which begins October 1, 2026 and thanked IEC's CWA §106 Project Officer Michael Flood (USEPA Region 2) and EPA Region 2 Grants Office for the expeditious processing of the application and subsequent award document. Evelyn announced an approved \$1.4 million FY26 Long Island Sound funding budget that needs to be submitted to Grants.gov by June 5th for processing, and discussed approved rebudgeting of \$300,000 in carryover funding to support a Supplemental Project

Proposal to procure PFAS and local equipment purchases, with a two-year no-cost time extension through December 2027 to utilize this previously awarded funding. The timing for equipment procurement will likely be winter, requiring first a revised work plan and budget approval from EPA, followed by site inspections and potential space preparation. Evelyn planned to survey other labs with PFAS equipment and coordinate potential sample splitting opportunities with Bob Schhuster and other partners.

Evelyn provided updates on balances of three awarded 106 grants with \$132,000 for FY24 and full funding (\$726,000) from FY25 and FY26 (\$730,000) available. She discussed ongoing monitoring programs including Long Island Sound funding, New York State DEC 604B funding entering its fourth year, and a proposed \$436,000 budget for the sixth year of the Harbor Monitoring Network with NJDEP. Bob Schster requested updates on the NJ DEP MOU process to avoid previous delays leading to payment delays, and Evelyn agreed to keep him informed about the status of the agreement.

Evelyn discussed a project with HDR Inc., an architectural and engineering firm contracted by NYCDEP regarding long-term control plans in the Bronx River, which involved monitoring stormwater during wet and dry weather conditions. The team successfully collected samples over Memorial Day weekend, with staff working over the weekend to capture the required data. Evelyn mentioned potential future opportunities, including a possible project in Coney Island Creek, which is designated as a priority water body under NYC DEP's MS4 permit.

The meeting discussed state budget appropriations, with Chair DeGaetano reporting that New York's SFY2026-2027 budget included the full \$96,323 request from IEC, marking the second of three years that New York has met this request. Evelyn mentioned plans to work with Nisha Patel and Chris Beluccii to develop a work plan for increasing Connecticut's appropriations, while noting that New Jersey's current appropriation remains at \$15,000. The conversation ended with a discussion about strategic planning efforts, where it was decided to develop a more targeted RFP after pausing initial draft plans, with the project timeline extended to FY 2028.

4. Laboratory/Office Update

a. Update on Staffing and Current Laboratory Operations

The organization has hired three seasonal interns to assist with monitoring programs, and is seeking to fill an office administrator position that would also help manage the septic system replacement program.

Seasonal Interns:

Alexa Rinaudo (DOH 05/04/2026)

Adelia Harrison (DOH 05/20/2026)

Breanna Henry (DOH 06/08/2026)

5. IEC FY26-27 Proposed Budget (Appendix F)*

Evelyn presented the FY27 proposed budget, which reflects a 6% reduction over the current year due to aligning budgeted expenses with actual expenses. Evelyn explained that the reduction does not mean staff or work reductions, as there is an increase in revenue. Evelyn will further discuss the treatment of the Septic System Replacement Program pass-through funding with the accounting firm. A motion, duly made and seconded, to adopt the budget as presented was carried unanimously.

6. Director's Report (See EPA Progress Reports, Appendix G)

a. Project Highlights and Updates:

- Strategic Planning Effort
- FY25 and FY26 CWA §106 Workplan
- NJDEP Harbor Monitoring Project
- Coordinated Volunteer Pathogen Monitoring
- Long Island Sound Monitoring
- Unified Water Study
- National Park Service Beach sample analyses
- Compliance Monitoring Inspections
- Laboratory Proficiency studies
- +Pool Monitoring

Evelyn provided updates on additional monitoring activities, including harbor monitoring, volunteer programs, and new certifications for total organic carbon and microcystins. She discussed the Plus Pool project, where they will accept samples from the group installing a floating pool in the East River, though the timeline may be delayed due to the country's July 4th 250th anniversary celebrations in NY Harbor. The next quarterly meeting in December will be held in person with an open house.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

The meeting discussed PFAS analysis capabilities and equipment procurement. Chair DeGaetano explained that IEC has chemists interested in learning PFAS analysis and would need scalable staffing based on workload, suggesting comprehensive vendor agreements for installation, training, and maintenance. Bob Schuster mentioned that DOH labs perform PFAS testing using multiple methods including EPA Methods 537.1 and 1633, and Evelyn suggested consulting with DOH lab staff about their experience. The conversation ended with a discussion about asbestos abatement concerns in the building due to ongoing construction, with recommendations to conduct private air sampling to ensure staff safety.

9. Executive Session

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The Executive Committee discussed concerns about potential asbestos exposure in the building due to ongoing construction work. Evelyn suggested to engaging an asbestos abatement firm for sampling, which was seconded by John Atkin and approved by the committee. The motion

included requirements for a proposal with sampling parameters and frequency, to be reported back to the Executive Committee for review and approval. Chair DeGaetano also reported that Evelyn's performance appraisal process has been delayed and will now be reported at the July Executive Committee meeting instead of June.

10. Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2027

11. Adjourn

APPENDICES:

A- March 6th, 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

B- April 8th 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

C-May 6th, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

D- Statement of Financial Activity

E-Statement of Financial Position

F-Proposed IEC FY2026-27 Budget*

G- EPA Awards Progress Reports