Delaware Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

February 8, 2008
9:30 – 2:30pm

DEP Southeast Regional Office
2 E. Main Street
Norristown, PA. 19401

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:
Carol R. Collier
Jeffrey Featherstone
Hon. Kate Harper
Helen Haun
Desiree Henning-Dudley
John Hoekstra
M. Irvil Kear
Gary M.B. Kribbs
Preston Luitweiler
Michael Meloy
Barbara Smith
Pete Snyder
Michael Stokes
Maya van Rossun
Robert Wendelgass
John Woodling

Committee Members Not in Attendance:
Allen Fidler
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer
Darryl Jenkins
Arthur Needham
Howard Neukrug

Others in Attendance:
Bill Manner, DEP NERO
Ian C. Palmer, Schuylkill Headwaters, Minersville, Pa
George Kunkel, Philadelphia Water Dept
Ed DeSeve, Brodhead Protective
Eleanor Vine, Health Dept, Norristown
Chotty Sprenkle, Chester County Conservation District
Rea Monaghan, Bucks County Planning Commission
Ken Najjar, DRBC

Carol Collier called for introductions at 9:38 a.m.

Election of Officers
Representative Harper made a motion to retain Carol Collier as Chair. Irvil Kear seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Representative Harper made a motion to retain Jeff Featherstone as Vice Chair. Gary Kribbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finalize Draft Nov. Meeting Summary
Helen Haun made a motion to accept the November meeting summary as written. John Woodling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
Reappointments and Vacancies
The 2007 reappointments are being reviewed in the Governor’s Office. Leslie Sarvis said that there are still two industrial vacancies, and she asked for suggestions of people to fill the vacancies. David Greenley of Rohm and Haas Company and Kathy Pape, President of Pa American Water were suggested as potentially interested nominees.

2008 State Water Plan Timeline
Currently--DEP is working closely with consultants to complete revisions to the Draft Atlas based upon Regional Committee and Statewide Committee comments. The Policy and Integration Subcommittee and DEP are working on the white papers and the components to be included in the State Water Plan Principles document.

- Summer 2008—Comprehensive State Water Plan package to be presented to the Statewide Committee
- Fall 2008—Public Meeting and Hearings for public review and comment on Draft State Water Plan package

Public Meetings and Hearings
The committee decided on Thurs, September 11 to hold its public meeting/hearing. Northampton Community College was suggested as a location. Leslie will look into the availability of Northampton CC.

There was discussion about the regional committees having an opportunity to review documents before they are presented at the public meetings/hearings in September. Bob Wendelgass made a motion to request an opportunity to review the white papers prior to the public meeting/hearing in September. Motion was seconded by John Hoekstra and passed unanimously. Carol Collier said that she would write a letter to the Statewide Committee chair with this request.

Stormwater Pilots
Leslie informed the committee that three stormwater pilots are getting underway in the State to encourage integrated water resources management initiatives. One pilot is in the Schuylkill watershed, and DRBC has submitted a proposal to DEP for the pilot project.

Draft Regional Priorities
Leslie Sarvis explained that brief policy statements were prepared for the top two priorities identified previously by the regional committee. With the approval of the Committee, these will be presented to the Statewide Committee in the spring for consideration as part of the State Water Plan Principles document. The Committee amended the headings and policy statements. The new headings are:

1. Linking land use decisions and water resources management
2. Improve management of water resources (including stormwater and wastewater) and waterway corridors to reduce damages from extreme conditions (floods and droughts)

It was requested that the policy statements be emailed to the entire committee after the meeting. Kate Harper made a motion to pass on the top two regional priorities to the Statewide Committee. Helen Haun seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
Prioritization of Watersheds
The results and recommendations of the technical subcommittee were discussed by the full regional committee. Dave Jostenski led a discussion of 12 areas the subcommittee recommended for further discussion and asked the Committee to reduce the list to 5 watersheds. The watersheds chosen by the committee are:

Brodhead
Little Lehigh
Macoby
Hay Creek
W. Branch Brandywine
{6. Neshaminy}

Motion made by John Hoekstra made a motion to accept the top 5 watersheds chosen by the committee. Irvil Kear seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Rep. Harper made a motion to add the Neshaminy as a sixth watershed and to flag the Wissahickon watershed since it is undergoing the SAMP pilot project.

John Hoekstra made a motion to reflect in the meeting summary that the committee made decisions regarding selection of the six priority watersheds based on information available at the time – but knowing that there are data gaps – and in the interest of moving the process forward. Irvil Kear seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on Upper Wissahickon SAMP
Ken Najjar updated the regional committee on the Wissahickon Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). The project started in March 2007 to pilot the Draft CARP Guidelines. The Upper Wissahickon Advisory Committee (UWAC) was subsequently formed, which includes several regional committee members. A Draft SAMP Report was given to the UWAC for comments in December. A public meeting will be held in May for interested persons to comment on the Draft SAMP Report. Committee members agreed that the SAMP public meeting should be sponsored by the regional committee.

The regional committee suggested that recommendations be included in the SAMP Report for lessons learned/next steps and for the UWAC’s continuation. There was discussion about the regional committee's role with the SAMP from this point forward, because the Draft CARP Guidelines do not address this issue. It was stressed again that the regional committee does not endorse this project as a designated CWPA or as an official CARP. It is a SAMP that is piloting the Draft CARP Guidelines, and it is intended to provide ideas and suggestions on the process for future CARPs.

Follow-up/Next Steps
- Leslie Sarvis will check into locations for the Sept. 11 public meeting/hearing.
- Desiree Henning-Dudley will email the newly drafted Regional Priorities to the whole committee

Next meeting is Friday, May 9 at the Sweet Arrow Lake Park in Pine Grove, PA.