

Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
Erie County Conservation District
February 5, 2008
10:00 am

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Gerald Allender	Nick Mobilia
Lori Boughton	Dean Pepicello
Ronald Chapman	Dave Skellie
Thomas Fuhrman	Nancy Slater
Mark Gorman	Matt Wolford
William Gough	David Wright
Rebecca Hosack	Don Benczkowski
Craig Kern	

Others in Attendance:

Jake Welsh	Andy Zemba
Brian Zeppenfeld	Lori Mohr
Dave Jostenski	

Administrative Items

Lori Mohr provided the committee with an update on administrative items:

The reappointments are pending in the Governor's office. The committee currently has vacancies in the planning director, conservation district, production agriculture, professional, and industrial categories.

Overview of the timeline for 2008: Public meetings and hearings will be held in September. The committee recommended holding the public meeting and hearing on September 9, 2008, at Erie County Conservation District.

Tim Bruno reported that the stormwater program at DEP is conducting pilot Integrated Water Resource Planning projects. Erie County is among the first plans to be developed. More information will be provided at future meetings.

Mark Gorman, Andy Zemba, and Lori Boughton provided updates on the Great Lakes Annex Agreement legislation. The legislation was passed with amendments in the Pa House of Representatives, and should be introduced soon in the Pa Senate. Legislation is also moving in other states and seems to be gaining support in the Federal legislature.

November Meeting Summary

Nick Mobilia made a motion to accept meeting notes for November and September 2007 with the correction that the previous meeting notes were from September, not August 2007. Bill Gough seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

Matt Wolford made a motion to retain the current chair, Nick Mobilia, and vice chair, Bill Gough, for 2008. Dave Skellie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regional Priority Statements

The committee had discussion on the regional priorities. Tom Fuhrman made a motion to pass the first priority with amendments to the Statewide committee for inclusion in the statewide policy document. Bill Gough seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The priority statement was amended as follows:

- **Support legislation and other measures that will protect the quantity and quality of water in Lake Erie**

The Great Lakes form the largest surface freshwater system in the world. They hold the potential for massive water diversions to more arid parts of the United States or even to other water-poor countries across the globe, and they are equally attractive to industries that consume large volumes of water. Communities surrounding the Great Lakes' shores in both the United States and Canada are very much aware of these possible demands and seek to keep transfers, exports and consumption Great Lakes water to a minimum .

Lake Erie is vitally important to the prosperity northwestern Pennsylvania. It serves regional domestic, commercial and industrial needs, supplies power generation, offers world-class recreational opportunities, and provides transportation and trade access to the entire St. Lawrence Seaway. The committee has determined that its leading priority is preserving the quantity and quality of water in this valued resource. Recognizing that protection of the entire Great Lakes system is crucial to protecting Lake Erie, close coordination with the surrounding states and Canadian provinces is key to meeting this goal. The committee recommends support for the Great Lakes Annex Agreement, and state and federal legislation to accompany and support the implementation of this agreement.

Matt Wolford made a motion to pass the second priority with amendments to the Statewide committee for inclusion in the Statewide policy document. Nancy Slater seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The priority was amended as follows:

- Maintain the hydrologic integrity of the region by evaluating and addressing land use changes and their effects on point and non-point source pollution, recharge, flow, and the surface and groundwater regimes and establishing the capacity to do so.

The close relationship between land use and water resource management is well known and unchallenged. However, the ability to manage land use and development to minimize their influence on natural resources is currently limited by the planning policies in this region. Municipal land use ordinances should address conservation design and additional safeguards and include incentives for developers to take this approach. Reaching out to local regulators and providing them with the tools necessary to make these important land use planning decisions is imperative. For example, composting facilities have been built that are capable of reducing nutrient loading to area waters. These should be expanded and new facilities should be considered to compost additional waste generated in the region.

Watershed Selection for Final Verification

Dave Jostenski reviewed the recommendations of the technical subcommittee with a list of watersheds to recommend to the statewide committee for further study. These watersheds will be forwarded to the Statewide committee for consideration. The watersheds include:

1. Temple Creek
2. Sixmile Creek
3. Elk Creek
4. Fourmile Creek

Committee adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm. The next committee meeting will be held on May 6, 2008, at Erie County Conservation District.