

Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

May 5, 2008
10:00am – 12:15pm

Cranberry Township Municipal Center
2525 Rochester Road
Cranberry Township, PA

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Daniel Barton	Jan Oliver
Scott Blauvelt	Robert Ritchey
Mitchell Brouman	Ron Rohall
Marie Clark	Jerry Schulte
Terry Dayton	Deb Simko
Jerry Feldman	Bob Softcheck
Jeff Fliss	Charles Stowe
Daniel Gracenin	Roger Uhazie
Dan Ireland	

Others in Attendance:

Dan Galeone, USGS	Deb McDonald, DEP
Tyler Gourley, Water Task Force	Andy Zemba, DEP
Joseph West, Beaver County Planning Commission	Dave Jostenski, DEP
	Lori Mohr, DEP

Ron Rohall called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Finalize Draft February Meeting Summary

Jerry Feldman made a motion to accept the February 4, 2008 meeting summary with one amendment made by Deb Simko. The meeting summary should read, *“The Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited Board of Directors voted to submit a nomination for a Critical Water Planning Area to DEP for the Laurel Hill Creek Watershed. This nominations is pending submission to DEP.”* Bob Ritchey seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Reappointments and Vacancies

The 2007 reappointments were approved by the Governor’s Office, and the respective committee members should have received their reappointment letters. Please let Lori Mohr know if you did not receive your reappointment letter. This committee currently has no vacancies.

Statewide Committee Meeting Updates

At its March 20th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved four white papers to be included in the draft State Water Plan (Navigation, Integrated Water Resources Management, Stormwater/Flooding and Water Quality). There was also a presentation about the newly created Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force, which will explore resources for upgrading aging drinking water and wastewater facilities and present a report to the Governor in the fall.

At its April 18th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved the Chapter 110 regulations (registration and reporting). The Committee also discussed the Water Conservation Technical Assistance Paper and asked that it be sent to the Regional Committees for comments. Comments should be submitted by May 15th to Gary Obleski and Jerry Feldman.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the six watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP will perform verification of the watersheds by contacting owners of Public Water Supplies to obtain information on reservoirs, including conservation releases and flow-by. DEP will send summarized reports, when available, to committee members via email and staff will report on the results of the verification at the November round of committee meetings.

Laurel Hill Creek Watershed

On April 23, 2008, DEP received a package of information from the Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited to nominate the Laurel Hill Creek watershed as a Critical Water Planning Area. DEP will conduct a review for completeness, in accordance with the CWPA guidance. After review, the package will be forwarded to the Chair of the regional committee. If complete, this watershed will be reviewed along with the five watersheds selected by the Ohio committee for further verification (see above). A summary report will be provided to the committee, along with the five watersheds that were selected previously. Dave Jostenski provided copies of the nomination to Chairperson Rohall and the DEP regional representative, Jeff Fliss.

Regional Water Management Task Force Report

Ty Gourley provided information on the results of the Regional Water Management Task Force work over the past year. The Task Force conducted a public opinion poll and 14 public meetings throughout the region to discuss and evaluate specific regional water planning and management options for Southwestern Pennsylvania. The public has indicated that they are dissatisfied with the current water management structure, and they have indicated support for a mechanism to conduct region-wide planning, prioritization, technical assistance, and dialogue.

The Task Force is now evaluating alternatives and drafting recommendations for topics such as regional integrated water planning, technical assistance, emergency preparedness planning, and a regional clearinghouse for water management. They have agreed that there is a need for a forum to facilitate regional collaboration.

Fall Public Meeting and Hearing

Lori Mohr confirmed that the date of the committee's public meeting and hearing will be Monday, September 8 at the Seven Fields Borough Community Center.

Lori said the agenda will be similar to the public meeting/hearing held in 2005. There will be a regular committee business meeting in the afternoon. The evening will begin with an open house for the public to view displays and maps. Following the open house, the public meeting will include a presentation and an informal discussion period. Then the public hearing portion of the evening will begin. Lori said the August meeting will be

canceled because there will be a regular committee business meeting before the public meeting/hearing on September 8th.

Lori Mohr reviewed the second draft of the Ohio regional water atlas. Lori covered important changes from the previous draft and noted that the draft atlas is available on the DEP website. Additional comments will be accepted on the atlas during the public comment period in September.

The next meeting of the full committee is Monday, September 8 at Seven Fields Community Center at 2:30pm. The public meeting and hearing will follow that evening.