

Draft

Potomac Water Resource Regional Committee
Franklin County Administrative Annex Building, Chambersburg, PA

February 20, 2004

Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance

Charles Bennett – Chair	William McLaughlin
Mark Bream	Russell McLucas
Phyllis Chant – Vice Chair	Pat Naugle
Michael Christopher	Robert Reichart
Marlin L. Ewing	William Reichart
George Fisanich	James Richenderfer, Ph.D., P.G.
Thomas Gratto	Roger Steele
Joseph Hoffman	Mark Mathews
Donald MacAskill	

Committee Members Not Present

Evon Barvinchack	Ricky A. Leese
Andrew Fitz	Brent Ramsey
Jeffrey Kloss	Tim Schaeffer

Others in Attendance

Scott Alexander	Kurt Skees
Tammy Gross	Bill Gast
Warren Elliot	Jennifer Handke
Leslie Sarvis	Cathy Myers
Stu Gansell	Mark Mathews
John Hines	Dave English
Pam Bishop	Phil Conlin

Administrative Items

Welcome by Mr. Warren Elliot, Chairman of the Franklin County Commissioners

January meeting summary

George Fisanich moved to approve with Phyllis Chant having seconded motion. Minutes Approved with no corrections.

Introduction of Facilitators

John Hines introduced Jennifer Handke as head of facilitation for Act 220 regional committees. Jennifer introduced three facilitators who will work with the committee: Nicki Casey, Dave English, and Phil Conlon.

DEP summary of activities to date

- John Hines and Stu Gansell attended a water resources conference in Texas. John noted differences in structure of water resources management with Pennsylvania, especially the ability to bank federal money. John told of an upcoming meeting with the Corps of Engineers to discuss reconnaissance studies and funding for Act 220 projects.
- DCNR Rivers Conservation and geology booklet handouts were provided to the committee members.
- Maps prepared by DEP on water use, groundwater and surface water were made available at the meeting. CD's of PDF images of relevant sections of the original State Water Plan were given to each committee member. Several committee members asked for a listing of available GIS information.

Comments from the public

No comments from the public.

Overview by DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management, Cathy Myers

Deputy Secretary Myers thanked the committee members for volunteering their time to help develop the State Water Plan, and she emphasized that this is an opportunity to develop watershed planning that can be used as a template for Pennsylvania.

PA Water Law- Overview

Pam Bishop, DEP legal counsel provided a PowerPoint overview of Pennsylvania's water law. A handout of the presentation was made available to all attendees.

Pennsylvania water law is based on the doctrine of reasonable use, which includes common law principles and statutory law. Statutory law is superimposed on the common law to regulate particular uses or users. Pam described common law principles, she briefly described relevant Pennsylvania statutes regarding water rights, and she reviewed federal compacts (DRBC & SRBC) that allocate regulatory authority to River Basin Commissions.

Presentation by Tammy Gross, Franklin County Watershed Specialist.

Presentation of characteristics and challenges within the Franklin county watershed. The powerpoint presentation is posted on the Act 220 webpage.

Regional Issues Facilitated Discussion

John Hines provided an overview of regional issues and goals that need to be considered under Act 220. Jennifer Handke began facilitated discussion on regional priorities and needs.

The facilitators captured the ideas of the committee members on regional priorities and needs under the following categories:

1. Inventory Supply, 2. Inventory Demand, 3. Balancing Supply And Demand, 4. Protecting/preserving Instream and Groundwater needs.

Of note were discussions on the need for mapping of information to assess needs and to make decisions. John Hines advised that an outline report on this information could be used for gaining public input. These discussions will continue as the issues are fleshed out. At the next meeting, further information on what's coming out from other regional committees will be shared. DEP will be exploring data needs.

Committee members Charlie Bennett, Phyllis Chant and Russell McLucas volunteered to serve on an ad hoc outreach work group to assist with outreach material and organizing public meetings.

Next Meeting

April 12th at Fulton County Theatre in McConnellsburg.