

## **Workgroup Status Report**

**Workgroup: Development and Stormwater**

**Status Report Date: February 15, 2006, meeting held February 14**

**Team Leader(s): Stuart Gansell\* and James Wheeler\***

**Team Members: James Spontak (SCRO); Kate Crowley (NERO); William Cumings (BRC)\*; Kenneth Murin (BWM); Jack Crislip (SWRO)\*; Keith Dudley (SERO); Darryl Fritz (NERO)\*; Gary Metzger (NCRO)\*; James Novinger (BWS&FR)\*; Timothy Wagner (SCRO)\*; Jay Africa (BWS&FR)\*; Thomas Franklin (BWS&FR)\*; Jack Rokavec (PennDOT); Keith Ashley (PA Builders)\*; Amy Sturgis (PLCM); Edward Troxell (PA Boroughs)\*; Pat Devlin (Alliance for CB)\*; Harry Campbell (CBF)\*; Susan Wilson (CAC); Kristin Goshorn (PA Counties)\*; Ann Smith (WPO), Margaret Murphy (BRC); Damien Davis (City of Harrisburg – for Amy Sturgis)\*; Edward Corriveau (SCRO)\***

**\*-- Indicates meeting participation**

**Issue (s) Addressed:**

- **Workgroup Expectations and Deadlines**
- **Review of Pertinent PA Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Elements**
- **New Development**
- **Stormwater Management**
- **On-lot Sewage System Denitrification**
- **Discuss Current Working Draft of “Conditional Planning Approval for New or Expanded Sewage Facilities (design flow greater than 0.02 mgd)” (attached)**
- **Discuss Current Working Draft of DEP’s proposed “Post-construction stormwater facilities maintenance permit”**

- **Review of Stormwater and Development Issues Identified by the Steering Committee**
- **Identification of Additional Topics of Importance**
- **Prioritize and Focus Committee Efforts**
- **Begin Discussion of Priority Topics**
- **Review Points of Consensus**
- **Assignments for Next Meeting**
- **Additional Meeting Dates**

#### **Status Report and Recommendations:**

**The first meeting of the Development and Stormwater Workgroup was held on February 14 at PSATS Headquarters from 9:00-12:00. The meeting followed the agenda listed above and was largely a background and prioritization meeting. Much discussion focused on current DEP guidance for reviewing Act 537 Plan revisions for new development. The group recognized that getting plan approval was relatively easy, but finding offsets to follow through on the planning obligations will be very difficult. Sufficient time was allotted to ensuring that the committee members understood DEP's current policy of not requiring offsets for new on-lot systems, and that future emphasis most likely will be placed on subsurface systems with volumes exceeding 10,000 gpd and those with surface discharges. Keith Ashley felt strongly that there should be a pool of credits generated now that could be used to offset new growth and development. A financial example of creating and buying offsets was briefly discussed that examined whether incremental building cost due to purchase of offsets could be financially feasible. More examples were requested for the next meeting. A brief discussion of permitting post-construction stormwater facilities took place. Committee members also requested to see a copy of the department's draft post-construction permitting proposal. Some members felt that similar requirements should be applied to individual on-lot sewage systems, and that an operation and maintenance permit should be**

**developed for them. It was suggested that retrofitting existing on-lot septic systems to reduce nutrient loads, especially those systems that are not failing, must be fully examined before the department proceeds with any mandated requirement for post-construction maintenance of on-lot septic systems. The list of issues provided by the Steering Committee was reviewed, clarified and expanded. Prioritizing the issues then began as a basis for the next meeting. Subsequent meetings will be held on February 21 and March 1.**