

**Summary of Act 220 Regional Committee
Public Meetings and Hearings
May 2005**

Ohio: *May 9, 2005, Seven Fields Community Center, Seven Fields, PA*

Number of Attendees:

- 24 citizens
- 12 regional committee members
- 6 DEP Staff

Summary of Comments and Questions

- Water storage
- Flooding issues
- Engage other organizations and use existing tools to develop SWP
- Concerns regarding funding for Act 537 and Act 167 programs
- Legislative involvement and education
- Rainfall prediction
- Water quality – how will it be addressed in regional and statewide plans and will epidemiological studies be included?
- Nutrient trading – how will it be implemented if adopted?

NO TESTIMONY GIVEN

Great Lakes and Ohio: *May 10, 2005, Erie Conservation District, Erie, PA*

Number of Attendees:

- 2 citizens from Great Lakes Basin
- 1 citizen from Ohio Basin
- 9 AmeriCorps volunteers from across the country
- 5 Great Lakes Regional Committee Members
- 2 Ohio Regional Committee Members
- 3 DEP Staff

Summary of Comments and Questions:

- Concern about the ability of small water suppliers to upgrade services if a large water user moves into basin

NO TESTIMONY GIVEN

Delaware Committee – *May 12, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA*

Number of attendees: 20

Number of Committee members in attendance: 14

Number of Witnesses: 2

DEP Staff: 7

Summary of Public Meeting Comments

- Must also focus on non-point source pollution, not just point sources
- Need to educate private homeowners using wells and provide incentives to conserve
- Should develop marketing tools to educate the public on water as a fundamental resource
- Should also educate teachers and school children
- Stormwater management is a growing concern in this region
- There is pressure from developers and homeowners on municipal officials to ensure enough water

Summary of Public Hearing Comments

1. *Jim Hartman, PA Groundwater Assn* - There is a lack of statewide residential well construction standards in PA, but they are necessary to protect groundwater resources. Also, well drillers should be licensed.

2. *Jan Bowers, Chester County Water Resources Authority* – Jan gave specific comments on the Delaware Committee’s list of regional priorities

Lower Susquehanna Committee – May 16, Radisson Penn Harris, Camp Hill, PA

Number of attendees: 31

Number of committee members in attendance: 13

Number of Witnesses: 2

DEP Staff: 9

Summary of Public Meeting Comments

- Consider inflow and infiltration of groundwater into sewage collection systems
- Nuclear power plants are consuming too much water
- Be aware of economically depressed communities and their lack of resources
- Water recharge should be inventoried and local farmers should be given credit for recharge, i.e. conservation farming and retention ponds.

Summary of Public Hearing Comments

1. *Walter Lyon, Capital Region Water Board* – Land planning and its link to water resources, including groundwater, needs more attention. Pennsylvania’s water law is inadequate, as well as the resources to implement the recommendations from Act 220. Water infrastructure (sewers, dams, etc.) should be managed in a sustainable fashion.

2. *Eric Epstein, EFMR Monitoring Group, Inc.* – Nuclear power plants are consuming too much water and their discharges are not monitored. They are harming the aquatic life.

Potomac: *May 19, 2005, PSU – Mont Alto Campus, Mont Alto, PA*

Number of Attendees:

- 31 citizens
- 15 regional committee members
- 4 DEP Staff

Summary of Comments & Questions

- Forest and logging impacts to ground water recharge
- Flood control
- Use of fill in insignificant wetlands to raise the land next to streams in order to develop
- Construction within 100 year floodplain
- Economic development and impacts of parking lots and housing/commercial development on floodplains
- Education and outreach to all age groups
- Funding availability and funding to conservation districts
- How will the plan help local governments?
- Model ordinances for riparian buffers and storm water
- Credit to farmers for water recharge areas and priority status for farmers in times of drought
- Water use linked to water quality
- Development should be planned better to lessen the impact on resources

Testimony

1. Stephen Rettig, Antietam Watershed Association – Washington Twp Authority recently finished wellhead protection study. 1. Antietam Watershed awarded a Legacy Grant; 2. Contract to do an assessment of East Branch Antietam Creek; 3. Stream Monitoring Group established with ALLARM and Watershed Assn for monitoring east and west branch; 4. Comprehensive Plans for Franklin and Washington Twp; 6. Nature Conservancy assessment of Franklin County copy through Nature Conservancy; 7. Main office of Micheux State Forest may also be a good resource.

Upper/Middle Susquehanna: *May 26, 2005, Days Inn, State College, PA*

Number of attendees: 25

Number of committee members in attendance: 18

Number of Witnesses: 4

DEP Staff: 4

Summary of Comments & Questions

- Timbering industry uses BMPs and clean practices. Should be removed from list of priority problems in basin.
- Questions about developing CWPAs, registration, funding, and the regional/statewide water plan development
- Registration with DEP vs. registration with SRBC – will process change?

Testimony

1. *Bob Donaldson, Spring Creek Watershed Community* – Overview of Spring Creek watershed and the value it adds to water resources and other natural resources, as well as the community and the economy.
2. *David Yoxtheimer, P.G., State College Borough Water Authority* – stressed the importance of developing the plan (particularly the water budget tool) using scientifically-based data.
3. *Dan Crust, ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.* – Overview of Spring Creek watershed and goals/work of ClearWater Conservancy. Recommendations for developing the regional and statewide water plans and for implementing the plan(s) recommendations at the local level. Partnerships with watershed-based multi-municipal implementing entities and a variety of stakeholders.
4. *Todd Giddings, PA Groundwater Assn* - There is a lack of statewide residential well construction standards in PA, but they are necessary to protect groundwater resources.