

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Water Management

March 15, 2005

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SUBJECT: Water Resources Planning Process Status and Update

TO: Statewide Committee Members

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Chair
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As a follow up action to the January meeting of the Statewide Committee, we respectfully submit the following current activities update report.

State Water Plan Funding:

Given the current budget constraints that the Commonwealth and its various agencies face, staff has been ask to focus on tangible outcomes of FY 05-06. Those goals were reviewed at the previous Statewide Committee. They include: ***Goal #1 USGS Budgeting Tool; Goal #2 River Basin Contract Work; Goal #3 Registration; Goal #4 Regulations; Goal #5 Project Implementation/Committee Support; Goal #6 Policies, Guidelines and Procedures.***

Funds will be available to support committee meetings in the 2005-06 fiscal year, though possibly at a somewhat reduced level. This news comes as budget updates show that while some \$200,000 had been budgeted for committee support this year, to date only about \$23,000 has been spent. These funds are derived from DEP's Clean Water Fund (CWF). The fund is non-lapsing; meaning funds remaining from the current fiscal year can be used the following fiscal year.

During a Senate Appropriations Committee meeting on March 9 when the Secretary outlined the Governor's budget request for DEP, questions arose surrounding the adequacy of the spending plan as it relates to implementation of Act 220. However, because the act specifically authorizes

the use of the Clean Water Fund for the development of the State Water Plan and does not add new General Fund monies for this purpose, many of the specific line items for the implementation of Act 220 are not included in the budget breakdown.

USGS and Projection Methodology Update:

USGS has continued to work on the preprocessing of basin delineation and statistical work for the USGS budget-screening tool. Since the last report, the Department has met with USGS to define user specification and to develop programming to implement the criteria for defining critical water planning areas within the tool. Under discussion with USGS includes how in-stream demand criteria (trout stream classification) will be applied in watersheds with multiple classifications and how withdrawal and discharge data will be extracted from the DEP Water Use Data System (WUDS).

The Department arranged a meeting with USGS and Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), the consultant working for the DRBC in developing projection methodologies, for all parties to understand each of their roles in the water budget process and how the deliverable tools would interface with one another. The pilot project on the Lehigh River Watershed later this spring to test and demonstrate the projection methodologies will coincide with the pilot project area for the USGS screening tool.

The Department has continued to develop “hand” water budgeting test computations for several watersheds. The DEP is utilizing watershed delineations, “pour points” and background statistic from the USGS in conjunction with available water withdrawal and discharge information to evaluate procedures in applying the current draft criteria. A demonstration of these tests will be considered for future meetings.

Registration Update:

During the end of January through February, the Department, with the assistance of temporary clerks from the SRBC continued to receive and process registrations from all water use sectors, receive and process 2003 Annual Water Supply Reports as well as develop and issue the 2004 Annual Water Supply Reports (AWSR) to public water suppliers. The mailing of the AWSR did include a reminder to public water supply agencies of the need to register their sources.

While the amount of work associated with these efforts necessitated a postponement of some of the outreach efforts envisioned for those months, the staff did attend a PA Turf Conference and Trade Show in the Philadelphia area to seek further golf course and turf irrigation related registrations.

Meanwhile, several associations, the Pennsylvania Section of the American Water Resources Association and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, have helped in obtaining more registrations by providing registration information to their members in their most recent newsletters. The PA Chamber of Business and Industry has also agreed to include a registration

reminder in their next environmental update. The Department is also making arrangements to request other organizations to do the same.

As of March 14, 2005, the following are the registration statistics:

Total Source Registrations

Public Water Supply Agency	3,639
Agriculture	835
Golf Course	257
Mining	296
Hydropower	10
Thermoelectric	53
Other (institutional, industrial...)	1,436
Total Source Registrations	6,526

Total Number of Estimated Sources in PA: 12,000

Public Water Supply Registrations

Public Water Supply (PWS) Agencies in PA	2,193
PWS who have submitted registrations (complete or partial)	1,502
PWS who have not submitted any registrations	691
PWS Sources (from WUDS)	6,387
Registered PWS sources	3,639

Subcommittee Status and Reports:

P&I – David Mandelbaum reported on the last meeting. A main topic was that the overall conversation needed to shift away from simply the CWPA areas and instead to the broader topic of non-CWPA’s likely to be most of the state. Possible March meeting though no date set. Waiting on White paper by DEP on “safety factor” for instream flow needs in the CWPA criteria piece.

Public Participation – Lori Mohr reported and presented committee with Public Meeting Agenda and PowerPoint presentation. A motion was made to accept both documents with several minor revisions.

CWPA – Jan Bowers went through latest version of CWPA Designation Criteria (1/18/05) with everyone and recommended release to Regionals for comment. Recommendation was moved, seconded and approved along with extension on this document until the end of May 2005.

The White paper by DEP for “Safety factor” for instream flow was discussed again and DEP hopes to have to CWPA Subcommittee by March before next potential meeting. Also asked SWRC to again begin to address non-CWPA

Regional Committee Activities:

All six Regional Committee February meetings followed similar agendas. Presentations were made by DEP to the Regional Committees on the revised CWPA Criteria document (comments on this document are due by May 31, 2005). The Committees are to comment on the draft CWPA Process document and the draft Regional Component Outline documents by Feb. 28, 2005. The Regional committees also discussed the details of the May meetings and the Public Meetings/Hearings. Each committee will hold at least one Public Meeting/Hearing in the basin, following the regularly scheduled Regional Committee meeting.