

FINAL  
Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

Feb. 18, 2004  
DEP-South East Regional Office  
2 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

Meeting Summary

**Attendance**

Committee members in attendance:

Carol R. Collier	John J. Coscia
Leonard Crooke	Jeffrey Featherstone, Ph.D.
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer	Lisa Hamilton
Honorable Kate Harper	Helen Haun
Desiree Henning-Dudley	David A. Hodge
John Hoekstra	Darryl A Jenkins, P.E.
Leonard Johnson	M. Irvil Kear
Gary M.B. Kribbs, P.G.	Howard Neukrug
Ted Reed	Michael Stokes
Maya K. van Rossum	Robert Wendelgass

Committee members not in attendance:

Hamilton "Clark" Connor  
Michael Meloy  
Barbara L. Smith, Esquire

Others in attendance:

Pam Bishop	Jennifer Handke	Jim Nagy
Anthony Bonasera	John Hines	Pat Pingel
PJ Dhillon	Jeffrey Hoffman	Leslie Sarvis
Yassar Farhan	George Kunkel	Barbara Schell-Magaro
Robert France	Preston Luitweiler	Tracy Siglin
Stuart Gansell	Mark MacIvey	Donna Suevo
Stu Gansell	Robin Mann	Bob Tudor
Bill Gast	Everald McDonald	Mark Wejkszner

**Administrative Items**

1. The summary from the previous meeting held on December 18, 2003 was approved after corrections were made to the Attendee List. Ted Reed was incorrectly listed as attending the December meeting.

Motion made by: Howard Neukrug  
Motion Second: Kate Harper  
Motion was carried

2. John Hines introduced Jennifer Handke as head of facilitation for State Water Plan committee meetings. Jennifer introduced three facilitators that will work with the Delaware regional committee:

Mark Wejkszner	570-826-2528	<a href="mailto:mwejkszner@state.pa.us">mwejkszner@state.pa.us</a>
Bob France	484-250-5745	<a href="mailto:rfrance@state.pa.us">rfrance@state.pa.us</a>
Donna Suevo	484-250-5823	<a href="mailto:dsuevo@state.pa.us">dsuevo@state.pa.us</a>

3. John Hines introduced Leslie Sarvis of DEP who will be the point of contact for the Delaware committee on technical and administrative information, and PJ Dhillon of DEP who will assist with data sources integration.
4. DEP provided summaries of the following activities:
  - Public meeting requirements - must have at least 1 public meeting in 2004
  - DCNR Rivers Conservation Plans and geology booklet handouts
  - Act 220 Registration Update
  - GIS Water Use Data (WUD) - maps displaying WUD were provided to committee members for review
  - Overview of water resources planning activities in Texas
5. No comments were offered from the public.

### **Pennsylvania Water Law**

Presentation by Pam Bishop: "A Short Review of Pennsylvania Water Law," providing an overview of water resources law in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's system of water allocation law is based on numerous court rulings dating back to the 1800s. Different rules govern the use of surface water and ground water, including: Statutory and Common Law; Riparian Law; Water Well Drillers Law; PA Safe Drinking Water Act of 1984; Environmental Rights Amendment of 1970; Emergency Management Services Code; Act 220; Interstate compact agreements with DRBC, SRBC, Ohio and Great Lakes.

### **Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)**

Anthony Bonasera and Robert Tudor provided an overview of DRBC, composed of commissioners from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York and a federal representative. DRBC functional responsibilities include:

- Regulation of water quality and quantity, development and management
- Operation planning to include flow management, flow targets, drought management and identification of multiple users
- Designating special groundwater protection areas analogous to "critical water planning areas"
- Developing conservation measures to reduce the demand for water
- Flood protection: PEMA, DEP, EPA and municipalities.
- Education and Recreation

To help the regional committees accomplish their tasks with the State Water Plan, DRBC can provide technical support and data information with existing resources; USGS study

results such as water budgets and groundwater estimates; and progress reports in the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

### **Regional Issues Facilitated Discussion**

Committee members worked with DEP facilitators to categorize the regional issues into one of the following priorities:

1. Public education / outreach
2. Storm and waste water management
3. Ground water / Surface water quality and quantity
4. Regional planning / land use

These priorities will continue to be reviewed and discussed by the committee members to use in their public outreach strategy.

### **Report from Ad Hoc Outreach Work Group**

Key to the Delaware outreach approach is the development of a three-stage approach that correlates with the overall State Water Plan Development Process:

Stage One: Regeneration of public input and outreach on process (1-year).

Stage Two: Focus meetings on regional issues (Year 1 to 3) and creation of forums

Stage Three: Feedback and reaction to the plan (Year 3 to 4)

At least two levels of audiences need to be identified: Level One: Statewide level (include associations, statewide policy and advocacy groups and general public); Level Two: Regional level (include focus groups, general public and local grassroots organizations. Ideas for the committee to begin outreach include: holding committee meetings in different locations in the basin; identifying community leaders and stakeholders; inviting legislators to committee meetings; press releases and articles in various organization newsletters.

### **Regional Committee Member Interests**

Howard Neukrug gave an overview of the Schuylkill Action Network, which is composed of a regulatory team representing a cross section of agriculture, industry and commercial interests.

### **Wrap-Up/Next Steps**

Kate Harper requested that a summary of water quality laws be given at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: **April 14** at The Nature Conservancy Hauser Nature Center in Long Pond, Monroe County. The meeting will begin at 10:00am instead of 9:30am to allow for travel time. The committee would like to schedule meetings in other parts of the basin such as Schuylkill, Berks, or Lehigh Valley, and possibly schedule every other meeting at the DEP Southeast Regional office. It was also suggested that tours or field trips to watershed sites could be part of future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.