

Delaware Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

September 11, 2008
2:30am – 4:00pm

Northampton Community College
Fowler Family Southside Center, Room 605
511 E. Third Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Carol R. Collier	Gary M.B. Kribbs
Jeff Featherstone	Preston Luitweiler
Allen Fidler	Michael Meloy
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer	Barbara Smith
Hon. Kate Harper	Michael Stokes
Desiree Henning-Dudley	Maya van Rossum
John Hoekstra	Robert Wendelgass
M. Irvil Kear	John Woodling

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Helen Haun	Howard Neukrug
Darryl Jenkins	Pete Snyder
Michael Meloy	

Others in Attendance:

Bharat Bham, DEP NERO	George Kunkel, Philadelphia Water Dept
Tom Bradbury, NWWA	Bill Manner, DEP NERO
Winnie Branton, Drinker Biddle & Reath	Lori Mohr, DEP
Jay Braund, DEP	Ken Najjar, DRBC
Michelle Clark, DEP SERO	Bob Reichart, PGWA
Bill Douglass, Upper Delaware Council	Leslie Sarvis, DEP
Marea Feinberg, Sanofi Pasteur	Andy Zemba, DEP
Dave Jostenski, DEP	

Carol Collier called the meeting to order at 2:40p.m.

Finalize Draft February and May Meeting Summaries

The Draft Feb. 8 and May 9 Meeting Summaries were approved.

Motion to approve Feb. 8 Draft Meeting Summary: John Hoekstra

2nd: John Woodling

Motion to approve May 9 Draft Meeting Summary with one change to include the section on Draft Regional Atlas Review: Jeff Featherstone

2nd: John Hoekstra

Review Agenda and Materials for the evening meeting

Lori Mohr went through the agenda for the public meeting and hearing later in the evening. Dave Jostenski commented on how the other regional committee public meetings and hearings had been going so far.

Dave then updated the committee on the six watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP has contracted with DRBC to perform verification of the watersheds in the Delaware basin to determine which ones could potentially be nominated by the regional committee as a Critical Water Planning Area. Dave expects to have executive summaries from DRBC in October, and he will report on the results of the verification at the November meeting.

Ken Najjar discussed in more detail DRBC's work on the watershed verification, adding that the work is 75% complete on five of the watersheds. Work on the Brodhead Creek watershed is only 20% complete because of infrastructure issues. Estimating agricultural use in the watersheds is complicated because not many farmers registered their water use with DEP.

Ken also briefly discussed the Wissahickon SAMP. DRBC has received a grant extension to put together a critique of the process and develop a list of "lessons learned."

Comments from the Public

Bob Reichart, President of the PA Groundwater Association, spoke to the committee about the concerns of PGWA regarding the lack of legislation of water well drilling standards and licensing proficiency in the state. Specifically, PGWA would like to see water well drilling standards and licensing proficiency as a fourth priority in the State Water Plan Principles document. The committee discussed this topic and passed a motion recommending that the Statewide Committee reformat the Principles document to include upfront a Synopsis of Action Items that can be compiled from the individual Principles white papers. The Synopsis should also include a list of suggested legislative/regulatory changes, including the need to address well drilling standards and licensing proficiency.

*Motion made by: Hon. Kate Harper
2nd: John Hoekstra*

The committee discussed the disconnect between water resources management and land use and municipal authority. The committee passed a motion to asking the Statewide Committee to include in the State Water Plan an additional analysis of regulatory and legislative actions to strengthen links between water use and land use management.

*Motion made by: Bob Wendelgass
2nd: John Hoekstra*

The committee discussed the Navigation section of the Principles document and passed a motion to recommend to the Statewide Committee that Item #3 on p.22 of the Principles document be amended to say, "The Commonwealth should advance and encourage the efforts of PennPorts...to develop strategic plans for supporting and managing commercial navigation in Pennsylvania, cognizant of its effect on water resources, uses and needs."

*Motion made by: Maya van Rossum
2nd: John Hoekstra
Votes in favor: 9
Votes opposed: 2
Votes abstaining: 4*

The committee also passed a motion to recommend that the Statewide Committee change the language in Item #2 on p. 30 of the Principles document to add that resources, particularly financial resources, to be used for integrated water resources plans "will not be at the expense of traditional Act 167 funding and planning" after "Implement trial integrated water resources plans using Stormwater Management Planning program (ACT 167) in cooperation with willing counties/multi-county areas,"

*Motion made by: Jeff Featherstone
2nd: Gary Kribbs*

Follow-up/Next Steps

- Carol will send a letter with the four motions approved by the committee as comments on the Draft State Water Plan.

The next committee meeting is Friday, November 14 at DEP's Southeast Regional Office in Norristown.