

Draft
Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee
October 12, 2004

Erie County Conservation District
Erie County
Erie, PA 16509
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Lori Boughton	John Walliser
Richard Brine	David Wright
Craig Kern	Gary Young
Jesse R. Koon	Jerry Rice
Edward Kosa	Matt Wolford
Dave Skellie	
Janet Anderson	

Committee members not present:

Mike Donahue	Nancy Slater
Scott Evans	Ken Stockert
George Greig	Bill Gough, Vice-Chair
Randy Meabon	Tom Fuhrman
Donna Mindek	
David Mulvihill	
Nick Mobilia, Chair	

DEP Representatives:

Lori Mohr	John Green
Mark Gorman	Kurt Skees

Others in Attendance:

Helen Kosa	Robert Wisener
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Administrative Items

Gary Young stood in to chair the meeting.

Minutes: The August 10, 2004 minutes were discussed. No official action taken, due to lack of quorum.

Attendance: In light of past meetings failing to maintain a quorum, procedures need to be engaged to notify committee members of their status and also to make new appointments if necessary.

Statewide Committee Meeting Summary: Craig Kern: Commented on the recent statewide committee meeting: The DRBC presented various stressed areas for consideration for CWPA. It was noted that the development of criteria for designation of a CWPA rests with the state and regional committees. Though concrete criteria are not yet established, it is still important to consider areas that may warrant investigation now. Enough is known to solicit various watershed organizations to find out what problems exist in the basin - Lori Boughton and Craig Kern elected to develop an outreach letter.

Matt Wolford: distributed the “Statewide Water Plan Vision and Purpose” Draft – which took considerable effort to develop consensus within Statewide Policy and Integration subcommittee. Matt also asked the committee to consider the most efficient policy for regional committee members to interface with the other various committees; Statewide, P & I, CWPA, etc. The committee agreed on letting representatives of various committees (i.e. Matt Wolford for the State Committee) circulate agendas via email/mail/meetings. Instead of all regional committee members being expected to comment on everything discussed at every subcommittee meeting; they can/should be selective in choosing their involvement on a topical/issue basis. The agendas will enable regional committee members to comment in real time and not merely react to issues after meetings/discussions.

Registration: Matt noted concern that registration is lagging. Should we consider sending NOV's. Many Water Users such as the Public Water Suppliers have annual inspections and notices could piggyback on them but then what about other large sectors such as agriculture? The Deputy Secretary is looking for ways to trigger people to register.

Website: consensus is that it is too confusing and cumbersome and acts as a deterrent for registration. People are confusing pre-registration for registration etc. Matt Wolford will be following up on simplifying the Web.

Great Lakes Implementing Agreements

Mark Gorman facilitated discussion on what are the major issues surrounding the *Annex 2001* proposal. The committee summarized the following as some major issues:

- Should be a prohibition to prevent new massive diversions; a threshold needs to be developed.

- The Great Lakes United Coalition compact point number 10 *“After use, water should be returned as close as possible to its source, not anywhere in the source’s lake watershed. For local ecosystems, distant returns can be as damaging as no return at all”* was considered to be unrealistic and impossible to accomplish; especially in many agricultural applications.
- In light of the above, Should the regional committee endorse the 14 points from the “compact”: an impromptu vote decided that we should not endorse points 4, 6, and 10 but should endorse the other 11 points.
- There should be no minimum withdrawal exemption.
- The regional committee endorses an objective of *Annex 2001* to help build and maintain consensus among the states/provinces.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2004. Note: next year regional committee meetings are probably going to be on a quarterly basis.