

Draft
Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee
February 8, 2005

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

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Lori Boughton	William R. Gough, P.G., Vice Chair
Janet Anderson	Dave Skellie
Thomas Fuhrman	Craig Kern
Edward Kosa	David Mulvihill
John Walliser	Nancy Slater
Matthew Wolford	David Wright

Committee members not present:

Michael J. Donahue, Ph.D.	Richard Brine
Scott Evans	George Greig
Jesse R. Koon	Randall "Randy" Meabon
Donna Mindek	Nicholas C. Mobilia, Chair
Jerry Rice	Gary Young

DEP Representatives:

John Hines	Freda Tarbell
John Booser	Kurt Skees
Bill Gast (telephone)	

Others in Attendance:

Marti Visnosky	Robert Wisener
Helen Kosa	

Administrative Items

Bill Gough stood in to chair the meeting.

Minutes: The December 14, 2004 minutes were discussed. No official action taken, due to lack of quorum.

Statewide Committee Meeting Summary:

John Hines gave a summary of the Statewide Committee Meeting. John emphasized three key issues from the meeting:

- The Critical Water Planning Area designation criteria are being updated with numbers. Committees have until May 31st to submit comments.
- The Statewide Committee approved that the Regional Committees move forward with the public hearing meetings for May.
- The public participation presentation was approved and is presented in handout packet for the Regional Committee meeting.

John also commented on the funding and budget concerns. DEP internal budget submission was approximately \$3.1 million for 2005-06. Some of those costs will be absorbed internally from efforts of the Bureau of Information Technology. With the budget cutback, staff continues to work with the SRBC & DRBC for Act220 related tasks that were included in the Commissions FY 04-05 budgets. Staff is also working on proposal to use Coastal Zone Management funding to begin initial work on data collection in the Great Lakes Region

John reviewed the outlook for FY 2005 –06. He emphasized that the six key goals reflected in the Summary of Activities memo will be the key areas of focus. He emphasized that those key areas can be achieved with existing budget allocation through various funding pots and through existing staff.

DEP Summary of Activities/Regional Committee Activities -

John Hines handed out the Statewide Water Plan Vision and Purpose. He emphasized that the process has begun to focus too much on the Critical Water Planning piece and that we need to remember that the process is broader. John reiterated the economic elements the Plan should focus on and that we are planning for the entire state not just critical areas.

It was highlighted how Act 67/ 68 Municipalities Planning Code and Act 220 interrelate. Some question arose on the interrelationship of the acts. Mr. Hines discussed with the committee that Act 67/68 language is in Act 220 as related to constituency. Mr. Hines went on to discuss the connection of the critical water planning areas with other statutes and regulations and the importance of analyzing those areas as the plan progresses.

The Committee discussed issues related to registration. Some concerns expressed by the Committee included: What is appropriate as far as sending NOV's out? How can regional committees help in registration process (can use WUDS/EFacts to locate large water users but agricultural and industrial sectors much more difficult to corral)? How can you anticipate industry coming into an area? Mr. Hines went on to

explain that the issue of NOV's needs to be considered but the Department needs to make all efforts to build up registration through outreach and communication efforts. He explained that staff was looking into the web based registration to see if there were means of simplifying for the public.

Public Comments - No public comments were made at the meeting.

CWPA Process and Criteria Comments Report - Craig Kern

Mr. Kern, as part of his report, presented comments on the Designation Criteria and Nomination Process documents in the form of two handouts (Nomination Process, Designation Criteria).

The committee agreed (though no official quorum) that the 5 points on the Nomination Process should be presented at the next Statewide Committee Meeting. Also, a 6th bullet should be added: "Need guidance on regional flexibility if in fact there is a concrete process to follow; how much authority should be put into any such process and how much flexibility should be built in".

Committee also agreed to present the Designation Criteria bullet sheet to the 5/31/05 Statewide Committee Meeting. Any comments/additions to these bullets should be forwarded to Craig Kern before 5/31/05.

Public Meeting/Hearing Discussion - John Hines

Mr. Hines referred to the handout in the meeting package. Handouts included the Public Meeting Agenda, Slideshow Presentation. Marti Visnosky, member of the public commented to make sure they are well advertised. Committee agreed that there should be two public meetings. The first will be held in May in Erie. The second will be held in August in Potter County.

CWPA Revised Criteria Presentation – Bill Gast

Mr. Gast made his presentation via telephone. Bill detailed the key elements and changes to the Designation Criteria. Explained logic and development of criterion. The committee was asked to consider the changes and to make comments by May 31, 2005.

Finalize Comments on Regional Framework

No formal report was made. It was requested by Mr. Hines that any comments or concerns be forwarded to Dave Skellie.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held May 10, 2005, followed by the Public Meeting/hearing.