

Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

May 6, 2008
10:00am – 12:15pm

Erie County Conservation District
1927 Wager Road
Erie, PA

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Donald Benczkowski	Nick Mobilia
Thomas Fuhrman	Dave Skellie
Mark Gorman	Nancy Slater
George Greig	David Wright
Craig Kern	

Others in Attendance:

Earl Brown, ECCD	Dave Jostenski, DEP
Brain Zeppenfeld, ECCD	Lori Mohr, DEP
Andy Zemba, DEP	

Finalize Draft February Meeting Summary

The committee did not have a quorum, so the February meeting summary was not approved.

Reappointments and Vacancies

The 2007 reappointments were approved by the Governor's Office, and the respective committee members should have received their reappointment letters. Please let Lori Mohr know if you did not receive your reappointment letter.

Statewide Committee Meeting Updates

At its March 20th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved four white papers to be included in the draft State Water Plan (Navigation, Integrated Water Resources Management, Stormwater/Flooding and Water Quality). There was also a presentation about the newly created Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force, which will explore resources for upgrading aging drinking water and wastewater facilities and present a report to the Governor in the fall.

At its April 18th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved the Chapter 110 regulations (registration and reporting). The Committee also discussed the Water Conservation Technical Assistance Paper and asked that it be sent to the Regional Committees for comments. Comments should be submitted by May 15th to Gary Obleski and Jerry Feldman.

Great Lakes Compact

Mark Gorman reported that the Great Lakes Compact was referred to the state Senate Environment and Energy committee, but it has not been sent to the Senate floor. The Chair of the Committee is Senator Mary Jo White. PEC has been meeting with Senator White, as well as other Senators to brief them on this important legislation.

Community Announcements

An event will be held on June 28th to celebrate that the Presque Isle Bay has been cleaned up. The event is called "Swim the Bay"

Earthvoyager and Healthy Lakes/Healthy Lives will hold an event on June 13, 14, 15.

A movie premier, "Mysteries of the Great Lakes" will be held on May 23, 2008 at the Big Green Screen Theatre at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

A new center has formed, "Erie Center for Design Preservation." This center will hold presentations and will provide information regarding historic preservation.

Erie County Farm Bureau is offering a tour of Northeast to familiarize DEP staff with the area farms.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the six watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP will perform verification of the watersheds by contacting owners of Public Water Supplies to obtain information on reservoirs, including conservation releases and flow-by. DEP will send summarized reports, when available, to committee members via email and staff will report on the results of the verification at the November round of committee meetings.

Fall Public Meeting and Hearing

Lori Mohr confirmed that the date of the committee's public meeting and hearing will be Monday, September 9 at the Erie County Conservation District.

Lori said the agenda will be similar to the public meeting/hearing held in 2005. There will be a regular committee business meeting in the afternoon. The evening will begin with an open house for the public to view displays and maps. Following the open house, the public meeting will include a presentation and an informal discussion period. Then the public hearing portion of the evening will begin. Lori said the August meeting will be canceled because there will be a regular committee business meeting before the public meeting/hearing on September 9th.

Lori Mohr reviewed the second draft of the Great Lakes regional water atlas. Lori covered important changes from the previous draft and noted that the draft atlas is available on the DEP website. Additional comments will be accepted on the atlas during the public comment period in September.

The next meeting of the full committee is Tuesday, September 9 at Erie County Conservation District at 2:30pm. The public meeting and hearing will follow that evening.