

Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

November 18, 2008
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Erie County Conservation District
1927 Wager Road
Erie, PA

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jerry Allender
Judy Bear
Don Benczkowski
Ron Chapman
Tom Fuhrman
Bill Gough, P.G.
Becky Hosack
Craig Kern
Sue Moyer
Dean Pepicello
Nancy Slater
Jake Welsh
Matt Wolford
Dave Wright

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

James Cardman
Tim Eder
George Greig
Nick Mobilia
Martha Sherman
Dave Skellie

Others in Attendance:

Earl Brown, ECCD
Amy Jo Smith, ECCD
Brian Zeppenfeld, ECCD
Lori Boughton, DEP
Jay Braund, DEP
Dave Jostenski, DEP
Andy Zemba, DEP
Lori Mohr, DEP

Bill Gough called the meeting to order at 10:00 and called for committee member introductions. Two new members, Judy Bear and Sue Moyer introduced themselves to the committee. Judy is an industry representative on the committee and Sue is a Conservation District representative.

Finalize Draft Meeting Summaries

Dave Wright made a motion to approve the draft September meeting summary as written. Tom Fuhrman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reappointments/Vacancies

Lori Mohr reviewed the vacancies with the committee. Three vacancies exist in the Environmental, Professional, and Industrial categories.

DEP is contacting the committee members whose terms expired in September. Committee members continue to serve on the committee, unless contacted by the Governor's office, even if their terms have expired.

Meeting Dates for 2009

Lori Mohr discussed the meeting schedule for 2009. DEP staff proposed cutting back to two meeting dates for the year. The dates for 2009 are Feb 3, conference call, and September 2. Additional meetings will be added to the committee's schedule, if needed.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Public Comments and Review of Regional Plan

Jay Braund reviewed the public comments received on the Draft State Water Plan. He said that DEP will write a Comment/Response document. Lori read a Legislative Initiatives List that was drafted by the P&I Subcommittee as a result of the comments received.

The committee voted to approve the Regional Priorities and Atlas, and to move them forward for consideration by the Statewide Committee.

Motion to approve was made by Dave Wright and seconded by Nancy Slater. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Conservation Technical Assistance Center Update

Dave Jostenski gave an update on the development of a Water Conservation Technical Assistance Center. SRBC is finalizing the formation of the Center and exploring ways to bring a contractor on board to house it. The Center will be modeled, in part, after a consortium that is established in Arizona. Dave will email the committee a link to the Arizona website.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski discussed the verification results of the watersheds that have undergone screening for potential water quantity problems. Dave also said that he would like to re-convene the technical subcommittee that will help evaluate in greater detail the verification results. Dave will be in touch with the technical subcommittee soon with a meeting date and location. Technical subcommittee volunteers include Bill Gough, Nancy Slater, Dave Skellie, Dave Wright, Jerry Allender, Don Benczkowski, and other DEP regional staff.

**NOTE* Subsequent to the November Regional Committee meetings, DEP sent an email notifying committee members that it will begin contacting water operators and stakeholders in January to discuss the verification results. This will delay scheduling the technical subcommittee meetings.*

Great Lakes Compact Update

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed a joint resolution of Congress providing consent to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The Compact becomes effective on December 8, 2008.

Erie County Watershed Protection Plan

Amy Jo Smith and Lori Boughton gave a presentation explaining the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Plan, being developed through PA Sea Grant and ECCD. This project, along with the Stormwater Management Plan for Erie County and a Watershed Protection plan for Walnut Creek, is being used as part of a pilot process to develop Integrated Water Resources Plans, thus implementing a priority of the State Water Plan. This project began with on a smaller-scale as a watershed monitoring plan for Presque-Isle Bay. The project has expanded it's scope to include the entire Lake Erie Watershed, and it will result in a large-scale GIS-based tool and a watershed monitoring plan.

Follow-up/Next Steps

- Committee will hold a conference call on Feb. 3, 2009