

**Draft**  
**Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee**  
**February 9, 2003**

**PADEP Southwest Regional Office**  
**500 Waterfront Dr.**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745**

Meeting Summary

**Attendance**

Committee members in attendance:

Shirl Barnhart  
Scott C. Blauvelt, P.G.  
Donald C. Bluedorn, Esq.  
Mitchell Brouman  
Marie M. Clark  
Robert C. Croker  
Terry Dayton  
Gerald Feldman  
Jeff Fliss  
Jeffrey J. Foley  
Robert Junk – Vice Chairman  
D. Curtis Kaelin  
Richard C. Lehman  
Robert Ritchey  
Deb Simko  
Jerry Schulte  
Robert Softcheck  
Charles O. Stowe  
Roger Uhazie  
Vincent Vicites

Others in Attendance:

Carole Shanahan - ALCOSAN  
William Campbell – Allegheny County Economic Dev.  
Bryan McConell - Cecil Twp Planning  
Therese Moss - Student Conservation Assn

DEP Representatives:

Pam Bishop  
Stuart Gansell  
Bill Gast  
John Hines  
Hoss Liaghat  
Jay Tarara

Lori Mohr

Facilitators

Jennifer Handke  
Kris Carter – DCNR  
John Haluszczak  
Dennis Angelo

**Administrative Items**

Minutes: A motion was made by Richard Lehman and seconded by Robert Softcheck to accept the minutes from the December meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Locations: Mr. Hines suggested that due to the convenience of the Greensburg Conservation District for the committee members, the meetings will be held alternatively in Greensburg and other locations.

DEP Staff Activities: John Hines summarized the DEP staff activities since the December meeting. Mr. Hines and Mr. Gansell explained about the funding activities for Act 220 and also about the meeting held with USGS regarding the Texas state water plan.

Mr. Hines, Mr. Gast explained the status of water use registration, the registration process, and the deadlines for registering with the Department. Mr. Hines also explained about the use of Penn State Extension Offices for Ag registration. Deb Simko mentioned that such activities are missing in the southwest portion of the state and that conservation district staffs are being trained for registration. Mr. Ritchy suggested that the watershed specialists of each conservation district should give the committee an update of the projects underway in the district that have an impact on water issues.

The GIS Water Use Data (WUDs) maps displaying land use and limestone areas were provided to committee members for review and were explained by Mr. Gast. Mr. Ritchy asked whether the mine pools are shown on the maps and Mr. Hines mentioned that such information is probably available and DEP will try to add it to the maps. The DCNR Rivers Conservation Plans/maps and program were explained to committee members.

**Pennsylvania Water Law - Overview**

Presentation by Pam Bishop: "A Short Review of Pennsylvania Water Law"  
Pennsylvania water law is based on the doctrine of reasonable use, which includes common law principles and statutory law. Statutory law is superimposed on the common law to regulate particular uses or users. Ms. Bishop described common law principles, she briefly described relevant

Pennsylvania statutes regarding water rights, and she reviewed federal compacts (DRBC & SRBC) that allocate regulatory authority to River Basin Commissions.

### **Act 220 Overview**

Mr. Hines explained Act 220 Regional Plan Components, Uses of State Water Plan and Act 220 Consideration. He also distributed a color-coded sheet for each of these subjects.

A one sheet handout, "Steps to Achieving Committee Goals in 2004" was prepared, explained and distributed by Mr. Bluedorn, to be discussed in the future meetings. This sheet prioritizes the Ohio River Regional Committee Goals and steps to achieve the goals for the year 2004.

### **OHIO RIVER VALLEY SANITATION COMMISSION (ORSANCO)**

Jerry Schulte from ORSANCO provided a presentation explaining the legal authority of ORSANCO and also a special project ORSANCO has in Allegheny River and Monongahela River.

### **Regional Issues - Facilitated Discussion**

Committee members worked with DEP facilitators to categorize the regional issues. The report of this activity is attached.

### **Wrap-Up/Next Steps**

Committee Members Donald C. Bluedorn, Robert C. Croker and Deb Simko volunteered to serve on an outreach committee to assist with outreach material and organizing public meetings.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2004, 10:00 AM

### **Mr. Hines outlined the DEP future work as:**

- Outreach effort, registration and use of conservation districts
- Preparation of mine pool maps
- Putting legal documents online
- Act 54 presentation
- Education and community outreach
- Ethics and financial statements
- Description of water allocation process for public water suppliers
- Connection between subcommittees statewide

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.