

Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

October 26, 2011
9:30 am – 12:00pm

Seven Springs Lodge
Dogwood Forum
Seven Springs, PA 15622

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Burglund
Scott Blauvelt
Mitchell Brouman
John Courtney
Terry Dayton
Todd Dillan
Chuck Duritsa
Dan Gracenin

Jeff Fliss
Dan Ireland
Jan Oliver
Ron Rohall
Deb Simko
Bob Softcheck
Chuck Stowe

Committee Members not in Attendance:

Dan Barton
Patrick Meinert
Bob Ritchey

Jerry Schulte
Roger Uhazie
John Walliser

Others in Attendance:

Jay Braund, DEP
Curtis Schreffler, USGS
Lori Mohr, DEP
Kelly Heffner, DEP
Mike Hill, DEP
Heather Fowler, FCCD
John MacDonald, Resident
Page Wetterberg, Resident

Dave Jostenski, DEP
Gary Wetterberg, Resident
Dan Galeone, USGS
Ben Ferguson, Paul Rizza Associates
Krissy Kasserman, Resident
Matt Genchur, PA Rural Water
Greg Shustrick SCCD
Lenny Lichvar, SCCD

Welcome and Introductions:

Ron Rohall opened the meeting, thanked everyone for their participation and called for introductions at 10:00 am. Ron introduced Kelly Heffner.

Kelly Heffner thanked everyone for their participation and emphasized the value of their expertise as this effort moves forward. This effort is one of two Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) in the state, and as a result it will be a model for similar planning efforts in the future. As the work of this project moves forward, we will rely on the input of the Ohio Regional committee, and the committee will ultimately be recommending a draft CARP to the Statewide Water Resources Committee. Kelly also reviewed and took questions concerning the recent DEP reorganization. The Water Management Deputate

will now include 4 Bureaus and one Office, including Point and Nonpoint Source Bureau, Bureau of Drinking Water, Bureau of Waterways Engineering, and Bureau of Restoration and Conservation. The Interstate Waters Office will take the place of the former Water Planning Office. She emphasized the value of the Interstate Waters Office in working with this effort and variety of stakeholder's including ICPRB, Great Lakes Commission, ORSANCO, SRBC, and DRBC. All DEP Program staff now report directly to Executive Deputy Secretary Hines.

Establish Critical Area Advisory Committee:

John Courtney made a motion to approve the establishment of a Critical Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) for both Laurel Hill and Back Creek Watersheds. The motion was seconded by Chuck Stowe and it was approved. A list of prospective CAAC members was distributed to the group. The CAAC will advise and participate with the Ohio Regional Committee and DEP in the development of the Laurel Hill and Back Creek Critical Area Resource Plan (CARP). The CAAC will meet on Nov 4 and other dates will be selected throughout the winter.

USGS Overview of Technical Work for Laurel Hill Creek and Back Creek:

Dan Galeone of USGS reviewed the work of drafting the CARP. Many sections are near completion while other chapters such as Chapters 8 (Water Demand and Supply Alternatives), 9 (Recommendations) and 10 (Summary) need to be completed. Land use plans are complete and available on the DEP website. Additional work needs to be completed on the water flow model. Preliminary findings from the USGS work indicate that habit loss under low flow conditions is occurring in Laurel Hill Creek from water withdrawals in the upper reaches of the stream.

After Dan's presentation there was discussion and questions concerning water withdrawals options from various sources in the basin. The Quemahoning Reservoir was mentioned as an alternative source to Laurel Hill creek. Dave Jostenski suggested that a Flow Diagram should be developed by DEP, USGS, contractors, and the CAAC as a reference tool for the CARP. This will help describe the picture of where water flows in, around, and out of the basin. Dave also emphasized that this is a planning tool that can and will be used not only by DEP staff, but may also be used by local government decision makers and others involved in water resources administration. Additionally, Dave mentioned that Spotts, Stevens, and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) was hired by the Somerset Conservation District through a Growing Greener Grant as an additional contractor to work on the CARP. SSM will focus their work on the Recommendations chapter.

Deb Simko asked Dave Jostenski about the participation of the Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee and the CAAC in the development of the CARP document(s). Dave referred Deb to the CARP development guidelines, available on the DEP website. The guidelines spell out the roles and responsibilities for the committees, as well as for DEP.

Draft copies of the CARPs are available. Lori Mohr suggested that if anyone has comments or questions on the drafts, that they submit them to DEP by November 30, 2011. Work on finalizing the CARPs will continue through the winter.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mitchell Brouman and seconded by Chuck Duritsa at 11:30.