

Potomac Water Resource Regional Committee
December 19, 2003
Adams County Conservation District, Gettysburg, PA

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance (100% attendance):

Dr. Evon Barvinchack
Charles Bennett - Chairperson
Mark Bream
Phyllis Chant – Vice Chairperson
Michael Christopher
Marlin L. Ewing
George Fisanich
Andrew Fitz
Thomas Gratto
Joseph Hoffman
Jeffrey Kloss
Ricky A. Leese
Donald MacAskill
William McLaughlin
Russell McLucas
Pat Naugle
Brent Ramsey
Robert Reichart
William Reichart
James Richenderfer, Ph.D., P.G.
Tim Schaeffer
Roger Steele
Mark Mathews

Others in attendance:

Vy Trinh
Susan Cipperly

DEP Representatives:

Pam Bishop
Bill Gast
John Hines
David Jostenski
Lori Mohr
Kurt Skees
Susan Weaver

Administrative

Handout Package: Oct 27 Committee Meeting minutes; Draft of Bylaws of the Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee; Recommended Revisions to statewide and regional committee Bylaws; Draft of "Implementation Strategy and Schedule for Regional and Statewide Committees"; "Regional Committees, Statewide Committee and DEP Responsibilities Under Act 220 Who Does What?"; State Water Planning Slideshow Presentation; Water Use and Budgeting Slideshow Presentation.

Groundwater pamphlet from Adams County Planning Office – Distributed.

Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Christopher to accept the minutes from the October meeting as written. Motion seconded by a committee member, and passed unanimously.

Bylaws

John Hines discussed the recommended revisions to all regional Committee bylaws - "housekeeping" changes and notified the committee that item 2 will be struck from the changes and will be left as originally worded ('to' not 'from').

Motion made to accept the draft bylaws and three recommendations from DEP (Numbers 1, 3, and 4) was made by a committee member and seconded by Ms. Chant. Motion passed.

Voice votes on the specific revisions requested by various regional committees for inclusion in Potomac committee observance were as follows:

Article X: Executive Session – Motion made by Dr. Barvinchak and seconded by a committee member to include a provision for an Executive session for the Potomac Committee. Motion passed with a vote of 17-3.

Article VI: Voting – A motion was made by Mr. Christopher and seconded by Mr. William Reichert **not** to include the option of an alternate in any capacity – i.e. the Committee member is either there or they are not there. Therefore an absent member will basically forfeit his vote on anything decided upon during the missed meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 19-1.

Article IX: Meetings – Motion was made by Mr. Robert Reichart and seconded by Mr. Steele to include a modified version of this provision. The language that was suggested is as follows: A Potomac Committee member may be recommended to the Governor for removal from the Committee if that same member has unexcused (not excused by the chairman) absences that number

more than one-third of the regularly scheduled meetings in one year. Motion passed with a vote of 19-3.

It was agreed that this will give reasonable latitude for medical related absences, surprise business meetings, etc. Members were asked to call or email the Chairperson if they plan to miss a meeting.

Meeting Dates for 2004:

Motion was made by Mr. MacAskill, and seconded by Ms. Chant to hold meetings on the following dates:

February 20; April 16; June 18; August 20; October 15; December 17

Motion passed.

In addition, a meeting was proposed for Tuesday, January 20th to be held at the Adams County Conservation District Office at 10:00 am. Subjects will include a presentation from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) on their present work and priorities specific to the Potomac River Basin, and a presentation from the Adams County Conservation District Watershed Manager, pertaining to projects that are currently underway in the Adams County portion of the basin. The meeting will conclude by noon and lunch will not be provided by DEP for committee members.

February 20th meeting is tentatively planned to meet in Chambersburg at the Franklin County Administrative Annex.

Meetings will only be rescheduled as a last resort if weather reports are very bleak two days before the scheduled meeting date - members and others will be notified by email and those without email will be contacted by telephone by the committee chairperson.

Notify Chairman Charles Bennett with other future meeting location suggestions.

Scoping and Setting of Major Milestones

Discussion by John Hines. Stated that by the February meeting, the Potomac committee needs to start focusing on and discussing the regional priority issues, whether or not the Statewide Committee is fully operating by this time. See "Implementation Strategy for Regional and Statewide Committees" handout for 2004 timetable in addressing issues.

Mr. Hines summarized the goals in context of DEP working with regional Committees:

1. Define regional issues.
2. Establish a process for determining Critical Water Planning Areas.
3. Outline regional plan components of the State Water Plan so that when statewide policies are adopted, regions are ready to go.
4. Review and comment on drafts of regulations to be developed regarding the registration process.

Overview of the existing State Water Plan

Presentation by Bill Gast. Announced that the Planning Principles Volume from the State Water Plan will be posted on the Web within a few weeks. Chapter 5 in each sub-basin report is considered the core chapter. Planning Principles and mainly chapter 5 should be reviewed as food for thought (Potomac region has only one sub-basin).

Presentation/Discussion of Water Budgeting Vision

Presentation by Bill Gast. Underscored the fact that the basis for the Water Budgeting Model (USGS expected to have running in about 2 years) is reliable, relatively current data.

Generally, the Potomac Committee expressed interest in a presentation on how different studies and data can be used together to help create a picture of the Potomac Water Situation. Mr. Gast suggested that the USGS folks can present how their model can integrate various data into the Potomac Model i.e. stream gaging data, groundwater data, development, water availability studies, etc.

Suggested Agenda Topics

- USGS water availability study, Carroll Valley
- Local issue of rapid growth and land development
- Watershed manager presentations from each Conservation District

It was suggested that County Planning Offices and County Conservation Districts should be added to the list of folks who are to receive notice of committee meetings and Act220 updates.