

POTOMAC REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, September 15, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Franklin County Administrative Annex

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Phyllis Chant	Don MacAskill
Michael Christopher	Bill McLaughlin
George Fisanich	Pat Naugle
Andrew Fitz	Brent Ramsey
Joe Hoffman	Bob Reichart
Jeff Kloss	Bill Reichart

Committee members not in attendance:

Charlie Bennett	Mark Mathews
Dr. Evon Barvinchack	Russell McLucas
Mark Bream	Ricky Leese
Thomas Gratto	James Richenderfer, Ph.D., P.G.

Others in Attendance:

Bill Gast – DEP
Leslie Sarvis – DEP
Teresa Uccellini – Mercersburg Water Authority
Audrey Tozer – St. Thomas Township citizen
Andy Paszkowsky

Vice Chair Phyllis Chant called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Administrative Items

The Draft May Meeting Summary was approved with no changes.

Motion made by: Don MacAskill
Motion second by: Bob Reichart

Leslie Sarvis informed the committee that the nominations to fill their vacancies have been forwarded to the Governor's Office. Hopefully the appointments will be made by the November meeting date. The 2006 committee member terms expire in September, and DEP staff have asked those whose terms expire to let us know if they are interested in continuing on the committee.

Leslie Sarvis told the committee that Rachel Delavan is her new job share partner. Rachel began working for DEP in July and will share responsibilities with Leslie. For now, Lori Mohr is still the lead DEP contact for the Potomac Committee, although this may change as job duties are divided between them. Rachel's contact information is rdelavan@state.pa.us and her phone number is the same as Leslie's: 717-772-5634.

DEP is developing a GIS-based electronic tool to display all water attribute and water quality data known to the Department. It is called the WAVE Tool (Water Attribute Viewer for the Enterprise) and is being developed in two phases. Phase I is the internal DEP view and was completed in July. Phase II will be the external display of the data as determined by the respective water programs and is not yet complete. DEP would like for Regional Committee members to volunteer to attend a tutorial session in the coming months to learn more about the WAVE Tool and to provide feedback to DEP. Lori will email committee members at a later date to ask for volunteers.

Leslie informed the committee that the Registration Regulations would be going to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on September 19.

Some committee members asked if the State Water Plan is on schedule and has enough funding to be completed by the deadline of March 2008. Related to that, they expressed their desire to see results of the data that DEP has been gathering over the past several years. Bill Gast responded that we have collected the registration data and that it takes time to conduct quality checks on this data. This and other data (such as discharge monitoring reports and population projections) is now being used in the USGS Budgeting Tool, the Water Use Analysis Tool and the Yield Analysis Tool, which should be completed in the next few months. Results of these tools will be brought to the Regional Committees as soon as possible. Leslie added that the Water Planning Office received \$1.8 million from DEP's Environmental Stewardship Fund to be used for the State Water Planning Effort and that yes, a State Water Plan will be completed by March 2008. She reminded the committee, however, that the 2008 Plan will be the beginning of the State Water Plan, and that the five-year updates to the Plan are intended in part to fill in data and information gaps.

Comments from the Public

Teresa Uccellini from the Mercersburg Water Authority introduced herself to the committee and explained that they are forming a watershed association. The

area is facing increasing drinking water demands, so they are looking at wellhead and aquifer protection. They also had to impose a moratorium on development outside the borough.

Audrey Tozer of St. Thomas introduced herself and told the committee of problems in Bear Valley with water shortages, particularly related to a local mining operation, where restrictions have been placed on individual well users. Bill McLaughlin commented on other structural water problems in Bear Valley. Ms. Tozer also thanked the committee for their time and efforts they are putting toward the State Water Plan.

Joe Hoffman announced a meeting of the Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership on Oct. 25 at the Emergency Services Center in Gettysburg from 1pm – 3pm. Joe also handed out a flyer about ICPRB's Potomac River Rambles. The next one will be a fall foliage trip Oct. 12 – 15 through the Paw Paw Bends.

Regional Priorities Facilitated Discussion

Leslie Sarvis led a discussion on the committee's Regional Priorities, which were originally developed in February 2004. The goal of today's meeting was to hone their priorities into "desired outcomes." These desired outcomes will be the basis of the committee's final recommendations in their Regional Action Agenda portion of the State Water Plan.

Michael Christopher commented that an earlier version of the Regional Priorities may contain language that could be used in the desired outcomes. Leslie said she and Lori will look for an earlier version. After much discussion it was decided that Phyllis will take the committee's comments and re-draft them into a new list. They will then be sent to the full committee within two weeks for review. The committee also decided to hold a work session before the Nov. 17 meeting to continue refining the priorities. A tentative date of October 20 at 10am was set for the work session, and Phyllis said she would check on a location for that date. The progress on the priorities will be discussed again at the November committee meeting.

Regional Atlas/Maps Discussion

More maps of the Lower Susquehanna basin were brought to the meeting for committee members to add to their Penn's Waters binders. The maps included:

- Water Use - Act 220 Registration
- Population Change
- Land Cover
- Average Minimum and Maximum Temperatures
- Average Annual Precipitation

- Community Water Supply Service Areas
- A Summary of Forest Resources

Follow-Up/Next Steps

- Phyllis will revise the Regional Priorities list and send it to the committee within two weeks.
- A work session is tentatively planned for Oct. 20 at 10:00am. Phyllis will let Charlie Bennett know about the work session, and she will check into location availability.
- Lori and Leslie will look for an earlier version of the committee's Regional Priorities and will send them to the committee.

The next meeting is November 17 at the Franklin County Administrative Annex in Chambersburg. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.