

Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

February 15, 2007

Adams County Dept. of Emergency Services
Gettysburg, PA

DRAFT

Committee Members in Attendance:

Charles Bennett

Mark Bream

Phyllis Chant

Michael Christopher

George Fisanich

Joe Hoffman

Jeff Kloss

Don MacAskill

Mark Mathews

Pat Naugle

Brent Ramsey

Bob Reichart

James Richenderfer

Vy Trinh

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Andrew Fitz

Brian Hill

Ricky Leese

Bill McLaughlin

Russell McLucas

Bill Reichart

Others in Attendance:

Mike Hill, DEP

Fran Koch, Land Conservancy of

Adams County

Carl Rundquist, Borough of
Chambersburg

Leslie Sarvis, DEP

Introductions

Charlie Bennett called the meeting to order and called for introductions at 10:00 a.m. Frank Koch of the Land Conservancy of Adams County and Carl Rundquist of Chambersburg Borough introduced themselves and briefly discussed their interest in attending the meeting.

Administrative Items

Election of Officers

Michael Christopher made a motion to retain Charlie Bennett as Chair and Phyllis Chant as Vice Chair. Bob Reichart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Draft November Meeting Summary

Don MacAskill made a motion to accept the Draft November Meeting Summary as amended by changing Charlie Bennett to Phyllis Chant calling the meeting to order under the Introductions section. Jim Richenderfer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reappointments and Vacancies

The 2007 reappointments are being reviewed in the Governor's Office. Leslie Sarvis said that there are still three vacancies, environmental, industrial and water supply, but that she has a nomination for the environmental category, and there is interest from two other people for the industrial and water supply categories.

2008 State Water Plan Timeline

Currently--DEP is working closely with consultants to complete revisions to the Draft Atlas based upon Regional Committee and Statewide Committee comments. The Policy and Integration Subcommittee and DEP are working on the white papers and the components to be included in the State Water Plan Principles document.

- Summer 2008—Comprehensive State Water Plan package to be presented to the Statewide Committee
- Fall 2008—Public Meetings and Hearings for public review and comment on Draft State Water Plan package

Public Meetings and Hearings

The committee decided on Thurs, September 18 to hold its public meeting/hearing, with the likelihood of combining its regularly scheduled fall meeting on the same day. The Penn State Mont Alto campus was suggested as a location. Leslie will look into the availability of a room there.

Comments from the Public

Pat Naugle told the committee that he attended a seminar held by the Adams County Economic Development Corporation and that the attendees – mostly municipal officials – were invited and encouraged to attend today’s committee meeting. Pat stressed the need to reach out to more municipal officials and county planners in the basin, particularly for the fall public meeting/hearing.

Joe Hoffman informed the committee that in November the Water Resources Development Act was re-authorized. Joe also said that funds to ICPRB for next year were included in the Governor’s budget, potentially allowing some support for a CARP. However, constituents must contact their legislators to encourage more funding in the budget for CARPs.

Bob Reichart mentioned the large scale interbasin transfer from York to Gettysburg that is being discussed. Charlie added that a decision still hasn’t been made regarding the transfer, and Pat Naugle said that a plan is not in place yet, although one is definitely needed. Joe said that there are also water quality issues associated with this type of project.

Regional Priority Statements

Leslie Sarvis explained that brief policy statements were prepared for the top two priorities identified previously by the regional committee. With the approval of the Committee, these will be presented to the Statewide Committee in the spring for consideration as part of the State Water Plan Principles document. The Committee made a few amendments to the policy statements.

The last sentence under the first priority was amended to read, “The Committee recommends implementing sound land use practices, comprehensive regional planning, **a regional regulatory program**, and providing local governments with tools to properly manage water resources when face with prioritizing competing land use decisions.”

The last sentence under the second priority was amended to read, “To ensure adequate water resources for present and future generations in the Potomac Basin, **this goal highlights the Committee recommends** a water quality objective that encourages

municipal programs to include domestic well construction standards, riparian buffers and vegetated systems, and the protection of the natural soil mantle.”

The Committee gave consensus agreement on the changes to both priorities. *Please note: The final priority statements can be found on the regional committee webpage.* The Committee further discussed the need for regional regulatory programs, and Joe Hoffman agreed to write a brief paper on the discussion topics surrounding regulatory programs for further discussion at the May meeting.

Prioritization of Watersheds

The results and recommendations of the technical subcommittee were discussed by the full regional committee. Mike Hill led a discussion of 10 areas the subcommittee recommended for further discussion and asked the Committee to reduce the list to 5 watersheds. The committee decided to combine Rock Creek and Marsh Creek watersheds and to include the West Branch Conococheague in the Conococheague Creek watershed. The watersheds chosen by the committee are:

Rock Creek / Marsh Creek
Alloway Creek
Toms Creek
Conococheague Creek (including West Branch)
Antietam Creek

Phyllis Chant made a motion to accept the top 5 watersheds chosen by the committee. Mike Christopher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee will be held on May 16, 2008 at the Franklin County Administrative Annex in Chambersburg.