

Statewide Water Resources Committee

Jan 20, 2005
Room 105
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance

Janet Bowers, Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee Chair
Rick Carlson
Carol R. Collier
Tom Ford
Rep. Bud George represented by Thomas Kuhn
Rep. Kate Harper
Joe Hoffman
Jim MacKenzie, Vice Chair
David Mandelbaum, Policy and Integration Subcommittee Chair
Susan Fox Marquart
Gary Merritt
Bill Morris
Cathy Curran Myers
Gary Petrewski
Robert Reichart
Robert Rosenthal
Rich Subasic
Paul Swartz
Alan Vicory
Bill Wehry
George Wolff
Matt Wolford

Committee members not in attendance

Don Bluedorn, Chair
Nick DeBenedictis
Michael Donohue
Scott Dunkelberger
Gerald Feldman
Bob Long
John Mizerak
Howard Neukrug
William Nichols

Others in attendance

Stan Geary
Kerry Leberknight
Andrea Sharretts
R. Timothy Weston
Sue Wilson
Leroy Young

DEP Representatives in attendance

Pam Bishop
Stu Gansell
Bill Gast
David Jostenski
Lori Mohr
Leslie Sarvis
Jessica Sprajar
Susan Weaver

Administrative

Review of draft November 19, 2004 Meeting Summary. Jan Bowers to provide additional language to CWPA Subcommittee item.

Motion: Tabled, no quorum at this time

John Hines provided an update of DEP activities as reflected in the January 13, 2005 update memo that was provided to Committee members.

Paul Swartz of SRBC brought up funding concern as it relates to overall ability to implement the Act 220 process. DEP indicated that it was unlikely that the 3 million PRR would be approved in light on new round of budget cuts. Motion was made and later rescinded to write letter to Governor and House and Senate leaders to fund the process. Discussion focused on possible meeting with Sec. McGinty by the Chair or others and also possibly through the funding issue to the P&I committee for consideration of other options. John reported that he'd be able to provide more information on funding and priorities by the next meeting.

Comments from the Public

None.

Update from Regional Committee Representatives

In general all Regional Committees reported that the last meeting was one of the most active and interesting due to the fact that they had the three documents on CWPA's and Regional Plan outlines to begin working on. Better attitude by Regional Committee members as a result too.

Delaware – reviewed CWPA process document; had concerns about budget requirements of submitter, burden on petitioner, and design criteria for instream flows, subcommittees formed to deal with content of documents and responses by the committee

Great Lakes / Erie – Concern about deadlines for comment, subcommittees were formed, concern about who is going to pay for CWPA designation process

Upper/Middle Susquehanna. – finished watershed presentations; CWPA review, time frame for public meetings a concern; looking again at their regional priorities

Potomac – scheduled 2005 meetings; echoed all the above from the other committees

Ohio – John Hines gave this update and noted that Ohio wants (3) public meetings not just one; reviewed CWPA and concern about the possible “negativity” that might come with a CWPA designation, Deb Simko starting basin description

Lower Susquehanna – Ditto to all above and said they were having trouble making quorums

Subcommittee Activities/Reports

- P&I – David Mandelbaum reported on the last meeting. A main topic was that the overall conversation needed to shift away from simply the CWPA areas and instead to the broader topic of non-CWPA's likely to be most of the state. Possible March meeting though no date set. Waiting on White paper by DEP on "safety factor" for instream flow needs in the CWPA criteria piece.
- Public Participation – Lori Mohr reported and presented committee with Public Meeting Agenda and PowerPoint presentation. A motion was made to accept both documents with the following suggestions:
 - David Mandelbaum suggested revisiting the emphasis on CWPA portion and possibly "de-emphasizing" it into the overall outline as a sub-part. Also to create a section for the non-CWPA's.
 - Comments on CWPA's or "broader concerns"
 - Matt Wolford – likes the format of Regional business meeting first and then public meeting
 - Carol Collier – agreed with David's comment and further noted it would be good to have a area that addresses the milestone dates so the timeframe for the process is clear to all, and that the Regional DEP contacts be added for information to participants
 - Rep. Harper – concern that the "hearing" portion requires registration in advance and has concern that there won't be opportunity for people to simply ask questions of DEP and provide comment based on what they see when they get there.
 - Sequence of Topics – Look at the sequence of Registration and Reporting section and put it after all the planning portion of the presentation.

Made By: Bill Morris

Seconded by: Bob Rosenthal

Outcome: Passed

- CWPA – Jan Bowers went through latest version of CWPA Designation Criteria (1/18/05) with everyone and recommended release to Regionals for comment. Recommendation was moved, seconded and approved along with extension on this document until the end of May 2005.

Made By: Kate Harper

Seconded by: Matt Wolford

Outcome: Passed

The White paper by DEP for "Safety factor" for instream flow was discussed again and DEP hopes to have to CWPA Subcommittee by March before next potential meeting. Also asked SWRC to again begin to address non-CWPA areas. A motion was made to request the P&I Subcommittee take over the CWPA Process document review as comments come back.

Made By: Jan Bowers

Seconded by: Bob Reichart

Outcome: Passed

Registration Update

Dave Jostenski updated committee on progress of registrations. There are approximately 7300 sources registered now in the system. Dave reported positive gains in the Public Water Users registration mostly. Rick Carlson asked if we could have information presented as a percentage of estimates by categorization of use and DEP felt this could be provided with future updates.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2005 at 9:30 in room 105 of the RCSOB in Harrisburg.