

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources
Regional Committee Meeting
April 29, 2004
Centre County Solid Waste Authority – Bellefonte, PA

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Tom Beauduy	Doug Manning
Ed Bellis	Jennifer Means
Mike Cavanaugh	Gary Petrewski
Bill Gerlach	David Snook
Todd Giddings	Jerry Walls
Drew Hadley	Harold Webster
Roy Herlocher	Uwe Weindel
Tim Horner	John Yamona
David Kaufman	Adam Zakarian
Bill Manner	

Committee members not in attendance:

Robert Bergenstock	Brooks Way
Frank Halderman	Dorne White
Richard Wardrop	

Others in attendance:

Brian Auman, SEDACOG / Susq Greenway Partnership	David Gordner, DEP
Chuck DeCurtis, The Nature Conservancy	David Jostenski, DEP
Michael Buchwach, DEP	Alice Kline, DEP
PJ Dhillon, DEP	Brian McCord, CCNA
Chris Finton, Meiser & Earl	Matt Milliron, Centre Co. Plnng Office
Stuart Gansell, DEP	Lisa Nicholas, PLNA
William Gast, DEP	Kristen Reinertsen, DCNR
Mat Genchur, Clear Water Conservancy	Leslie Sarvis, DEP
	Susan Weaver, DEP

Administrative Items

1. The summary from the previous meeting on February 24, 2004 was approved with no changes. Motion made by: Mike Cavanaugh
Motion Second: Uwe Weindel
Motion was carried.
2. Gary Petrewski presented the final list of Regional Priorities/Needs he assembled based on feedback from the Committee members. Doug Manning made a motion to accept the list and Tim Horner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Stu Gansell announced that the Statewide Committee has been filled and will meet on May 10th in Harrisburg for their first meeting. Key for Committee will be to address the need for developing draft guidelines for the regional committees to use in establishing and accepting critical water planning areas. Funding options are still being explored for use in implementing the requirements of Act 220. The Committee will also begin to look into the education and outreach element, which is to be developed.
4. Dave Jostenski showed several maps as examples of GIS information that the Department currently is pulling together as part of the State Water Plan. Included were views of water withdrawals over top of geology and land use, the water quality attainment status and digital elevation models. This information will be posted on the secure Regional Committee page.
5. Dave Jostenski and Sue Weaver provided an update on the Act 220 registration process. Registration information will be used to develop an inventory of water use data. A water budgeting model will utilize the water use registration information to assess the availability of water and identify critical areas. All public water supply agencies, hydropower facilities and all users exceeding an average rate of 10,000 gallons per day in a 30-day period must register. Approximately 2,600 sources have registered as of April 2004. DEP expects to have approximately 15,000 sources registered when complete.
6. DEP staff proposed that an outreach ad hoc workgroup be formed consisting of individuals from each regional committee, the statewide committee and DEP staff. If all regional committees are in agreement, the workgroup will meet to develop an outreach strategy and framework that is consistent among all of the regional committees. The first meeting will take place on May 26th at a location to be determined. The following committee members volunteered for the workgroup: Todd Giddings, Hank Webster, David Snook, Bill Gerlach, and Ed Bellis.

Gary Petrewski made a motion to accept the members who volunteered for the workgroup and Mike Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Comments from the Public

Matt Genchur of the Clear Water Conservancy in State College briefly discussed the Spring Creek Watershed Study and its progress to date. Phase I of the study is complete and will be presented to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission for their review. A public meeting was held in March to gather input on the priorities of the study and the watershed.

Geology of Acid Rock Formations

Todd Giddings provided a presentation on the Geology of Acid Rock Formations in the Spring Creek Watershed. It addressed the disturbance of acid rock material that has occurred during construction of the new highway I-99 in the Spring Creek Watershed. Options are being prepared to contain the flow of the acid rock drainage. A PENNDOT newsletter was provided for members to review that addresses the progress of the ongoing study to contain the drainage.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Presentation

Jerry Walls and Brian Auman conducted a presentation on the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and its accomplishments. The Partnership provides a venue for the cooperation of many interested parties to work together to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural settings along the Susquehanna River. The Greenway Charter was signed June 28, 2001 on City Island, Harrisburg. A list of GIS data layers that have been compiled by the Partnership was provided to the members of the Committee.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Presentation

Bill Gerlach gave a presentation on the Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Pennsylvania.

Timeline/Flowchart of State Water Plan

Dave Jostenski provided committee members with a timeline of DEP activities that will take place between 2004 and 2008. Sue Weaver reviewed the role of the Regional Committee and included a timeline of target completion dates for Committee tasks. Handouts were provided detailing these activities and tasks.

Wrap-Up/Next Steps

The committee discussed the need to begin collecting information and data now for their regional component of the State Water Plan. To accomplish this, it was suggested to divide the Upper/Middle Susquehanna basin into sub-basins, or watersheds, and gather specific data for that sub-basin. Jennifer Means volunteered to coordinate the presenters for the next meeting by inviting speakers with expertise from a particular DEP watershed within the basin.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2004 at the DEP Northcentral Regional Office in Williamsport.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.