

UPPER/MIDDLE SUSQUEHANNA WATER RESOURCES
REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Centre County Solid Waste Authority
Interpretive Center
Bellefonte, PA

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Committee members in attendance:

Tom Beauduy	Douglas Manning
Mike Cavanaugh	Gary Petrewski
Todd Giddings	David Snook
Dennis Hameister	Richard Wardrop
Tim Horner	Hank Webster
Amy Jacoby	John Yamona
David Kaufman	

Committee members NOT in attendance:

Karen Chapin	Jennifer Means
Donald Holderman	Jerry Walls
John Hood	Dorne White
Bill Manner	

Guests:

Bob Jacobs, Centre County Planning	Bob Pody, SRBC
Matt Milliron, Centre County Planning	Dave Jostenski, DEP
Bob Donaldson, Spring Creek Watershed Community	Mike Hill, DEP
Mark R. Stephens, DEP NCRO	Rachel Delavan, DEP
David Matcho, DEP NERO	

Introductions:

Hank Webster called the meeting to order and called for introductions at 10:05am.

Comments from the Public:

Bob Donaldson from the Spring Creek Watershed gave some background information on the watershed--set in the growing State College/Bellefonte metropolitan area, good brown trout fisheries, attracting a growing number of retirees and tourists. There are many active watershed groups in the area and efforts to coordinate these groups to meet the top priority of planning for the future of the watershed. Interest in the CWPA designation and obtaining more information about expectations was expressed.

Administrative Items:

DEP Update:

- Reappointments and Vacancies: Reappointments are underway. Rachel Delavan listed the vacant positions and updated the Committee on progress made to fill these appointments. Suggestions can be sent to Rachel (rdelavan@state.pa.us) for potential nominees for vacant positions in the following categories: Environmental, Planning Director, and Conservation District Director.
- State Water Plan Timeline for 2008 Completion:
 - Currently--DEP is working closely with consultants to complete revisions to the Draft Atlas based upon Regional Committee and Statewide Committee comments, the results of the Screening Tool are being reviewed and discussed by the Regional Committees, and the Policy and Integration Subcommittee and DEP are working on various components of the State Water Plan to be included in the State Water Plan Principles document. Policy recommendations are currently being developed by the Subcommittee and will be sent to the Statewide Committee for consideration in the Spring.
 - Summer 2008—Comprehensive State Water Plan package to be presented to the Statewide Committee
 - Fall 2008—Public Meeting and Hearings
- Stormwater pilots: 3 Stormwater pilots are getting underway in the State. Additional information will be presented at a future meeting.

Public meeting and hearing:

September 17, 2008

Possible location – Lycoming College.

Election of Officers:

- Gary Petrewski jointly nominated Hank Webster for chair and Todd Giddings for vice-chair. Tom Beauduy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

November Meeting Summary:

A motion was made by Gary Petrewski to accept the August and November 2007 meeting notes as written. Motion was seconded by Mike Cavanaugh and it passed unanimously.

Regional Priorities Statements:

- Rachel Delavan 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 agreed to amendments to the statements.
- Gary Petrewski made a motion to pass the regional priority statements along to the Statewide Committee with amendments. The motion was seconded by Todd Giddings and passed unanimously.
- The priorities are amended as follows:

- The last sentence under the 1st priority is amended to read: *The Committee also recommends that well construction standards be implemented, particularly related to residential well drilling, that will protect and sustain groundwater quality and availability*
- The second priority is amended as follows:
 - *Address the consequences of acidic drainages on receiving streams to improve and protect water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and enhance the availability and utilization of water*

Acidic drainages have devastated miles of streams in this region. This legacy pollution and potential future disturbances of acid-producing rock must be addressed to improve and protect overall water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and to enhance the availability of water. To improve stream quality, efforts must focus on treating abandoned mine drainage sources, encouraging reuse of treated abandoned mine water, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, and improving assimilation of nutrients and other pollutants in streams impaired by abandoned mine drainage. The benefits of this work would be far reaching: polluted water would be restored, treated water could be used as additional raw water sources where appropriate, abandoned mine lands could be returned to productive uses while minimizing erosion and sedimentation, and nutrient and sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay would be reduced.

Recommendations of the technical subcommittee on Prioritization of Watersheds:

The results and recommendations of the technical subcommittee were discussed by the full Regional Committee. Dave Jostenski led a discussion of 10 areas the subcommittee recommended for further discussion and asked the Committee to reduce the list to 5 watersheds. After weighing various factors, the Committee chose the top five watersheds to be passed on to the Statewide committee for further investigation. These include:

1. Cold Stream*
2. Little Catawissa Creek
3. Spring Creek and Nittany Creek
4. Sugar Creek
5. Toby Creek

* follow up required. Since Anderson Creek and Cold Creek are both in Clearfield County, the Committee requested that DEP discuss this with the Conservation District and/or County Planning Commission. If Anderson Creek is a higher priority for the County, then DEP will replace Cold Creek with Anderson Creek on the list.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Regional Water Resources Committee will be held on **May 21, 2008 at the DEP Northcentral Regional Office in Williamsport**