

**Minutes of the
August 9, 2017 Meeting of the
Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)**

Call to Order, Introductions and Attendance- Robert Cavett called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Robert Traver has resigned from the committee reducing WRAC membership to 15. There may be a need to solicit others to serve. Participation in today's meeting of 10 members represents a quorum. Presenters at today's meeting indicate no need for a vote on their topics.

The following committee members were present:

Harry Campbell, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Robert Cavett, Merck & Co.
Kent Crawford
Andrew Dehoff, Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Theo Light, Shippensburg University
Garry Merritt, NSG
Cory Miller, UAJA
Steven Rhoads

The following committee members were present (via phone):

Myron Arnowitt, PA Clean Water Action
Jeff Hines, York Water Company

The following committee members were not present:

John Jackson, Stroud Water Resource Center
Dean Miller, Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
Jeff Shanks, Waste Management
Steve Tambini, Delaware River Basin Commission
Chuck Wunz, Wunz Associates

The following DEP staff members were present:

Gena Ardito, Bureau of Clean Water
Sean Gimbel, Office of Water Resources Planning
Mike Hill, Planning Conservation Division
Mark Hoyer, Bureau of Clean Water
Hayley Jeffords, The Policy Office
Michelle Moses, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel
Jennifer Orr, Office of Water Resources Planning
David Shetron, Legislative Office
Dustin Shull, Bureau of Clean Water
Steve Taglang, Bureau of Clean Water
Gary Walters, Bureau of Clean Water
Diane Wilson, Bureau of Clean Water
Kristen Wolf, Chesapeake Bay Office

The following guests were also present:

Steve Frank, NRG
Aaron Maurer, Waste Management
Ken Najjar, DRBC
Renee Reber, CBF
Jenni Woodworth, A.D. Marble

Review and Approval of Minutes –Kent Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting. Steve Rhoads seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan Development –Kristen Wolf, Chesapeake Bay Office, thanked members for previous comments and outlined the “Game Plan for Success” and formation of the Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan Development steering committee and workgroups. 5 of 6 workgroups have been formed and are focusing on the local water quality. The steering committee will have public meetings, and workgroup meeting minutes will be available on the DEP Chesapeake Bay Program website for ongoing feedback and comments.

Discussion focused on the following: Ideas regarding funding for local projects; a letter from WRAC members to the leadership of PA’s legislature and governor as an additional impetus for new funding; role of WRAC and its responsibility to DEP; workgroup chairs speaking at WRAC meetings to receive advice; need for sharing final work products with WRAC for comment.

PA State Water Planning – Jennifer Orr, Office of Water Resources Planning, discussed the continued State Water Plan development process. She introduced Mike Hill, a geologist within the Planning and Conservation Division at DEP, as a subject matter expert, in terms of commenting and/or answering questions on this topic.

The plan asks questions about current water resources of the Commonwealth in terms of quantity and need. Individuals are needed to serve on 6 Regional Committees and a State-wide Committee. There are 160 positions to fill and members will be from various sectors.

The focus going forward will be on the following: critical area resource plans; public tools and resources; climate control issues; impacts from natural gas extraction; special consideration within specific watersheds; external stakeholder meetings; process for nominating individuals to serve on a subcommittee including the endorsement by a statewide committee such as WRAC.

Large River Assessment Protocol-Semi-wadable Multimetric Index (SWMMI) – Dustin Shull, Bureau of Clean Water spoke on the ongoing program to develop a tool to perform biological assessments of the water quality of complex water bodies that are deemed non-wadable or semi-wadable. These water bodies have watersheds of 1000 square miles or greater. The Susquehanna River is an example of this type of water body. The results of a study done by

DEP on the Susquehanna River to develop the tool were presented to include the following: the need for compensation in variability of response at different locations along the river; impairments as stressors; compensation for seasonal (summer and fall) differences in the biological community; analysis of 167 metrics with the selection of 6 for each index; zonation.

A peer reviewed article on this study has been published in *Freshwater Science*. The article can be found at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/692942> and is free to the public.

Public Comment Period – No comments from the public.

Garry Merritt motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Harry Campbell.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT