# Draft Minutes of the May 9, 2007 Meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the WRAC committee was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chairperson Dave Anderson on May 9, 2007 in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

# The following committee members were present:

Buddy Beach, P.E.
Bob Wendelgass, Clean Water Action
Robert Cavett, Merck & Company, Inc.
Matthew Ehrhart, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Nick Pinizzotto, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Howard Neukrug, P.E., Philadelphia Water Department
David Anderson, P.G., Chairperson, Moody & Associates, Inc.
John Jackson, Stroud Water Research Center
Edith Stevens, League of Women Voters of PA
Carol Collier, Delaware River Basin Commission
Gary Merritt, Inter Power Development Corp
Steve Rhoads, Pennsylvania Oil & Gas

## The following committee members were not present:

Brian Dempsey, Pennsylvania State University Art Gazdik, P.E., Ross Township Richard Wardrop, P.G., Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure Tim Schaeffer, Ph.D., Audubon Pennsylvania Cory Miller, University Area Joint Authority Don Bluedorn II, Esquire, Babst, Calland, Clements, Zomnir

## The following DEP staff members were present:

Phil Consonery, Bureau of Water Standards and Facility Regulation (BWSFR)
Cedric Karper, Director, Bureau of Watershed Management (BWM)
Tom Starosta, Sanitary Engineer, BWSFR
Brian Schlauderaff, Sanitary Engineer, BWSFR
John Wetherell, Sanitary Engineer, BWSFR
Tom Barron, Environmental Group Mgr, BWSFR
Bonita Moore, Environmental Chemist, BWSFR
Pam Bishop, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel
Michelle Moses, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel

# The following non-members were also present:

Mark Burkhead, PennDOT
Jeff McNelly, ARIPPA
Andrea Sharretts, PA Farm Bureau
Dan Snowden, PennDot Central Office
David Piller, Exelon Corp.
Denise Molzahn, Shaw Group
Eric Conrad, Conrad and Assoc.

#### **General WRAC Business**

Question was raised by the chair regarding the absence of a quorum (10 members) and if anyone was aware of members who were on their way/arriving late. Four additional members arrived in the next few minutes and a quorum was present.

Motion was made by Howard Neukrug to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting as presented. Passed with one abstention.

## **Chapter 92, NPDES Permitting, Monitoring and Compliance**

**Tom Starosta**, Sanitary Engineer, BWSFR, <a href="tstarosta@state.pa.us">tstarosta@state.pa.us</a> provided an update on the status of proposed amendments to Chapter 92, adding a section that would enable DEP to issue Watershed Permits. It appears that the issue of non-point source permitting represents the primary challenge, and has set back progress. He will attempt to have a draft ready for the next WRAC meeting on July 11, 2007.

Remark was offered by the chair reiterating the motion made by Don Bluedorn at the March 14, 2007 meeting that DEP allow a couple of meetings for WRAC to develop comments and recommendations to the proposed amendments and schedule the presentation to the EQB accordingly.

No action was taken on this subject.

## Triennial Review 2008 Proposed Rulemaking

**Tom Barron,** Environmental Group Manager, BWSFR, tbarron@state.pa.us made the third presentation to the WRAC of the results of the Triennial Review required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He indicated that the draft should be presented to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) by September 2007, with an anticipated presentation of the Final Draft to the WRAC by February 2008. Tom was reminded that the WRAC meets in January or March.

Tom noted that there are several notable changes in standards, such as an increase in the fish consumption rate used to calculate the human health criteria, and that some standards are now less stringent based on new methods for deriving human health water quality criteria. There are also a number of minor changes to correct typographical and to clarify content.

A motion was made by John Jackson to endorse Tom Barron to present the Rulemaking to the EQB. Motion carried unanimously, with a quorum of ten members present at the time of the vote.

## **Integrated Water Resources Initiative**

**Cedric Karper**, Director, BWM, <a href="mailto:ckarper@state.pa.us">ckarper@state.pa.us</a> presented the committee with an update on the initiative presented at the March 14, 2007 meeting to better integrate the different plans involving watersheds to make them more efficient in protecting our water resources. Cedric noted that where a local political entity is either incapable or unwilling to implement "good management of small watershed" the DEP will take appropriate action to insure preservation or improvement. He also noted that the Department envisions a concurrent planning process, including Act 537 (the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act) and that the goal is a comprehensive approach with the goal of integrating water resource management planning and implementation.

This presentation was made in response to the motions presented by Don Bluedorn on March 14, 2007 to discuss the Integrated Water Resources Initiative as it relates point source discharge and non-point source discharge issues.

## **Other Business**

Staff from the Bureau of Waterways Engineering will tentatively deliver a presentation at the July meeting on proposed changes to Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management. A Chapter 105 Ad Hoc group will be convened to review the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the full WRAC.

Per Phil Consonery, Deputy Secretary Myers is tentatively slated to discuss the Office of Water Management's strategic initiatives at the July 11 WRAC meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. by Bob Wendelgass