

Sustainable Water Task Force

Legislative and Regulatory Needs Work Group

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2008

DEP Bureau of Laboratories

Attendees

Erik Ross (Delta Development), Chairman
Pam Bishop (Department of Environmental Protection), DEP Support Staff
Erin Gannon (Office of Consumer Advocate)
Christine Hoover (Office of Consumer Advocate)
Elam Herr (PSATS)
Jennifer Case (PA Municipal Authorities Association)
Grant Gulibon (PA Builders Association)
Annette Keener-Farley (Governor's Budget Office)
Dan Hufton (PA American Water) **Phone**
John Ashton (Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County)
Colleen Arnold (Aqua America)
Kevin Garber (Babst, Calland, Clements & Zominir)
Richard Fox (Senate Environmental Resources & Energy)
Patrick Henderson (Senate Environmental Resources & Energy)
Ty Gourley (RWMTF)
R. Timothy Weston (PA Chamber)
Gil Longwell, Jr. (PASEO)
Melissa Grimm (Aqua America)
Zach Ausherman (CCAP)
Steve Hann (Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin) **Phone**

Overview

Erik Ross and Pam Bishop provided an overview of the draft work group report and compressed timeline established by the Task Force for completion of the work group's tasks.

Report of Subgroups

- Erin Gannon outlined the recommendations of the "Public Utility Issues" subgroup.
- Tim Weston outlined the recommendations of the "Procurement" subgroup.
- Tim Weston outlined the recommendations of the "Capability Enhancement Program" subgroup.
- Dan Hufton and Ty Gourley outlined the recommendations of the "Regionalization/Consolidation" subgroup.
- Ty Gourley outlined the recommendations of the "Land Use Planning" subgroup.
- Erik Ross, Colleen Arnold and Gil Longwell outlined the recommendations of the "Workforce Development" subgroup.

Work Agenda

Erik Ross indicated that he would make the following revisions to the draft work group report:

- Replace the “Procurement” subgroup’s report with updated version provided by Tim Weston.
- Include section on “On-lot System Management” to be provided by Gil Longwell under the “Workforce Development” subgroup report.
- Make minor editorial revisions suggested by the work group.
- Summarize the work group’s recommendations in the draft report around the EPA’s 4 pillars of sustainability and include the subgroup’s papers as an appendix to the draft work group report.
- Submit the work group’s revised draft report (see attached) and present its recommendations to the Task Force on July 22, 2008.

Discussion Issues

- The work group discussed the lack of detailed recommendations from the four other work groups to take into consideration for our draft report.
- The work group discussed the differences in regulatory oversight of public and private systems, resulting in difficulty to devise clear legislative and regulatory changes. This discussion included financial information (i.e., accounting, audits and rates) and PUC, DEP and DCED regulatory oversight. How do we bridge the gap?
- The work group discussed “The Big Question” – How to handle the 91 percent of water systems serving less than 3,300 that may be experiencing severe challenges in marshalling managerial and financial resources?
- How to craft recommendations to address the EPA’s 4 pillars of sustainability. Carrots vs. Sticks?

Erik Ross indicated that he would ask the Task Force and DEP to provide guidance on the direction that the Task Force would like us to go in making recommendations.

Upcoming Deadlines

- A revised draft work group report should be submitted to Marcus Kohl on July 31.
- The five work group chairs and DEP staff will meet on August 1 and 4, 2008 to integrate findings into a single draft report.

Next Meeting

The Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force's Legislative and Regulatory Needs Work Group will meet from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday, July 28, 2008 at the DEP Bureau of Laboratories -- 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. A limited number of telephone lines will be available for those who cannot attend the meeting in person. For more information if you need to participate by phone, please contact Pam Bishop at DEP.

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