

Summary of Public Input Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force

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After....

- **Eight** public meetings
- **59** people testified representing:
 - ❏ Governmental agencies
 - ❏ Local planning agencies
 - ❏ Privately and publicly owned systems
 - ❏ Non-profit groups, special interest groups
 - ❏ Industry associations
 - ❏ Engineering firms, private consultants
 - ❏ Academia
 - ❏ Private citizens
- **15** people submitting written testimony
- **338** Attendees
- **3320** miles on two state vehicles



Needs Assessment

Causes include:

- ❏ Federal and state mandates, including:
 - ❏ Chesapeake Bay
 - ❏ CSOs, Long-term Control Plans
 - ❏ TMDLs
 - ❏ Consent Orders and Decrees
 - ❏ DRBC Special Protection Initiative
- ❏ Installation of redundant infrastructure
- ❏ Increasing costs for materials, oil

Take into account:

- ❏ Engineering costs and costs for establishing prioritization






Affordability

- ❏ General agreement that this should be considered
- ❏ Wasn't agreement on what formula should be applied








Innovative Measures

Technologies suggested:

-  “Green” solutions such as rain barrels, pervious surfaces, riparian buffers.
-  Re-use of wastewater, biosolids application
-  Treatment of abandoned mine drainage
-  Energy and water conservation measures
-  Centralized auditing fund to monitor effectiveness, mandate efficiency audits

Planning tools:

-  Data management, GIS
-  Develop a consistent “message”
-  Robotics for asset management
-  Creation of regional water authority
-  Moratorium on new development



Financial Resources

Elements that should be funded:

- ❏ Eliminate income cap for onlot assistance from PENNVEST
- ❏ Onlot management should be handled by local community.
- ❏ Majority say no to subsidizing O & M.
- ❏ Conflicting views between:
 - ❏ Systems should be self sufficient, ← Majority charging adequate rates
 - ❏ Commonwealth should help:
 - Fixed Income
 - Retirements
 - Small Systems

Methods for Generating \$:

- ❏ Bond Issue
- ❏ Fair Share Plan
- ❏ Clean Water Trust Fund
- ❏ Legalize Marijuana
- ❏ Federal Government
- ❏ Full-cost Pricing
- ❏ Partnerships with Business, Insurance Companies

Financial Sustainability

Methods and tools:

- ❖ Research and Development Centers
- ❖ Pilot Projects
- ❖ Insurance Fund
- ❖ Bulk Purchasing Options
- ❖ Education on value of services provided
- ❖ Asset management, rate setting assistance
- ❖ Point-of-use Treatment
- ❖ Changes to procurement code, design and bid document standards, elimination of sales tax
- ❖ Mentoring Program for DBE firms
- ❖ Private Sector Investment
- ❖ Zero Percent Loans
- ❖ Program for Private Laterals
- ❖ Standards for O & M

Financial Sustainability, cont.

Workforce Development

- ❑ Promote the industry as a profession, important to the protection of public health and the environment.
- ❑ Partnerships with academic institutions
- ❑ Internships
- ❑ Tuition and Job Placement Program for specialized Operator Certificate Programs at community colleges.
- ❑ Need salaries that are commensurate with responsibility.
- ❑ Need specialized training for:
 - ❑ Board officials and elected officials
 - ❑ System management
 - ❑ Planners






Regionalization, Consolidation

- ❑ Government structure makes this difficult
- ❑ Can realize significant savings
- ❑ Will be successful in some areas, not in others
- ❑ Get municipalities out of the business in favor of authorities, regional governing body
- ❑ “Regional” issue ... strong proponent vs “what’s mine is mine”



Financial Sustainability, cont.











Eligibility Criteria

-  Incentives for low O & M costs
-  Invest in existing infrastructure, older communities, in-city improvement, not new infrastructure or new development
-  Encourage brownfields remediation (conflicting opinions)
-  Tie asset management, SI principles to assistance programs (some for, some against)
-  Don't give an advantage to badly managed systems.



Legislative and Regulatory Issues

Barriers:

-  Lack of regulation for drilling of wells
-  Disconnect between land use management and system operation – need integrated water resource management
-  Amend Separations Act and Act 57 of 1998 (Procurement Code)
-  Regulations:
 -  Inconsistencies in enforcement
 -  Streamline permitting process
 - Eliminate Part 2 Permit, trust PE License
 - Eliminate Treatment Design Manual
 -  Lack of DEP staff
 -  Allow for “blending”
-  PENNVEST should be the model, but processes need streamlined
-  DEP prohibition of use of mine pools as a source for drinking water

Legislative and Regulatory Issues, cont.

Solutions

- ❏ Limit out-of-basin allocations
- ❏ Require economic analysis for new regulations
- ❏ Establish CSIC
- ❏ Require homeowners to install rain collection measures for re-use
- ❏ Enact legislation to modify purchasing and procurement procedures
- ❏ Eliminate use of funds generated from user rates for other community services
- ❏ Require long-term improvement plans, annual financial reports, “CCRs” for Wastewater
- ❏ Create regional water districts
- ❏ Expand authority of PUC to systems not currently under their jurisdiction including municipalities.



Other Issues

- Toxins
- Pharmaceuticals, emerging contaminants
- Contributions from landfills
- Impact of biosolids
- Lawn treatment should be included in strategies to reduce nutrients, need more focus on agriculture
- Global warming, climate change
- Notification to dam owners
- Don't focus too much on cost...to the detriment of the environment, water quality.
- Need to provide more opportunity for public input and comment as the Task Force moves forward.



Additional Information

- Case studies/histories provided by testifiers
- Plan for the Lehigh Valley
- Investigation Reports done by the PUC
- Position Papers by the Citizen's Advisory Council
- Answers to questions posed by the Task Force submitted by:
 - Blair Fleischmann
 - Melanie Ryan Hesse, RLA, ASLA
 - Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

