

**Statewide Water Resources Committee  
Meeting  
May 10, 2004  
Report to Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee**

The Statewide Committee had its first meeting Monday May 10, 2004 in the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

The Committee adopted Bylaws and elected a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Chairman, Donald C. Bluedorn, Esquire, is from the Pittsburgh Area. The Vice Chair is Jim MacKenzie with the Octoraro Native Plant Nursery from Kirkwood, PA.

Each of the Regional Committee Members was asked to give a general review of their respective committee priorities and issues. Generally all the Regional Committees reported similar priorities and issues. During my report for our Committee I emphasized we were looking for early guidance from the Statewide Committee on Critical Water Planning Area (CWPA) criteria. In view of the fact this issue was to be discussed later on the Agenda I did not go into our suggested criteria at this time. Several of the Regional Representatives stressed that CWPA criteria should be established on a scientific and not on a political basis. There was also a general concern expressed about funding for the Planning Activities and a struggle with what data is available for comprehensive planning.

Act 220 was reviewed with particular emphasis placed on the duties and responsibilities of the Statewide Committee. Additionally, the Timeline and Schematic that was previously reviewed by the Regional Committees was also discussed, reviewed and adopted by the Committee subject to future fine tuning.

Policies and Guidelines for preparing or amending the Regional Components and the State Water Plan and State Water Plan Content were generally reviewed and discussed. DEP staff was asked to flesh out a more detailed paper and present it to the Statewide Committee for review and comment before the next meeting when action would be considered.

William Gast presented a Discussion Paper for CWPA's. There followed considerable discussion on this including raising the points that were developed by our committee and others. The Chairman formed an ad hoc Committee to work with DEP staff to develop criteria and guidelines to be discussed and reviewed by the Committee as soon as possible. In the meantime, if any Regional Committees are asked to consider or propose a CWPA, they should recommend criteria to the Statewide Committee through the regional committee representative and the chair, and hopefully in a short time, criteria and guidelines will be available from the Statewide Committee.

Public Education and Outreach was also a subject of prime concern. Members from the Statewide Committee volunteered to attend the May 26, 2004 meeting of Regional Members. The Statewide Committee also considered guidelines for public input and comment during future Statewide Committee Meetings. The guidelines adopted are similar to those in place for our Regional Committee Meetings.

The Chairman appointed three ad hoc Committees, which were quickly filled by volunteers. The Committees are: Critical Water Planning, Public Outreach and Education, and an overall Strategic Planning Committee. (The Committee was not named at the meeting but the mission and duties were generally described by the Chairman. They've since decided to call it the Policy and Integration Ad Hoc Committee.)

Department staff suggested the Committee next meet in September. The Committee felt there were too many things that needed to be resolved more quickly and therefore, scheduled a meeting in July and September. The dates are yet to be selected.

Respectfully submitted

William T. Morris