

Lower Susquehanna River Basin Regional Committee  
Draft Summary of Work Group Meeting - February 6, 2006  
DEP South Central Regional Office – Susquehanna Room B  
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

In attendance were: Committee members Bill Achor, Jineen Boyle, Betty Conner, Walter Leis, Tom Mealy, and Craig Robertson; DEP Staff William Gast and Leslie Sarvis; and visitor Tom McCarty.

Chair Conner opened the work group meeting at 9:40 A.M. with introductions.

Discussion began with a review of the Background Materials listed in the Agenda for the Work Group Meeting:

- The 16 Components of the State Plan in Act 220 and the 9 Considerations
- The Template for Completion of the Plan by March 2008
- Template sections for drafts due in February 2006
- The Regional Component Outline, introduced in November 2004
- The Regional Component Outline, February 2005 version.
- LSRB Regional Priorities – March 12, 2005
- Volunteers for work on sections of the Regional Component Outline,  
Sections D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M
- Draft Socio-economic/Land Use Outline and Information provided by  
county planners

It was explained by DEP that the Regional Component Outline, given to the regional committees in November 2004 and modified in February 2005, was the basis for the sections for which volunteers were sought in August 2005 to help with drafts. Those sections listed A through O generally covered the 16 Plan components in Act 220, plus 2 of the 9 “considerations” in Act 220, for drafting the State and Regional Water Plans. Since only 3 regional committees had volunteers willing to help draft the sections, DEP in October 2005 developed a Water Resources Plan Template for Completion with sections based specifically on the 16 components of the State and Regional Water Plans listed in Act 220. Team Leads (DEP Staff) and Team Members (DEP Staff and other groups) were named and a Due Date was set for drafting each section. Once the Template Sections for each region were drafted by DEP they would be sent to the regional committees for review. DEP staff meet bi-weekly for updates on the Plan.

Walter Leis suggested that a matrix or chart be created to compare the 16 Components and the 9 Considerations in Act 220, the sections in the Template, and the sections in the Regional Component Outline, showing dates that drafts are due, and persons or groups responsible. He volunteered to help create such a chart.

Discussion followed on the Sections from the Regional Component Outline for which we volunteered:

- D. Existing Water Resources Management in the Basin
- E. Regional Resources and Physical Features
- F. Socio-economic/Land Use Conditions
- G. Local Planning
- H. Water Resources Inventory
- I. Current Water Use and Conditions
- J. Future Water use
- K. Assessments of Water Resource Use Impacts
- L. Water Conservation
- M. Selection of Recommendations

For some of the topics (D, H, I, J, K) data is still being collected. Section M, Selection of

Recommendations, would be the last section drafted. For other topics (E, F, G, L) the regional committee members can begin to provide input on characteristics of the Lower Susquehanna Basin. Topic L, Water Conservation, corresponds to one of the Plan Components in Act 220 and also Template Section 11 for which the DEP draft is due in February 2006. Topics E, F, and G do not correspond to the Template sections or the 16 components of the State and Regional Plans, but they provide valuable background information on the region.

A Draft Socio-Economic and Land Use Outline for Regional Components was provided by DEP. It was pointed out that the State Water Plan is based on watersheds, but that most of this information is collected on a countywide basis. The question was asked whether we should group the information on the counties, or report on each county separately. It was suggested that we emphasize what is unique about the Lower Susquehanna region such as agriculture, extreme variability of geology, transportation/warehousing industry, power production, population growth, etc., while keeping in mind our regional priorities.

Jineen Boyle volunteered to summarize the county reports as well as the watershed management plans, river conservation plans, source water assessments & protection plans, various studies, and special protection areas in the region.

Craig Robertson and Walter Leis volunteered to describe the Lower Susquehanna Region's geologic variability, Regional Resources and Physical Features. They would like to review the data supporting the USGS Screening Tool.

Tom Mealy is interested in local and regional planning in relation to wastewater/stormwater management and the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

Bill Achor will describe the agriculture of the region and address section L, Identification of practices that lead to water conservation and efficiency of use.

It was requested that any draft summaries be sent to Leslie Sarvis and Betty Conner for distribution to the rest of the work group and committee members.

In discussing the Templates, it was noted that DEP drafts of sections 7 – 11 are due in February 2006 and reflect regional issues. It was requested that these 5 templates be sent by DEP to the regional committee members for review before the May meeting.

A copy of the Introduction to the State Water Plan – Draft January 6, 2006 was sent to each of the regional committee members by the Statewide Policy and Integration Subcommittee which will accept any comments provided by March 9, 2006. Comments should be sent to William T. Morris [wtm17402@aol.com](mailto:wtm17402@aol.com), our Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee Liaison to the Statewide Committee, with copies to Leslie Sarvis [lsarvis@state.pa.us](mailto:lsarvis@state.pa.us) and Betty Conner [brconner@msn.com](mailto:brconner@msn.com). Initial comments about the document were very favorable.

Next LSRB Regional Meeting will be May 15, 2006 at the DEP SouthCentral Regional Office