Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

October 14, 2004
Grey Towers National Historic Landmark
151 Grey Towers Drive
Milford, PA 18337

FINAL Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Darryl A. Jenkins

Gary Kribbs

Leonard Johnson

Mike Meloy

Ted Reed

Barbara Smith

John Hoekstra

Desiree Henning-Dudley

Helen Haun

Jeff Featherstone

Michael Stokes

Darryl Jenkins

Carol R. Collier Honorable Kate Harper Robert Wendelgass

Committee members not in attendance:

Clark Connor Howard Neukrug
John Coscia Maya van Rossum
David A. Hodge Lisa Hamilton
Julie Lynn Gallisdorfer Irvil Kear

Others in attendance:

Mark Wejkszner
John Shafer
Thomas W. Goff
Eric Frindrod
Sally Corrigan
Peter Wolfhorst
Bill Douglass
Ann Faulds
Thomas W. Goff
Craig Todd
Lori Mohr, DEP

Administrative Items

- 1. The committee discussed the August 2004 meeting minutes and decided to table the vote on the minutes until more detail is added to the planning discussions.
- 2. Vision Document the committee discussed the draft Vision document approved by the statewide committee and decided to send a comment letter to the Statewide committee regarding the document's content. Of particular concern was the paraphrasing of the State Constitution Environmental article.

Motion: Helen Haun Seconded: Ted Reed Passed unanimously.

- 3. High Quality or Exceptional Value watershed presentation.
- Meeting attendance was discussed. The committee made a motion to have the Chairperson send notices to committee members who have missed 2 or more meetings.

Motion: Ted Reed Seconded: Mike Stokes Passed unanimously.

Agenda Items

1. Monroe County Planning Director, John Woodling, and County Conservation District Director, Craig Todd presentation

Located in the fastest growing region in the state. Most streams in County are classified by DEP as Exceptional Value or High Quality. County Comprehensive Plan, "Monroe 2020," was completed in 1999 and one of the main goals of the plan is to acquire and protect open space. The plan also promotes decentralized public water supply and waste water treatment facilities.

Monroe County also has a Water Supply and Wellhead Protection Study that plans for water supply and distribution focusing on maintaining an adequate long term supply of water; maximizing the efficiency of water supply systems, protecting and enhancing the quality of surface water and groundwater resources, and coordinating water resource planning with other infrastructure and basic services, natural resources, and recreational planning.

Currently there are three stormwater management plans in the county. The existing plans require volume and velocity controls with voluntary water quality controls. Updates of two of these plans will require quality controls as well as volume controls through project design, minimization of impervious surface, infiltration, water quality BMPs, and 50 – 100 ft. buffers around aquatic resources. He also mentioned that Act 37 planning was driven by existing land use changes and not really used as a planning tool.

Craig Todd noted that the county has concerns about the State Water Plan, specifically the regional component, trumping the county's comprehensive plan. Carol Collier asked how the committee can develop the plan so it benefits counties and municipalities, and Craig Todd responded that we should consider components that are not included in the act, in addition to the requirements that are legislatively set. Specifically we must consider instream flow needs and protection of sensitive areas.

Several committee members noted the extensive coordination between the planning commission and the county conservation district. These entities work well together and complement each other's work. They have a productive relationship that has resulted from informal cooperation.

2. Sally Corrigan gave a presentation on Pike County planning initiatives.

Pike County is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. All watersheds in the county are classified as High Quality/Exceptional Value. It is the only county in PA listed on national list of fastest growing counties in nation. The county conducted a survey in conjunction with the comp plan update and 95 percent of the respondents identified water resources planning and protection as a key planning issue for the county.

Over the past three years, five new citizen watershed groups have formed in the county. Municipalities in the county are ready and willing to address natural resource issues, and the County is trying to work with municipalities to address the issues through model ordinances and water resource studies (groundwater study for certain corridors, ongoing (since 1991) water quality monitoring (mainly biological monitoring conducted by conservation district). In addition, the County is conducting a build-out analysis for the year 2040. One municipality in the County does not have zoning ordinances in place. Sally will provide a written report.

A follow-up question was how we could stay connected with the upper counties of the Delaware region. Craig Todd suggested the need to connect with municipal officials, possibly attending county level meetings of township supervisors and borough officials.

Delaware regional committee meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Motion made by: Carol R. Collier Motion Second: M.Irvil Kear

Motion was carried