

Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

May 12, 2005
Montgomery County Community College
College Hall, Rm. 138
340 Dekalb Pike
Blue Bell, PA
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FINAL Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Carol R. Collier	Leonard Johnson
John Coscia	Irvil Kear
Jeff Featherstone	George Kunkel – alt. for Howard Neukrug
Allen Fidler	Preston Luitweiler
Julie Lynn Gallisdorfer	Mike Meloy
Hon. Kate Harper	Arthur Needham
Helen Haun	Barbara Smith
Desiree Henning-Dudley	Michael Stokes
John Hoekstra	Robert Wendelgass
Darryl Jenkins	

Committee members not in attendance:

Clark Connor
Lisa Hamilton
Gary Kribbs
Howard Neukrug
Maya van Rossum

Others in attendance:

Ann Faulds – SeaGrant	John Hines - DEP
Fred Ikenbach -	Lori Mohr - DEP
Pam Bishop - DEP	Leslie Sarvis – DEP
Bill Gast - DEP	

Administrative Items

1. The Draft February Meeting Summary was approved with no changes

Motion made by: Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer
Motion Second: Jeff Featherstone
Motion was carried.

2. John Hines updated the committee on the last Statewide Committee meeting.
Three key items were discussed:

- Move forward with “Technical Expert Pool”. The purpose is to get names of committee members or others to address committee or help answer specific questions. The names will be reviewed by DEP.
- Critical Water Planning Process Document released
- Regulations for registration, reporting and record keeping. Regional committee comments are due by June 15th. The Statewide Committee will then discuss them at the July 21 meeting and take action to move the regulations forward for the Oct/Nov Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting.

3. DEP Summary of Activities

- The Main focus of DEP has been preparing for the public meetings and hearings. In addition, DEP technical staff are working on four hand-computed water budgets. USGS continues its work on the screening tool. DEP is developing a computer system to attribute the NHD stream layer as a holding place for watershed data. Discharge Monitoring Reports are being collected in the Delaware and Susquehanna Basins. Similar work is being proposed in the Great Lakes Basin.
- State Budget: John Hines reported that the budget has not yet been finalized. With Clean Water Fund, we will be able to close out the USGS project, committee work and upgrades to registration systems. We are working with River Basin Commissions to do the work we need to do.
- Committee Member Biographies. Bios of each committee member were distributed, and committee members were asked to give comments to Leslie Sarvis. An inventory of bios will be generated for the Technical Expert Pool. Committee members may also nominate an individual to serve on the pool.
- Population Projections: Bill Gast described ongoing projection work and said that projections would be distributed to county planners.
- Bill discussed the updated registrations, which were provided in the May 2, 2005 Memo to the Statewide Committee Members. Several committee members asked if the numbers could be broken down further, for example by county. DEP Staff said that this could likely be done.

4. No comments from the public.

CWPA Process & Criteria Documents Discussion

May 31st is the deadline for comments to the Statewide CWPA Subcommittee on the criteria document. Bill Gast reviewed some changes to the criteria document, primarily to the instream aquatic resource criteria in which an actual numeric value was assigned. Bob Wendelgass discussed the criteria comments developed by the Delaware CWPA subcommittee (handout). The main areas of concern were the prioritizing of nominations, planning area size, maximum time horizon, water quality, aquatic resource uses and areas not receiving CWPA designation. A motion was made to submit the comments with no changes.

Motion made by: Hon. Kate Harper
Motion second: Helen Haun
Motion was carried.

Bill Gast stated that many of the comments on the process document that were submitted by the regional committees were incorporated into the document, and a revised version had been developed by the CWPA Subcommittee. The main change to the document was that the “bar” was lowered for nominations to be submitted. Both the process and criteria documents will be merged and reviewed once again by the Statewide Committee at its July 21 meeting prior to posting for public review.

The committee asked if an application model, or sample, could be drafted to give the regional committees an idea of how the process would work. DEP staff said that an application form would be put together, possibly with a flowchart, and that instructions would be made as simple as possible.

Registration and Reporting Regulations Discussion

Bill Gast provided an overview of the draft regulation provisions and reminded the committee that the current registration process is interim until regulations are completed. Bill said that it is a goal of DEP to incorporate the reporting requirements of the DRBC and SRBC programs into one system and to pre-populate them as much as possible to reduce the burden on applicants. Comments on the regulations are due by June 15 to DEP. Carol Collier set a date of May 26 for committee members to submit comments to her via email. Carol will then compile the committee’s comments and forward them to DEP by June 15, or individuals may submit comments by this date as well. The draft regulations will be reviewed by the Statewide Committee at its July 21 meeting, and the regs should then go to EQB in October.

Regional Component Framework Discussion

John Hines asked if DEP could send the “Delaware version” of the regional component to all of the other regional committees to review and possibly use as an example and starting point for their regional plans. The Statewide Policy & Integration Subcommittee will discuss the regional component and the focus will turn to the regional components.

Public Meeting/Hearing Discussion

Leslie Sarvis reviewed the agenda for that evening’s public meeting/hearing and discussed outreach/advertising for the series of meetings. The second public meeting/hearing will be at the PPL Nature Center in Hawley, PA on August 11.

Presentation on “Smart Growth Policies for Infrastructure Planning and Investment”

Mike Stokes presented a study conducted by a consortium of planners, local and state government officials and various groups in the Delaware Basin. The study attempts to

quantify the economic impacts of sprawl, taking into particular account the stresses of water and sewer infrastructure.

May meeting, wrap-up, adjourn

The next meeting is August 11, 2005 at the PPL Lake Office, Wallenpaupack Environmental Center in Hawley. The committee business meeting will begin at 12:00, and the public meeting/hearing begins at 5:30. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.