

DELAWARE WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL
COMMITTEE MEETING

November 9, 2006
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
DEP Southeast Regional Office
2 E. Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Carol Collier	Gary M. B. Kribbs
Allen Fidler	Preston Luitweiler
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer	Michael Meloy
Hon. Kate Harper	Arthur Needham
Helen Haun	George Kunkel – alt. for Howard Neukrug
Desiree Henning-Dudley	Barbara Smith
John Hoekstra	Michael Stokes
Leonard Johnson	Robert Wendelgass
M. Irvil Kear	

Committee members not in attendance:

Jeff Featherstone
Darryl Jenkins
Maya van Rossum

Others in attendance:

Michelle Clark – DEP- SERO	Al Guisepppe – Spotts, Stevens & Mc Coy, Inc.
Bharat Bham – DEP – NERO/BDO	David Jostenksi - DEP
Ed DeSeve – Brodhead Watershed Association	Leslie Sarvis – DEP
Bill Gast – DEP	Sarah Whitney – PA Sea Grant

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Wendelgass conducted the meeting in the absence of both the chair and vice chair. Carol Collier arrived for the second half of the meeting. Committee members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Administrative Items

The Draft August Meeting Summary was reviewed and adopted with no changes.

Motion made by: Barbara Smith
Motion Second: Gary Kribbs
Motion was carried.

DEP Summary of Activities

Leslie Sarvis updated the committee on the status of several documents:

The Guidelines for Identification of Critical Water Planning Areas document was finalized on September 30 and published in the PA Bulletin and an article was included in the DEP Update. A link to the Guidelines was emailed to all of the regional and statewide committee members. The Guidelines for Development of a Critical Area Resource Plan document should be published as Draft guidance early next year. The Draft registration and reporting regulations have gone through DEP's approval process and were approved by the Environmental Quality Board. The Draft Regulations are expected to go out for public comment early in 2007.

Nominations to fill committee vacancies and reappointments of committee members are still in the Governor's Office. No word yet when decisions will be made. DEP is still seeking a nomination to fill the "industrial / commercial" vacancy.

Leslie reviewed the flow chart describing the State Water Plan work products. The Plan will consist primarily of online products, and it will be dynamic in nature allowing for ongoing updates. Each work product for the State Water Plan was discussed briefly. There will be two versions of the Regional Atlas, a web version and a paper or "tabletop" version. An RFP is being prepared to hire a consultant to develop the tabletop version of the Regional Atlas. The RFP is under internal DEP review and should be advertised at the end of November. The RFP also includes finalizing the Public Information (marketing) Document once the Policy & Integration Subcommittee finishes revisions of the text.

Regarding State Water Plan information that will be available on the web, Rep. Kate Harper expressed concerns about being able to archive changes and the manner in which these changes are archived so they will not be lost. Dave Jostenski acknowledged her recommendations and stated that DEP will be mindful of how changes are archived.

Several committee members asked who is conducting the review and assessment of statutes, regulations, policies, and institutional arrangements. Leslie said that they have a team of PMA (Pennsylvania Management Associate) interns working on this. The interns will not be making final recommendations but will be conducting the reviews and contacting other agencies for information. The review and assessment will be summarized in a white paper for committee review and consideration as they develop recommendations for the Statewide Action Agenda. The Committee members reiterated their interest in this analysis and asked that regional committee members be included.

Leslie said that DEP has received an application from DRBC for a Coastal Zone Management grant to draft a pilot Critical Area Resource Plan (CARP). Partnering with Montgomery County, DRBC will conduct a CWPA analysis and draft a pilot CARP for the Upper Wissahickon Watershed. DEP is currently reviewing the grant application.

2007 Committee Meeting Schedule

The committee discussed the proposed 2007 meeting dates, and two dates (Feb. and Aug.) were changed. Locations were also discussed, and it was decided to hold the Feb. and Nov.

meetings at the DEP Southeast Regional Office in Norristown. Irvil Kear will look into a location for the May meeting, and Leslie will check the availability of the PPL Lake Center at Wallenpaupack for the August meeting.

**Please Note* Subsequent to the Nov. 9 meeting, all of the 2007 meeting locations have been confirmed. The final 2007 meeting dates and locations are below:*

- Friday, Feb. 9 – DEP SERO in Norristown
- Thursday, May 10 – Sweet Arrow Lake County Park Clubhouse in Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, PA
- Thursday, Aug. 2 – PPL Lake Center, Wallenpaupack Environmental Center
- Thursday, Nov. 8 – DEP SERO in Norristown

Comments from the public

No comments.

Regional Action Agenda Facilitated Session

Leslie led a discussion on the Committee's Regional Action Agenda Outline, which was developed using the Committee's Regional Priorities and Desired Outcomes discussed and revised at the Aug. 2006 meeting. The goal of today's meeting was to further define the Action Agendas by incorporating specific objectives and recommendations.

The committee broke into the same sub-groups they had formed at the August meeting to develop specific objectives and recommendations for the Action Agenda. Once the sub-groups reconvened, it was decided that a member of each sub-group would type up their portion of the Action Agenda and send it to the whole committee before the February meeting. Any sub-group wanting to continue refining its work is welcome to do so. Leslie offered to help set up conference calls for the sub-groups. Leslie also pointed out the Hypothetical Regional Action Agenda Examples and said that they would like the agenda objectives to be in the same format.

Technical Analysis (Tool) Update

Dave Jostenski gave a presentation to update the Committee on the work being done by DEP, USGS and the River Basin Commissions. Pilot watershed work is being conducted to test the water budget screening tool and Critical Water Planning Area identification process. This work will also help develop a scope of work for statewide application, verify the data used by the screening tool statewide, and document technical work. The pilot work is expected to be complete in January 2007.

The two watersheds chosen for the budget screening tool are the Wissahickon and Codorus. A report containing the results of the two pilots should be provided to the Committee before the February 2007 meeting. Dave will provide the slides from his presentation to all of the regional committees.

Follow-up/Next Steps

Before the next meeting, sub-groups will send their portion of the Action Agenda to the whole committee. Sub-groups may continue refining their work between now and the next meeting. Leslie offered to help set up conference calls for the sub-groups. We will continue discussion of the Regional Action Agenda in February.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30pm.

Motion made by: Mike Meloy

Motion Second: John Hoekstra

Next meeting is Feb. 9, 2007 at the DEP Southeast Regional Office in Norristown.