

DELAWARE WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL
COMMITTEE MEETING

February 9, 2007
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
DEP Southeast Regional Office
2 E. Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Jeff Featherstone	Gary M. B. Kribbs
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer	Preston Luitweiler
Hon. Kate Harper	Howard Neukrug
Helen Haun	Michael Stokes
John Hoekstra	Robert Wendelgass
Darryl Jenkins	

Committee members not in attendance:

Carol Collier	Michael Meloy
Allen Fidler	Arthur Needham
Desiree Henning-Dudley	Barbara Smith
M. Irvil Kear	Maya van Rossum

Others in attendance:

Michelle Clark – DEP- SERO	George Kunkel – City of Philadelphia
Bharat Bham – DEP – NERO/BDO	Paul Lohin – Sch Conservation Dist
Bill Gast – DEP	Craig Morgan – Sch Conservation Dist
David Jostenksi - DEP	Ken Najjar – DRBC
Sarah Whitney – PA Sea Grant	Bill Manner – DEP
Brett Slensky– Manko Gold Katcher & Fox	Lori Mohr - DEP

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Vice Chair, Jeff Featherstone, conducted the meeting. Committee members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Administrative Items

The Draft November Meeting Summary was reviewed and no changes were recommended. However, since the committee did not have a quorum present, this will be a topic for discussion at the May meeting.

DEP Summary of Activities

Lori Mohr updated the committee on the status of DEP activities:

New committee member appointments and reappointments of were made by the Governor. Letters were mailed to committee members on January 30, 2007. DEP is still seeking nominations to fill the two “industrial / commercial” vacancies.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop the statewide water atlas and the public information document was issued on January 25, 2007. An email was sent to all regional committee members with a link to the RFP on the web. Proposals are due to DEP on February 27, 2007. A pre-proposal conference was held to answer questions from interested applicants on Tuesday, February 6, 2007.

The public comment period for the Registration Regulations (Ch. 110 regs) closed on January 2, 2007. We received minor comments and a comment/response document is being prepared. In addition, the CARP Guidance document is under internal review. We hope to finalize both of these documents later this year.

Comments from the public

No comments.

Technical Analysis Update

Dave Jostenski reported on the pilot work for the Water Budget Screening Tool. Two pilot areas were selected for the initial pilot screening – the Codorus Watershed in the Lower Susquehanna basin, and the Wissahickon watershed in the Delaware basin. Dave gave an overview of the results and showed several maps that were generated based on the results of the screening tool model.

The pilot work was conducted to be able to assess the accuracy of the tool and of the data going into the model. DEP staff was able to identify several problems that are being evaluated, and a workplan is under development for addressing the problems that were encountered during the pilot work. The next step is to choose another grouping of watersheds throughout the state for screening. Agreements with DRBC and SRBC are in place to assist in the watershed screenings, and DEP is in the process of contracting with ICPRB to screen areas in the Potomac basin. DEP staff will provide another status report on the screening work at the May regional committee meeting.

Suggestions from the committee for improving the screenings and/or screening results include:

1. Develop of a map of the screening results with a 303(d) stream impaired areas overlay to identify areas with quantity and quality difficulties,
2. Use clear terminology in the summary report. (ie., state that the Wissahickon is an artificially fed stream that is effluent dominant in a clear, concise way so the average person understands what this means).

3. Show pour point maps with a geologic overlay.

After considering the results of the screening on the Wissahickon watershed, the committee chose to move forward with the Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) work that DRBC has proposed. The SAMP will highlight the water quality problems and consider future demands for water on the Wissahickon. Emphasis on cross-referencing “tools” or overlaying the pour-point map with other existing maps would be very useful for making connections and illustrating potential problems in the watershed.

Regional Action Agenda

Work on the regional action agenda was postponed and the committee decided to hold conference calls prior to the May meeting. The calls will be scheduled to further develop the action agenda.

The committee discussed topics to recommend to the P&I subcommittee for inclusion in the Statewide Action Agenda. The P&I subcommittee requested input from all of the regional committees for discussion at their next subcommittee meeting.

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. Lori offered to help set up conference calls for the sub-groups. We will continue discussion of the Regional Action Agenda in May.

Next meeting is May 11, 2007.