

Delaware Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

May 9, 2008
9:30am – 12:15pm

Sweet Arrow Lake County Park Clubhouse
Clubhouse Road
Pine Grove, PA 17963

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Carol R. Collier	Michael Meloy
Allen Fidler	Barbara Smith
Desiree Henning-Dudley	Pete Snyder
John Hoekstra	Michael Stokes
M. Irvil Kear	Robert Wendelgass
Preston Luitweiler	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Jeffrey Featherstone	Gary M.B. Kribbs
Julie Lyn Gallisdorfer	Arthur Needham
Hon. Kate Harper	Howard Neukrug
Helen Haun	Maya van Rossum
Darryl Jenkins	John Woodling

Others in Attendance:

Bob Evanchalk, Schuylkill County Parks and Recreation Supervisor	Ken Najjar, DRBC
Dave Jostenski, DEP	Leslie Sarvis, DEP
George Kunkel, Philadelphia Water Dept	Andy Zemba, DEP
Bill Manner, DEP NERO	

Carol Collier called the meeting to order at 9:40a.m. Bob Evanchalk, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, welcomed everyone to Sweet Arrow Lake County Park and gave a brief history about the park and the clubhouse.

Finalize Draft February Meeting Summary

The Draft Feb. 8 Meeting Summary could not be finalized because a quorum was not present. The committee will finalize the meeting summary at its September 11th meeting.

Reappointments and Vacancies

The 2007 reappointments were approved by the Governor's Office, and the respective committee members should have received their reappointment letters. Please let Leslie know if you did not receive your reappointment letter. Leslie said that there are still two industrial vacancies, and she asked for more suggestions of people to fill the vacancies.

Statewide Committee Meeting Updates

At its March 20th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved four white papers to be included in the State Water Plan (Navigation, Integrated Water Resources Management, Stormwater/Flooding and Water Quality). There was also a presentation about the newly created Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force, which will explore resources for

upgrading aging drinking water and wastewater facilities and present a report to the Governor in the fall. The Delaware Committee asked for more information about the Task Force public meetings being held across the state. Leslie said she would email the press release with the dates and locations.

At its April 18th meeting, the Statewide Committee approved the Chapter 110 regulations (registration and reporting). The Committee also discussed the Water Conservation Technical Assistance Paper and asked that it be sent to the Regional Committees for comments. Comments should be submitted by May 15th to Gary Obleski and Jerry Feldman.

Comments from the Public

Bill Manner informed the committee that natural gas drilling is becoming an issue in northeast PA. There is uncertainty about the use of water during the drilling process – how much water is needed for drilling, the chemicals used and how or if the chemicals can be treated.

Fall Public Meeting and Hearing

Leslie confirmed that the date of the committee's public meeting and hearing will be Thursday, September 11 and the location is Northampton Community College in Bethlehem.

Leslie said the agenda would be similar to the public meeting/hearing held in 2003. There will be a regular committee business meeting in the afternoon. The evening will begin with an open house for the public to view displays and maps. Following the open house, the public meeting will include a presentation and an informal discussion period. Then the public hearing portion of the evening will begin. Leslie said the August 8th meeting will be canceled because there will be a regular committee business meeting before the public meeting/hearing on September 11th. Committee members said that they would still like to hold a conference call on August 8th to discuss the public meeting presentation in more detail.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the six watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP has contracted with DRBC to perform verification of the watersheds in the Delaware basin to determine which ones could potentially be nominated by the regional committee as a Critical Water Planning Area. DEP will send updates, when available, to committee members via email and at subsequent meetings, and staff will report on the results of the verification at the November round of committee meetings.

Upper Wissahickon SAMP Public Meeting

Ken Najjar discussed the upcoming public meeting to present the draft Wissahickon Special Area Management Plan (SAMP). The public meeting is scheduled for May 28 at the Upper Dublin Township Building. There will be an open house from 4:30 – 6:30pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Committee members are invited to attend. The Upper Wissahickon Advisory Committee will have its final meeting on June 10 to review the public comments and critique the CARP Guidelines and process. They will also discuss how to move forward so that the recommendations in the SAMP can be followed through.

Ken also briefly discussed the Schuylkill Pilot Integrated Water Resources Plan. It is still in the exploration phase of determining how the different water programs (i.e. Act 537, Act 167, etc.) come together. Eleven counties will be brought together to collaborate and discuss a variety of issues regarding integrated water resources planning.

Follow-up/Next Steps

- The August 8 meeting has been changed to a conference call. Leslie will be back in touch with committee members with more details closer to the date of the call.
- Leslie will send more information to the committee members about the Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force.
- Materials for the public meetings and hearings will be posted on the web as they become available.

The next meeting of the full committee is Thursday, September 11 at Northampton Community College beginning at 2:30pm. The public meeting and hearing will follow that evening.