

Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional
Committee Meeting

August 15, 2005
DEP South-central Regional Office

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Committee members in attendance:

Bill Achor	Mike Kyle
Don Baldwin	Walter Leis
Tom Beauduy	Thomas Mealy
Jineen Boyle	Earl Meyer
Betty Conner	Bill Morris
Melanie Hesse	Jeff Osman
Cynthia Hitz	Don Robinson
Chris Hoffman	Steve Seidl
James Hostetter	

Committee members not in attendance:

Jolene Chinchilli
Ron Evanko
Ed Goodhart
Craig Robertson
Gerrit Strathmeyer

Others in attendance:

Joel Caves, Spotts, Stevens and McCoy
Alan Tamm, Pa Emergency Mngt Assc. (PEMA)
Maureen Safko, Huntingdon County
John Seitz and Pam Shellenberger, York County
Richard Haines, Blair County

DEP

Bill Gast
Leslie Sarvis
Susan Weaver

Administrative Items:

1. The draft May 16, 2005 Meeting Summary was approved with one correction by Betty Conner that in May the committee had approved the February, not May, meeting summary (page 2, number 2).
Motion made by: Don Robinson
Motion Second: Jeff Osman
Motion was carried.

2. Member attendance – a revised draft attendance policy had been sent to the committee by Betty, which Bill Achor read. A motion was made to accept the policy, as read:

“In the future, any committee member who is absent without a valid excuse for more than 50% of the regularly scheduled Regional Committee meetings in a 12-month period will be notified in writing by the Chair of the Committee that their participation is unsatisfactory. The Chair, with the support of the Committee, may send a letter to the Governor’s Office describing the committee member’s lack of participation and recommending that they not be reappointed.”

Motion made by: Walt Leis

Motion second by: Steve Seidl

Motion was carried.

3. Betty indicated that she will call several members who have not attended much, to explain new attendance policy and find out if they want to continue to be on the committee.
4. Bill Morris reviewed key items that were discussed at the July ‘04 State-wide Committee meeting:
 - The guidelines for the “Critical Water Planning Areas” approved and now go to DEP for final consideration.
 - The draft registration regulations were also approved and are on track to go to the Oct/Nov Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting.
 - The state-wide committee has received for consideration about 8-9 names for the state-wide technical pool; more information on the technical expertise of those individuals is being sought.
 - Legislation recently passed approves funds to go to DRBC and SRBC for assisting with Act 220 work; money may be set aside through Growing Greening for Act 220 Planning work; still determining if GG I or GG II funds are able to be used.
 - The May public meetings were discussed; it was felt we need to reach out more to public, who largely does not know about Act 220. Article in PSATs magazine highlighting State Water Plan effort was passed out. Leslie Sarvis indicated that State-wide Committee would like to see the “public participation” committee become more active with this aspect.

5. DEP Summary of Activities:

- Susan reported they are waiting for report from Camp, Dresser & McGee late this Fall on “projection methodologies”. DEP is pulling together a scope of work to develop an interface on how future projections will interact with the USGS screening tool.
- Registrations continue to increase. Waiting to hear from more comments from counties on what DEP has developed as far as future population projections – do our projections match county projections?

- The proposed technical guidance for the Critical Water Planning Areas will be published in the PA Bulletin shortly. Regional committees will get email updates. The two CWPA documents have been merged into one document.

6. Comments from the public

Alan Tamm with PEMA expressed that work of this committee is important; Pennsylvania's current Hazardous Mitigation Plan, done in 2000, references the old State Water Plan. PA can get funding if Haz Mitigation Plan updated and approved by FEMA; PEMA would like to reference this new State Water Plan. PEMA is developing a master list of potential projects that can be funded to make citizens safer, including projects relating to droughts or flooding. Our recommendations will be important to PEMA.

Public Meeting/ Hearing Discussion

Leslie Sarvis reported that Delaware and Up. Susq. committees each have one more public meeting. Once done, a summary of the meetings will be sent to committee members.

Regional Component Framework Discussion

Leslie Sarvis indicated that DEP would like regional committee members to assist in writing and developing parts of the State Water Plan components for which they have a particular expertise or interest. This can be thought of as a sort of "white paper" on a particular component. Discussion was had on components **F** and **G** (Socio-economic/land use and Local Planning). Suggestion made by Don Robinson to emphasize agriculture as an especially important part of our region. Walt Leis suggested that we examine how the Upper Susquehanna committee will proceed, since it's the same basin. Tom Beauduy suggested that since the Delaware committee is further along, that a conference call with all volunteers on these "component committees" be pursued.

Action item: Lower Susquehanna committee members interested in serving on a component committee should email Betty Conner within the next two weeks.

County Planning Commission Presentations

Representatives of the Planning Commissions for Lebanon, Huntingdon, York and Blair counties made excellent presentations on the status of their respective comprehensive plans, Act 167 stormwater management plans, and water resource-related issues they are facing now, or will face in the future. Each county provided a fact sheet for committee members, as well. More counties in our region will present at our November meeting.

Bill Achor thanked counties for presenting; we may develop a county questionnaire to help us as we begin to work on various components. A discussion ensued regarding local land use, the relationship between sprawl and water resources, and tools that municipalities have in dealing with water resource concerns.

Follow up- next steps

Tom Beauduy reported that SRBC will soon release a study that was done on agricultural consumptive use, as well as their Northern Lancaster water budget study; SRBC would be happy to present both studies at a future meeting.

Bill Achor thanked Don Robinson and Melanie Hesse for their service on the Committee, as their terms have expired and they will not continue to serve as Committee members. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.