

Draft
Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee
May 9, 2005

Cranberry Township Municipal Building
2525 Rochester Road, Suite 400
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Meeting Summary

Attendance

<p><u>Committee members in attendance:</u> Scott C. Blauvelt Donald C. Bluedorn Mitchell Brouman Marie M. Clark Terry Dayton Gerald E. Feldman Jeff Fliss, DEP Dan Ireland Richard C. Lehman Robert Ritchey Ronald J. Rohall Jerry Schulte Deb Simko Robert Softcheck Chuck Stowe Jay Tarara</p>	<p><u>Committee members not in attendance</u> Shirl Barnhart Dan Barton Jeff Foley Robert C. Junk, Jr. Curtis Kaelin Jan Oliver Roger Uhazie</p> <p><u>Others in Attendance:</u> Matt Quesenberry, Elk County Planning</p> <p><u>DEP Representatives:</u> Stu Gansell John Hines Bill Gast Lori Mohr</p>
--	--

Introduction

The meeting started at 10:00 AM.

Administrative Items

Finalize May Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Stowe requested a correction of the February Minutes to reflect that he was present at the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lehman to approve the summary of the February meeting with Mr. Stowe's addition.

Motion Second: Mr. Ritchey

Motion was carried.

Statewide Committee Meeting Summary:

- Don Bluedorn gave a summary of the April Statewide Committee Meeting.
- Three key items discussed:
 1. Move forward with "Technical Expert Pool". Purpose to get names to address committee or help answer specific questions. Names will be reviewed by DEP.
 2. Critical Water Planning Process Document released
 3. Regulations for registration, reporting and record keeping. Regional committee comments by June 15th. Ready for Oct/Nov Environmental Quality Board meeting.

DEP Summary of Activities/Regional Committee Activities - John Hines

- Main focus of DEP- setting up for Public Meetings. DEP technical staff working on four hand computed water budgets. Continued work on screening tool being developed by USGS. DEP developing on computer system to attribute the NHD stream layer as a holding place for watershed data. Discharge Monitoring Reports being collected in Delaware and Susquehanna Basin. Similar work being proposed in Great Lakes.
- State Budget: With Clean Water Fund, we will be able to close out USGS project, committee work and upgrades to registration systems. We are working creatively with River Basin Commissions to do the work we need to do.
- Committee Member Biographies. All committee members asked to provide input on the biographies that were drafted.

- Population Projections: Bill Gast described ongoing projection work and mentioned that letters would be mailed out to county planners in the next few weeks to get their feedback on the actual projections for the individual counties.

Public Comments - None

CWPA Process and Criteria Comments Report - John Hines & Bill Gast

- The “process document” prepared by CWPA Sub Committee established a process to allow areas to be nominated for designation as critical water planning areas ahead of recommendations through the state water plan process. Designation is key point of process- because other programs and issues will need to be reviewed for consistency with designated critical areas. May 31st- deadline for comments. Target of July has been set for Statewide Committee approval.
- The “criteria document” describes size of watersheds, time horizons, demands, safe yield criteria, etc.
- Both the process and criteria will be merged prior to posting for public review.

Registration and Reporting Regulations Discussion – John Hines

- Current registration is interim until regulations are completed. Note that this draft does not include fees. John provided an overview of regulation provisions. We have received a number of comments from state committee members. Comments on regulations will be due by June 15 to DEP. They will be taken to EQB in October. Note it may take 18 to 20 months to go through regulatory process.
- Deb Simko made a motion to advise the statewide committee that the Ohio Regional Water Resources committee does not support fees that could be associated with water registration and annual reporting under Act 220. This motion was seconded by Dick Lehman. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Component Framework Discussion-John Hines

- John noted need to focus on what is important to this region. Next meeting, more time will be spent on regional component. What will the Ohio component look like? Need to tap into others to get a feel for issues, infrastructure and resources being lost as an essence to this plan. Delaware component proposed to be distributed to other committees as an example. Deb Simko described the information that was collected for the Ohio River Alliance report. Economic Development entities should be targeted to help

promote their water resources-related interests in the plan. Point out the opportunities that water brings to the region.

Public Meeting/Hearing Discussion- Lori Mohr

Lori distributed agenda and discussed outreach/advertising for the series of meetings and elaborated on the agenda items.

Follow-up/Next Steps

A discussion ensued on potential use of “focus groups” in the future to facilitate discussion and focus on issues.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held August 8, 2005 at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building.