

Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

August 8, 2005

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Cranberry Township Municipal Building

Introduction

The meeting started at 10:10 a.m.

Administrative Items

Ron Rohall, Chair opened the meeting with introductions around the table. There were 12 voting members in attendance.

Finalize May Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Richey requested a correction of the May Minutes to reflect that the time and location were incorrect. The time was 12:30 and the place was Seven Fields.

Motion made by Mr. Lehman to approve the change of the time and location of the May meeting.

Motion Second: Ms. Simko

Motion carried.

Statewide Committee Meeting Summary

- Don Bluedorn gave a summary regarding the July 21 meeting on the Technical Expert Pool. This is now on hold until we can get additional help.

DEP Summary of Activities – Lori Mohr and Bill Gast

- Working with subcommittees, doing the technical work with USGS. Nearing completion of the USGS information. Need to meld the projection methodology with USGS.
- Forging ahead with registration forms - to CWPA subcommittee next week. September statewide committee, if lucky.

Public Comments – None

Summary of Regional Public Meeting/Hearings

- No testimony was given at the Seven Fields or Erie meetings.
- Comments were sent via email with nothing specific for the Ohio River.
- Two public meeting and hearings this month for the Upper Susquehanna and Delaware Committees. Then the meeting minutes can be finalized.
- Comments from Coal Company may be relevant to the Ohio Region.

Regional Plan Component Outline and Work Assignments

- Recommendation from Ms. Simko that a subcommittee be formed to investigate funding potential.
- Delaware Regional committee reorganized the outline to flow better. It has the basic components.
- A list of seven questions was sent to the counties on how water resources are addressed into their comprehensive plans.

Motion made by Mr. Bluedorn to follow the Delaware outline.
Motion Second: Mr. Richey
Motion carried.

Local Planning Section

- The first stage is to get information on how many counties have comprehensive plans.
- The regional component outline was reviewed.

Motion made by Mr. Bluedorn to put the detail discussion from the regional committee on hold for 60 days and to form an adhoc group to look for funding from Ms. Simko's group, then report back at the next meeting. Adhoc group members: Mr. Rohall, Ms. Simko, Mr. Bluedorn and Mr. Schulte.
Motion Second: Mr. Schulte.
Motion carried.

Socio-Economic/Land Use Conditions Section

- Regional planners outline is set – the regional priorities should come through on these outlines.
- Delaware did this last year with planners interacting with the committee.

Discussion with County Planners

Jim Gagliano, Lawrence County

- Act 67 & 68 makes it mandatory to include a water plan as part of a county comprehensive plan.
- Local plans are not mandatory.
- Water quality management sections are usually quite limited.
- MS4 municipalities do have storm water standards.
- Act 167 required storm water management plans for counties. There is no penalty and no enticement – and counties do not have them done. Counties cannot afford it. Assessments are not even done.

- Conservation Districts do a good job at education in storm water management for local developers and landowners.
- In Lawrence most commercial/manufacturing has been through existing expansion. They have not been able to entice outside interests. There is good potable water and water treatment in the New Castle area.
- Lawrence County has an industrial park, about 1200 acres of raw land, but no active existing industrial park. The existing land is a Keystone Opportunity Site, but that has not helped.
- DEP is trying to get local official trained, but usually do not have a good turn out.
- DCED has a database for county and municipalities; it does not have water quality data. This includes zoning and subdivision.

Southwest Pennsylvania Commission

Stan Caldwell

- Southwest Pennsylvania Commission (SWPC) is a regional planning organization serving 10 counties. A comprehensive plan is completed every 3 years, incorporating land use, transportation, and economic development.
- The commissioners would like to look at quality and quantity issues, CSO's, nutrient management, storm water run off – there is a lot of data, but it is not consistent.
- SWPC should incorporate water quality and quantity into the report:
 1. Create a water resource advisory committee
 2. SWPC to work with committee to prioritize water projects regionally
 3. SWPC to consolidate all of the data out there
 4. Pursue a balanced portfolio of funding

Follow-up/Next Steps – Next Meeting November 7, 2005

Next meeting will be November 7, 2005 in the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, Cranberry, PA.

Adjourn Business Meeting

- Mr. Rohall asked for anything else.

Motion made by Mr. Rohall to adjourn

Motion Second: Mr. Bluedorn and Mr. Schulte.

Motion carried.