

Ohio Water Resources Committee Meeting

May 8, 2006

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Cranberry Township Municipal Building

Committee Members in Attendance:

Shirl Barnhart

Daniel Barton

Scott Blauvelt

Don Bluedorn

Mitch Brouman

Marie Clark

Terry Dayton

Gerry Feldman

Jeff Foley

Dan Ireland

Richard Lehman

Jan Oliver

Robert Ritchey

Ronald Rohall

Jerry Schulte

Bob Softcheck

Chuck Stowe

Roger Uhazie

Jay Tarara

Others in Attendance:

Robbie Matesic

Joe West

DEP Staff in Attendance:

Christine Marincic

Lori Mohr

Bill Gast

Introduction

At 10:05 Ron Rohall calls for meeting to begin.

The meeting started with introductions and a quorum. Representatives from Beaver & Greene Counties were present.

Mr. Rohall asked if there were any corrections for the meeting notes. Bob Ritchey's name was misspelled in the first and second paragraphs. MOTION – approval of meeting notes, Shirl Barnhart first, second Mitch Brouman. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Administrative Items

Lori Mohr discussed handouts. PowerPoint presentation – we have concerns on how are we going to reach everyone, and make it interesting to him or her. We would like to try a new approach – different written material in different forms. Sound data for will be available for the professional and technical folks, a regional atlas for those who want a brief “picture” of the watershed, and action agendas for regional and statewide committees. Outline for marketing development will be finalized in November. The action agenda is set for 2013 and beyond.

Growing Greener money is available to write the plan, hire consultants, and produce the regional atlas.

Testimony from John Hines on May 2, 2006 is a very good overview of state water plan activities.

PowerPoint Presentation

Bill Gast – progress on the DEP/USGS screening tool (PowerPoint presentation). Two components – screening tool and yield analysis tool.

Screening tool will be used for a quick look at the watersheds across the state. It is structured on nested watersheds. Critical Water Planning guidelines looked at yields at low flow conditions, we considered groundwater and surface water as one in the same. It computes water availability for each watershed at the pour point. Withdrawal data can be changed; it will enable us to run different scenarios. It is run using baseline data or projected demands. The system will not be geared to store each monthly or quarterly output; it will show the most recent output. We are standardizing our data through the National Hydrography Data Set with USGS.

Yield Analysis Tool – two components: compute stream flow statistic at any point on the stream (will be used in the water allocation program) and demand projection/analysis. It can determine service area, the key factor is population. Provide output for the screening tool plus it will have the ability to do projected demand. Yield of all sources from a PWS is used, just not their surface water withdrawal.

CARP Guidelines Presentation – Bill Gast

Will be used by whoever develops the critical area resource plans, after a critical area is designated. Critical Area Advisory Committee will guide the development of the plans, along with Department staff.

First rough draft with tracking version was sent out to committee members. The Regional Committee is going to review and comment on this draft. We would like to publish as a draft version in the early fall.

Regional Atlas (Component) Outline and Discussion – Lori Mohr

We would like to have a combined atlas for all of the regional committees – a paper copy plus an interactive web design (based on an atlas from Ohio’s coastal program). Incorporate the information we are required to report and information that the general public would like to see in a binder. Six regional committees will be in this atlas. Regional committee members are listed in the binder as well as regional priorities.

We would like to add some text to these priorities, to make them more definitive:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ✓Major recommendations | ✓Critical water planning areas |
| ✓Socio-Economic | ✓Local planning |
| ✓General overview | ✓Regional resources and physical features |

- ✓Flood hazards
- ✓Scenic resources
- ✓Water resource inventory
- ✓Population served by PWS in the basin
- ✓Water conservation section
- ✓Definitions
- ✓Transportation
- ✓Assessment of water resources
- ✓Major water body map
- ✓Public Water Suppliers
- ✓Summary
- ✓Appendix information

Paper copies of the atlas would be available, but we would also like to have an interactive web site.

If you have any comments on the atlas, please email me or we can discuss it at the August meeting.

Tourism can be added to the marketing document. The Policy and Integration subcommittee will focus on activities of water users – recreation; preservation; mining; industrial uses; agriculture; power production; navigation; development; and water supply and wastewater management.

The atlas will be approximately 200 pages. Please comment on the organization of the atlas. County level information was collected using the seven questions sent out to the counties.

Public Comment

No public comment from county representatives present for this meeting.

Laurel Hill – Don Bluedorn.

CWPA (critical water planning area) may be designated, if warranted; the guidance document is still in draft. We need to determine whether or not we support the nomination of Laurel Hill Creek as CWPA, or if there is an alternative way to address their water resources issues.

Bob Ritchey noted that CSA (Cambria Somerset Authority) is going to put in a pipe to supply Somerset and surrounding townships. Don Bluedorn asked to add this on the agenda for the August meeting.

Jay Tarara explained that the project is known as the Que project, and will use water from the Que reservoir. The project completion would completely eliminate the withdrawal of 900,000 gallons from Laurel Hill Creek. PennVest gave them a \$5 million loan. There may be a need for additional funding to proceed with the project. The project was scheduled to begin in 2006, but may be delayed.

Ron Rohall – the subcommittee should look at this and we can discuss at the August meeting.

Follow-up/Next Steps – Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on August 7, 2006 at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building with a start time of 10:00 am.

Adjourn Business Meeting

Ron Rohall adjourned the meeting at 12:35.