

Ohio Water Resources Committee Meeting
February 5, 2007
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Cranberry Township Municipal Building

DRAFT

Committee Members in Attendance

Scott Blauvelt	Jan Oliver
Mitchell Brouman	Bob Ritchey
Marie Clark	Bob Softcheck
Jeff Fliss	Chuck Stowe
Jeff Foley	Jay Tarara
Dan Ireland	

Committee Members Not in Attendance

Shirl Barnhart	Richard Lehman
Dan Barton	Ron Rohall
Don Bluedorn	Jerry Schulte
Terry Dayton	Deb Simko
Jerry Feldman	Roger Uhazie
Curtis Kaelin	

Others in Attendance

Stuart Demansky – DEP
Bill Gast – DEP
Dave Jostenski – DEP
Christine Marincic – DEP
John Walliser – Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Joe West – Beaver County Planning Commission

Introduction

10:08 Mitchell Brouman calls for meeting to begin. Mitchell will chair the meeting in Ron Rohall's absence. There are only eight voting members in attendance, no quorum (12 is needed). We will not take any actions, which will require a vote, until the next meeting. The elections of members will be delayed, although Ron indicated that he is interested in returning as the chair. Leslie Sarvis is sitting in for Lori Mohr.

Public Comments

No comments.

DEP Update – Leslie Sarvis

Appointments and reappointments – a few days ago we received notice from the Governor's Office regarding the approved new appointments and reappointments. The Ohio Committee will have two new committee members: John Walliser of PEC will fill

the “environmental” vacancy, and Dan Gracenin of Mercer County will fill the “county planning director” vacancy. The Oath of Office needs to be completed for new appointees and re-appointees.

Atlas and Marketing Document: The RFP was issued on January 25. A pre-proposal conference is being held on February 6. Proposals are due February 27.

A second round of public meetings/hearings – as required by Act 220 – will be scheduled in late October or early November to present the Draft State Water Plan to the public.

The Chapter 110 Registration Regulations public comment period closed on January 2. DEP is working on a Comment/Response document to finalize the regulations package later this year. Guidelines for the CARP have not gone out in draft for public comment yet...still under internal review.

The 2007 Growing Greener grant application is available, information is on the website, www.growinggreener2.com

Leslie handed out two summaries of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reauthorization which amends the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). The Reauthorization extends the AML Program for at least 15 years and will triple AML funds that PA receives from reclamation fees collected. The state is expected to receive at least \$1.5 billion to clean up the worst AML sites. Leslie encouraged committee members to read through the documents and note that DEP roundtables that will be held around the state to gain input on how the funding should be managed over the next 15 years.

Pilot Water Availability Screening: Dave Jostenski updated the Committee on the pilot project work done by USGS and DEP. Dave gave a handout to the Committee with the results of the water budget screening for the Codorus watershed in the Lower Susquehanna basin and the Wissahickon watershed in the Delaware basin. The pilot watershed work was done primarily to test the water budget screening tool and Critical Water Planning Area identification process. This work is being used now to help develop a scope of work for statewide application and document technical work. Leslie added that after screenings are completed on watersheds in the Ohio basin, DEP would like for members of the Ohio CWPA Subcommittee to come to Harrisburg to review the results and provide feedback.

Discussion of P&I Subcommittee Request – Leslie Sarvis

The Policy and Integration Subcommittee is working on the statewide action agenda. The Subcommittee developed five Statewide Themes and has requested comments from all of the Regional Committees. The Themes were:

1. Data for decision making
2. Education and Outreach
3. Sustainability

4. Flooding and Drought
5. Land Use Planning and Management

Leslie took notes on the Committee's discussion and comments (see attached summary). Bill Gast added that the P&I Subcommittee would like to have 3 goals instead of 5, and they would like the Regional Committee's to prioritize them. DEP staff will present the comments of all the Regional Committees to the P&I Subcommittee at their February 26th meeting. Please let Leslie know before then if you have further comments on these themes.

Regional Action Agenda Work Group Session

The Committee decided to work together on the Action Agenda instead of breaking into working groups. Leslie took flip-chart notes on the discussion (see attached summary). We will work on completing the Action Agenda at the May meeting.

Laurel Hill Creek Growing Greener Grant – Jeff Fliss

Deb Simko has worked with Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited to develop this grant application. The grant will have a DEP advisor, Stuart Demanski, who will be the "go through" person for the administration of the grant. They received the full amount. The contract has not been finalized...maybe in the next month or two. The purpose of the grant is to determine whether there is enough water to meet current and future needs.

Follow-up/Next Steps – Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on May 7, 2007, at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building. Mitchell Brouman will update Ron Rohall on the meeting today.

Adjourn Business Meeting

Mitchell Brouman called for adjournment of the meeting at 1:36 p.m.