

Ohio Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

September 8, 2008
2:30am – 4:00pm

Seven Fields Community Center
380 Castle Creek Drive
Seven Fields, PA 16046

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Daniel Barton	Patrick Meinert
Scott Blauvelt	Jan Oliver
Mitchell Brouman	Bob Ritchey
Marie Clark	Ron Rohall
John Courtney	Deb Simko
Jerry Feldman	Bob Softcheck
Jeff Fliss	Chuck Stowe
Dan Ireland	Roger Uhazie

Committee Members not in Attendance:

Shirl Barnhart	Dan Gracenin
Don Bluedorn	Jerry Schulte
Terry Dayton	John Walliser
Jeff Foley	

Others in Attendance:

Robb Piper, Cambria County Conservation District	Greg Holesh, DEP
Darrel Lewis, State Industries, Inc.	Jay Braund, DEP
Robert Schellinger, Senator Don White	Dave Jostenski, DEP
Kirk Brethauer, Southwest PA Commission	Andy Zemba, DEP
	Duke Adams, DEP
	Lori Mohr, DEP

Ron Rohall called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Finalize Draft May Meeting Summary

Jerry Feldman made a motion to approve the draft May Meeting Summary, with an amendment stating that Deb Simko provided the committee with information on oil and gas well drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation, which affects portions of the Ohio basin. Large volumes of water are used to “frack” the wells and the committee should be aware of this new water use. Dan Ireland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Review Agenda and Materials for the evening meeting

Lori Mohr went through the agenda for the public meeting and hearing to be held later in the day.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP has reviewed the watersheds in the Ohio basin to determine which ones may potentially meet the criteria established for designation as Critical Water Planning Areas.

Dave also told the committee about three data applications that are being developed for the State Water Plan website. The three applications are:

1. A general viewer that's based on the Atlas and will be interactive for the user
2. A download tool
3. A GIS viewer that will be a professional viewer similar to eMapPA

DEP hopes to have these tools on the web in May 2009.

Public Comments

The committee discussed the recent issue of oil and gas well drilling and the cumulative impacts on water quality and quantity in the basin. Committee member Scott Blauvelt has been involved in oil and gas well drilling work and he explained the process to the committee and he described how water is being used in "fracking" the wells.

The next meeting is November 3rd at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center.