

Statewide Water Resources Committee

May 4, 2005
Room 105
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA

FINAL Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance

Don Bluedorn, Chair
Janet Bowers, Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee Chair
Carol R. Collier
Gerald Feldman
Tom Ford
Rep. Kate Harper
Joe Hoffman
Bob Long
Jim MacKenzie, Vice Chair
David Mandelbaum, Policy and Integration Subcommittee Chair
Susan Fox Marquart
Gary Merritt
Bill Morris
Cathy Curran Myers
Howard Neukrug
William Nichols
Gary Petrewski
Robert Reichart
Robert Rosenthal
Paul Swartz
Bill Wehry
George Wolff

Committee members not in attendance

Rick Carlson
Tom Crane
Nick DeBenedictis
Scott Dunkelberger
Rep. Bud George
John Mizerak
Rich Subasic
Alan Vicory
Matt Wolford

Others in attendance

Keith Ashley
Betty Conner (Chair- Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee)

Melanie Cook
Janis Dean
Matt Gencher
Joe Nardella
Steve Neidlinger
Curtis Schreffler
Dan Snowden
R. Timothy Weston

DEP Representatives in attendance

Julia Anastasio, Executive Policy Specialist
Pam Bishop, Office of Chief Counsel
Stu Gansell, Watershed Management Bureau Director
Bill Gast, Water Use Planning Division Chief
John Hines, Water Planning Office Executive Director
David Jostenski, Water Use Planning and Assessment Section Chief
Hoss Liaghat, Senior Civil Engineer- Hydraulics
Leslie Sarvis, Program Analyst
Susan Weaver, Special Projects Manager

Administrative

Review of draft March 17, 2005 Meeting Summary. Correct typo on page 5.

Motion: Accept revision and adopt as final

Made By: Bob Reichart

Seconded By: Jerry Feldman

Outcome: Passed

Review of proposed revision to the Bylaws.

Motion: Accept revisions as proposed and adopt as final

Made By: Howard Neukrug

Seconded By: Bob Rosenthal

Outcome: Passed

DEP Update

John Hines briefly went over the 5/2/05 Update Memo that was distributed to the Committee. He also mentioned that DEP staff met with USGS and Don Bluedorn on April 29, 2005 to evaluate the continued progress on the USGS budgeting tool. As a result of the 4/29 meeting, USGS was requested to attend today's meeting to provide an update (see USGS Budgeting Tool section).

Comments from the Public

Tim Weston representing the PA Chamber of Business and Industry distributed to the Committee and DEP comments on the draft water use regulations. Mr. Weston noted that during the development of the Act 220 legislation, fee language was deliberately left out of the legislative package and that the Department specifically stated no fees would be imposed on the registration program. Mr. Weston concluded by offering the assistance of the Chamber's technical representatives as a resource to the Statewide Committee and DEP for developing alternate methods to metering for the measurement of water usage.

Mr. Wolff, a member of the Statewide Committee, concurred with Mr. Weston's

statement regarding the fees that the legislation was very specific about not including fees.

Mr. Swartz of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and a member of the Statewide Committee distributed two handouts to the Committee and visitors. The first was an Op-Ed titled “The Susquehanna: A River Under Stress—But Not The Nation’s Most Endangered” and the second was literature regarding the upcoming River Front Symposium on June 8th-10th.

Technical Expert Advisory Pool Discussion

Mr. Bluedorn explained that the intent of the Technical Expert Advisory Pool was to allow the flexibility to bring experts from various fields in to speak to the Statewide Committee. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to accept the concept of the Technical Expert Advisory Pool.

Motion: Finalize paper on Technical Expert Advisory Pool and distribute to the Regional and Statewide Committees.

Made By: Bob Riechart

Seconded By: Bill Nichols

Outcome: Passed

Update from Regional Committee Representatives

There have been no Regional Committee meetings since the last Statewide Committee.

Subcommittee Activities/Reports

- Public Participation – Leslie Sarvis reported on the upcoming May Regional Committee public meetings/hearings.
- P&I – David Mandelbaum reported that the Subcommittee conducted a conf. call on 4/28/05 to discuss the CWPA Criteria and Process Documents. After lengthy discussion on the process document, there was reasonable consensus among the Subcommittee members participating on the call that both documents move to the Regional Committees at their May meetings. The Subcommittee discussed its’ next tasks of addressing the non-critical and non-technical pieces of the plan and to revisit the vision statement.
- CWPA – Jan Bowers reported on the 4/26/05 meeting. Outcomes of the meeting where: 1. PADEP to revise Criteria and Process documents to incorporate changes and edits discussed and distribute to both P&I and CWPA subcommittees prior to April 28th. 2. CWPA recommends to Statewide Committee that, subsequent to review/changes by P&I subcommittee, the Statewide Committee distribute the revised Criteria Document for review and comment by Regional Committees and that comments be due to PADEP by May 31st. 3. CWPA subcommittee requests approval from the Statewide Committee to allow CWPA to work with PADEP to merge the 2 documents into one, and to prepare a nomination form and an accompanying introductory text for the combined document. This final compiled document will incorporate changes from regional committee review comments and will be presented to the Statewide Committee for final approval at their July meeting. 4. PADEP will attempt to review comments and prepare a revised draft in advance of June 14 meeting. 5. Jan will distribute the revised Criteria and Process documents

USGS Budgeting Tool

Curtis Schreffler of USGS gave a PowerPoint presentation on the budget tool that included a demonstration of the capabilities of the tool.

Draft Regulations

Bill Gast presented the revised draft regulations. He mentioned that the Department is in the process of assessing the actual data requirements and depending upon the outcome, there may be reductions on the data requirements currently listed in the draft regulations. The Committee requested DEP to revise the document and send to the Regional Committees with comments due by 6/15/05.

Registration Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the progress of registrations. The Department is targeting Public Water Supply Agencies and golf courses to submit the registration information. Mr. Jostenski also mentioned that the Department is working on a user survey to be distributed later in the year requesting feedback on the registration program.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2005 at 9:30 in room 105 of the RCSOB in Harrisburg. The committee anticipates addressing the following issues (among others) during the July 21st meeting:

1. Review and comment on the draft registration regulations;
2. Finalize the CWPA Process and Criteria guidance;
3. Discuss the Technical Advisory Pool; and
4. Discuss the P&I Subcommittee's thoughts on the non-critical and non-technical pieces of the plan.