

Statewide Water Resources Committee

Dec. 20, 2007

9:30- 11:30

Room 105

400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA

DRAFT

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance

Don Bluedorn, Chair

Janet Bowers, Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee Chair

Carol R. Collier

Rob Davidson

Paul Diskin

Rep. Bud George represented by Thomas Kuhn

Rep. Kate Harper (arrived late)

Mark Hartle

Joe Hoffman

Jim MacKenzie

David Mandelbaum, Policy and Integration Subcommittee Chair

Susan Fox Marquart

Gary Merritt

Cathy Curran Myers represented by Susan Weaver

Jay Parrish represented by Stuart Reese

Gary Petrewski

Robert Reichart

Paul Swartz

R. Timothy Weston

George Wolff

Matt Wolford participated by speakerphone

Committee members not in attendance

Tom Crane

Nick DeBenedictis

Scott Dunkelberger

Gerald Feldman

Bob Long

Bill Morris

Howard Neukrug

William Nichols

Sean Sanderson

Alan Vicory

Others in attendance

Bob Edwards

Matt Genchur

Harold "Hank" Webster

DEP Representatives in attendance

Duke Adams
Pam Bishop
Mike Hill
Hoss Liaghat
Lori Mohr
Susan Weaver
Andy Zemba

2008 Meeting Dates

The Statewide Committee will meet on the following dates in 2008:
1/17/08, 2/21/08, 3/20/08, 6/19/08, 9/10/08, 12/18/08

Message from Paul Swartz, Executive Director of SRBC

Paul Swartz distributed several handouts and spoke briefly on the federal government funding of the River Basin Commissions with the WRDA 2007 update and how this is positive movement towards ultimately restoring funding to them.

Comments fro the public

None.

DEP Update

Susan Weaver updated the Statewide Committee members on the status of the planning efforts with the following information that was contained in a powerpoint presentation:

Currently

Atlas drafted, revisions underway based upon Regional Committee and Statewide Committee input

Results of Screening Tool being disseminated to Regional Committee members
Policy and Integration Subcommittee and DEP drafting various components of State Water Plan

Timeline

Early 2008- Policy and Integration Subcommittee begin finalizing components for Statewide Committee consideration

Summer 2008- Comprehensive State Water Plan package to Statewide Committee

Fall 2008- Public meetings and hearings

The Statewide Committee did not have much discussion regarding the proposed timeline. There is general agreement from the Committee that the proposed timeline is realistic given the amount of time required for the various committees to reach agreement on documents and move them to the next step. A request was made to send this presentation to Regional Committee members to keep them informed of the status. DEP responded that it would send it to the Regional Committees.

Elections

Bob Reichart made a motion to recommend Don Bluedorn continue as Chair and Jim MacKenzie continue as Vice-Chair, motion seconded by Matt Wolford. Both individuals agreed to continue to serve if elected. Outcome of vote: passed.

Technical Update

Susan Weaver updated the Committee members on the screening tool results. DEP has been working with the CWPA Subcommittee through the summer and fall to reach agreement on how to display the screening tool results to the Regional Committee members. In addition, the Regional Committee members are receiving the results of the screening tool currently and each Regional Committee Tech Subcommittee will begin

discussions in January 2008 on which watersheds to put on their list for further consideration. There was quite a bit of discussion on how DEP intends to display and release the screening tool results beyond disseminating to the Regional Committees. Ms. Weaver stated that discussions are underway on this issue and no final decisions have been made on how we intend to release the information. Particular concern from David Mandelbaum that we have approx. 1300 yellow pour points that indicate there could be a problem, not enough resources to work through the final verification on all of these watersheds/yellow pour points, that many areas will be deemed "hands-off" (this is my terminology) and discourage economic development in 10-15 percent of the Commonwealth.

Don Bluedorn recommended that we begin this discussion of how to convey the results in earnest, since the information is going to the Regional Committees now. Specifically, Don would like to schedule a conference call with Dave Jostenski, other DEP staff, and perhaps Jan Bowers as well, prior to the Ohio Tech Subcommittee meeting on 1/9 to discuss how DEP intends to present this information to the Ohio Tech Subcommittee. DEP responded that it would schedule this call.

Update from Regional Committee Representatives

Upper Middle- Gary Petrewski reported that they received a presentation on the screening tool results and discussed the Regional Atlas.

Potomac- Bob Reichart stated that they also received a presentation on the screening tool results, technical subcommittee was formed and they also discussed a project that is proposing to transfer 3 MGD from the Susquehanna Basin to the Potomac Basin.

Great Lakes- Matt Wolford reported that the Regional Committee had a similar meeting, screening tool results were presented and they continued work on the Regional Atlas.

Delaware- Carol Collier reported for Howard Neukrug that the Regional Committee received the screening tool result presentation and also had a status report on the Special Area Management Plan for the Wissahickon watershed. Andy Zemba commented that the draft plan is available on the web and that he would send the link to the Committee. Rep. Harper also mentioned that the local government representatives tended to be less interested in the technical detail of the plan and were more interested in the broader issues.

Lower Susquehanna- Lori Mohr reported for Bill Morris that the Committee discussed the CWPA nomination, formed the technical subcommittee and received a presentation on the screening tool results.

Ohio- Don Bluedorn reported for Jerry Feldman that the Regional Committee had a similar meeting and they also discussed the Laurel Hill watershed.

P&I Subcommittee

David Mandelbaum, Chair of the P&I Subcommittee, stated that the Subcommittee met on 11/29/07 and that much of the meeting was spent on discussing the integrated water resources management white paper. The Well Driller's white paper from the Potomac Regional Committee was also discussed.

CWPA Subcommittee

Jan Bowers, Chair of the CWPA Subcommittee, reported that the CWPA Subcommittee met on 10/23/07 and was in agreement with the revisions DEP has been making to the display of the screening tool results.

Water Conservation Subcommittee

Tim Weston reported for Jerry Feldman and provided an update on the Subcommittee activities.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2008, at 9:30 in room 105 of the RCSOB in Harrisburg.