

Statewide Water Resources Committee

April 7, 2011

9:30am - 12:00pm

Room 105

400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA

DRAFT

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance

Tim Weston, Chair
Paul Diskin
Rep. Kate Harper (via phone)
Rob Piper (via phone)
Preston Luitweiler
Gary Merritt
Andy Zemba – PA DEP
Stuart Reese

R. Timothy Weston
George Wolff
Robert Pody-SRBC (non-voting)
David Sayers – DRBC (non-voting) (via phone)
Jim Palmer – ICPRB (non-voting) (via phone)

Committee members not in attendance

Tom Crane
Rob Davidson
Scott Dunkelberger
Gary Petrewski
Denny Puko
Rep. Camille “Bud” George
Janet Bowers
Carol R. Collier (Non-Voting)
Mark Hartle
David Mandelbaum

Joe Roberge
Paul Swartz
Alan Vicory
Robert Reichart

Others in attendance

Jon Meade - PEC
Julia Rockwell - PWD (via phone)
Danene Sorace
Charlotte Katzomoyer

DEP Representatives in attendance

Jay Braund
Mike Hill
Dave Jostenski

Introductions

Chairman Weston opened the meeting and those in attendance introduced themselves. Tim Weston, committee chair, opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. Jay Braund reported that approximately six vacancies need to be filled on the statewide committee.

Public Comments:

No comments were made during the public comment time allocated on the agenda.

CWPA Status Reports

Marsh/Rock Creeks

Dave Jostenski and Jim Palmer provided an update on Marsh and Rock Creeks. General discussion followed. The project team is updating water use data that was used during the screening period, including a calculation/estimate of unreported uses. DEP is processing new registration information reported for this year. Data is generally meeting validations and being added to the system. Committee members commented that the work of the Critical Area Advisory Committee (CAAC), in addition to analyzing data, needs to be forward looking and provide options for policymakers to consider. Their work also needs to result in a better understanding of the efforts and resources needed to move other possible future CARPs forward. DEP staff will provide these comments to the CAAC.

Laurel Hill/Back Creeks

Dave Jostenski provided an update on Laurel Hill and Back Creeks. General discussion followed. There was a question on whether all water suppliers in the area have been attending CAAC meetings, and DEP staff made a commitment to check on this.

The discussion ended with An update from DEP on efforts to integrate central office and field office efforts on all CWPA work.

Update on Watch List

Dave Jostenski provided an update on the four Watch List watersheds. DEP is continuing to collect data, including from registrations. Jay Braund provided an update on the recent Delaware Regional Forum that had a strong drinking water emphasis. Mike Stokes chaired the Delaware session, and raised the issue of the watch list watersheds.

General discussion followed. A comment was made that DEP would need to make sure that any Marcellus-related data, which is temporal, matches conditions and is best representing patterns of use. It's also important to remember that some operators are transferring flow back water, so it may not always be fresh water. DEP commented that the data involves fresh water connections. David Sayers, of DRBC, discussed some work they have been conducting on trends over 20 years of data, and may present some of the data at a future committee meeting.

Water Conservation Center Update

Jon Meade, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, provided an update on the Water Conservation Center. They have been focusing on ground-level partnerships, including PSU for research options. They also have been working with foundations to see if support is possible. The project's grant closes out this summer, so there will be a push this spring to find more resources to continue the work.

Lancaster City Green Infrastructure (LIVE)

Danene Sorace (Director of Lancaster LIVE) and Charlotte Katzenmoyer (Lancaster City Public Works Director) provided information on the City's comprehensive, city-wide green infrastructure plan and projects. The work includes demonstration projects for day-lighting streams, building rain gardens, implementing tree canopy projects and using porous pavements; research on the development of possible incentives for private sector participation; and other components. DCNR has been very helpful with support and funding for this project.

Initial project work indicates significant possible savings can be achieved through the implementation of green infrastructure, when total capital investment and incremental/marginal costs are considered. The project is looking at the feasibility of a possible storm water utility.

General discussion followed. The committee chair complimented the presenters on the project, and asked DEP to consider having the same presentation made at a future meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Management Team. Several comments were made on successful results of efforts being made in Philadelphia, but there is a concern that taking projects like the Lancaster and Philadelphia state-wide would require some enabling legislation. Pennsylvania has some uncertainty in law that would have to be addressed to make storm water utilities more feasible.

Next steps

Tim Weston commented that DEP is looking at all the water committees. The general consensus was that no future statewide meetings should be scheduled until DEP makes a decision on the water committees.

The meeting ended at noon.