

DRAFT

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

February 24, 2004
Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Meeting Summary

Committee Members In Attendance

Robert Bergenstock Jr.	Jennifer Means
Mike Cavanaugh, Ph.D.	Gary Petrewski, P.E.
Glen R. DeWillie	Jerry S. Walls, AICP
Todd Giddings, Ph.D., P.G.	Richard T. Wardrop, P.G.
Drew Hadley	Harold Webster
Tim Horner	Uwe E. Weindel
David R. Kaufman	Dorne White
Bill Manner	John J. Yamona
Douglas P. Manning	Adam Zakarian

Not present

Ed Bellis	Roy Herlocher
William Gerlach, Esquire	David Snook
Frank Halderman	Brooks Way

Others attending

Dave Jostenski	Jennifer Handke
Pam Bishop	PJ Dhillon
Bill Gast	Alice Kline
John Hines	Joanne Nardone
Leslie Sarvis	Kristen Reinertsen

Administrative Items

December meeting summary

A motion was made to approve the December 16, 2003 meeting summary with the correction of Mike Cavanaugh's name spelling. In addition, Jerry Walls noted that administrative item 2 was unclear, and he stressed the need to identify who made motions and document the outcomes on motions. John Hines requested committee members who make a motion to state their names.

Motion made by: Mike Cavanaugh

Motion seconded by Uwe Weindel

Motion was carried to approve the December meeting summary with the above correction and clarification.

Introduction of Facilitators

John Hines introduced Jennifer Handke as head of facilitation for Act 220 regional committees. Jennifer introduced three facilitators that will work with the committee:

Alice Kline	814-946-7293	alkline@state.pa.us
Joanne Nardone	717-772-5663	jonardone@state.pa.us
Kristen Reinertsen	717-702-2047	kreinertse@state.pa.us

John Hines introduced Leslie Sarvis of DEP who will be the primary point of contact for the committee on technical and administrative information. Also introduced was Mr. PJ Dhillon of DEP who will help out on integrating data sources that fall into the State Water Plan planning process.

DEP summary of activities to date

- John Hines and Stu Gansell attended a water resources conference in Texas. John noted differences in structure of water resources management with Pennsylvania, especially the ability to bank federal money. John told of an upcoming meeting with the Corps of Engineers to discuss reconnaissance studies and funding for Act 220 projects.
- Statewide committee Update: John is hopeful of an April statewide committee meeting once all appointments have been made.
- DCNR Rivers Conservation and geology booklet handouts were provided to the committee members.
- Maps prepared by DEP on water use, groundwater and surface water were made available at the meeting. CD's of PDF images of the original State Water Plan were given to each committee member. Several committee members asked for a listing of available GIS information.

Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

Regional Issues Facilitated Discussion

John Hines provided an overview of regional issues and goals that need to be considered under Act 220. Jennifer Handke facilitated discussion on regional priorities and needs, capturing the committee's regional priorities and needs under the following categories:

- Non-withdrawal uses and values
- Out of state development pressure
- Ownership issues
- Land use and sprawl
- Long term protection of resources (sustainability)
- Forestry, Mining, Oil & Gas and agriculture water resource impacts
- Water supply and wastewater treatment opportunities for economic development
- Industry future water needs
- Consumptive uses and water export
- Conservation of critical habitat areas
- Flood control facilities
- River corridor management
- Geology/Topography of the region

Of note were discussions on the need for mapping of information to assess needs and to make decisions. John Hines advised that an outline report on this information could be used for gaining public input and that discussions will continue as the issues are fleshed out. The committee requested that the list of priorities be emailed to the members, and Gary Petrewski offered to take comments on the list and organization. A recommendation was made that the committee should meet with the four regional planning commissions that represent this region. Jerry Walls volunteered to assist in this, and he offered to put DEP on the agenda of an upcoming County Planning Directors meeting.

PA Water Law- Overview

Pam Bishop, DEP legal counsel, provided a PowerPoint overview of Pennsylvania's water law. A handout of the presentation was made available to all attendees.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Glen DeWillie provided an overview of SRBC, a regulatory overview, completed studies and ongoing/planned activities. Mr. DeWillie handed out a map and list of approved water users in the basin, a sample report on watershed assessments in the Upper Tioga River and sub basin reports for the Middle Susquehanna Sub basin and the West Branch Sub basin. **Please note: Glen DeWillie departed SRBC on March 24, 2004. If you would like more information about Glen's presentation or about SRBC, please contact SRBC at 717-238-0423, or visit their website at www.srbc.net. Glen's replacement on the regional committee is Tom Beauduy, Deputy Director of SRBC.**

Other Issues

Todd Giddings identified a need in the Spring Creek Watershed. A surface and groundwater assessment was performed by the USGS in the Spring Creek watershed. Mr. Giddings said a USGS coupled, numerical model is needed to review "what if" scenarios. He requested the committee to write a letter of endorsement for a Growing Greener grant application to fund this project. It would take two years to complete the model.

A motion was made that the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Regional Water Resources Committee write a letter of support for the Growing Greener Grant application for the coupled model to be developed in the Spring Creek Watershed. Discussion ensued on legality of the endorsement and on the appropriateness in giving an endorsement of such a project. Pam Bishop advised the committee that the Act did not list duties of providing endorsements, and that it would be up to the committee.

Motion made by: Todd Giddings
Motion seconded by: Mike Cavanaugh
Motion failed to pass with a vote of 8 yes, 6 No

The next meeting is April 29 at the Centre County Solid Waste Authority in Bellefonte, PA.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm