

# Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

**May 18, 2006**

DEP Northeast Regional Office  
2 Public Square  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

## **DRAFT Meeting Summary**

### **Attendance**

#### Committee members in attendance:

Tom Beauduy  
Ed Bellis  
Mike Cavanaugh  
Todd Giddings  
Drew Hadley  
David Kaufman

Bill Manner  
Jennifer Means  
Gary Petrewski  
Harold Webster  
Uwe Weindel

#### Committee members not in attendance:

Frank Halderman  
Roy Herlocher  
Tim Horner  
Doug Manning  
David Snook

Jerry Walls  
Richard Wardrop  
Dorne White  
John Yamona

#### Others in attendance:

Bill Gast - DEP  
Leslie Sarvis - DEP  
Mark Stephens - DEP

Vice Chairman Webster began the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The decision was made to start the meeting even though a quorum was not present.

### **Finalize November Meeting Summary**

The committee was unable to approve the Draft November Meeting Summary because a quorum was not present.

### **DEP Summary of Activities**

Leslie Sarvis highlighted the Statewide Committee Memo dated March 10, 2006. The draft registration and reporting regulations are going through DEP's approval process and anticipated for presentation to the Environmental Quality Board in July.

There was discussion about the vacancies on the committee. Currently there are four vacancies, including a resignation in March from Bill Gerlach. DEP has received nominations for two of the vacancies, for the categories of “horticulture” and “professional.” These nominations, along with nominations from the other regional committees, will be forwarded to the Governor’s Office for determination of appointment.

The Water Planning Office received \$1.8 million from DEP’s Environmental Stewardship Fund for fiscal year 2006 –07.

John Hines presented testimony to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on May 2, 2006. Copies of John’s testimony were sent via email to all of the regional committee members and are available as handouts at the meetings. In addition, Carol Collier of DRBC and Tom Beauduy of SRBC presented testimony to the Committee.

The Statewide CWPA Subcommittee has completed Draft CARP Guidelines and has asked for comments on the document from Statewide and Regional Committee members. **Comments are due to Sue Weaver ([suweaver@state.pa.us](mailto:suweaver@state.pa.us)) by June 1, 2006.** There were questions from committee members regarding how the process will work for nomination and identification of Critical Water Planning Areas (CWPAs) and subsequent Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs), and what entities are responsible for drafting the CARPs. The process and the role of the regional committee will become more clear once a CWPA is identified and goes through the CARP process.

Leslie led a discussion on how the final products of the 2008 State Water Plan will be formatted and displayed and what resource materials will be available to the public. The data and analysis portion of the State Water Plan will be displayed in a cd and web format. The Regional Atlas portion of the Plan (see discussion below) will be presented in a paper format along with an accompanying cd and possibly an interactive webpage. A marketing document and static webpage will also be developed to increase awareness and interest in the State Water Plan. This marketing document will highlight the activities of water users and showcase success stories. In addition, participants in DEP’s Learning to LEAD program are working on creating a marketing strategy and identifying market sectors to promote the State Water Plan. Finally, a statewide action agenda, or policy document, will be developed which will contain recommendations for water management and planning and will identify data and information gaps to be addressed in the next State Water Plan. This document will also be in the form of a static webpage.

### **Comments from the Public**

Todd Giddings reported that the PA Groundwater Association is holding its Summer Field Conference on Friday, June 9, 2006 at Rock Springs, PA.

### **USGS Budget Tool Presentation**

Bill Gast gave a powerpoint presentation on the USGS-contracted Water Budget Tool. The water budget tool is a GIS-based program that was developed jointly between DEP and USGS. The program computes water availability in watersheds and is structured based on nested watersheds represented by pour points. The program indicates if the water availability in a watershed is positive or negative, thus flagging an area for additional investigation into water availability. Bill also discussed the development of the Yield Analysis Tool (YAT), a GIS-based program that analyzes specific water yields to assess the current and future capabilities of public water supply agencies.

### **Draft Critical Area Resource Plan (CARP) Guidelines Discussion**

Bill Gast discussed the development of the Draft CARP Guidance Document. A CARP must be drafted upon designation of a Critical Water Planning Area (CWPA). The draft document outlines the criteria and the process that will be used to develop, review and approve CARPs. Regional Committee members are asked to submit comments on the draft document to Sue Weaver by June 1, 2006.

### **Regional Atlas (Component) Discussion and Binders**

Leslie Sarvis discussed the idea of presenting the regional component as a regional atlas. A copy of the Ohio Coastal Atlas was passed around for committee members to view and consider as a template for the State Water Plan Regional Atlas. The Regional Atlas will incorporate the sections of the regional component and depict much of the information through maps, charts, graphs, etc. Binders were distributed to each of the committee members so that maps, charts and text to be included in the regional atlas can be added to them at subsequent meetings. The committee members had comments and questions about some of the maps and sections of the atlas. The committee will continue discussing the atlas at future meetings.

### **Follow-up/Next Steps**

Time will be allotted on the August agenda for refinement of the committee's regional priorities. Other suggestions for the August meeting were discussion on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs), the West Branch Initiative, and an update on the Water Use Analysis Tool and the Yield Analysis Tool. It was also suggested that if the new members are appointed in time for the August meeting, that DEP staff, the chair and vice chair meet with the new members before the meeting to orient them with the committee's work and progress on the State Water Plan.

The next meeting will be held on August 17, 2006 at the DEP Northcentral Regional Office in Williamsport, PA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.