

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

August 17, 2006

DEP Northcentral Regional Office
208 W. Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Tom Beauduy	David Snook
Mike Cavanaugh	Jerry Walls
Todd Giddings	Richard Wardrop
Drew Hadley	Harold Webster
Bill Manner	John Yamona
Doug Manning	
Jennifer Means	
Gary Petrewski	

Committee members not in attendance:

Ed Bellis	David Kaufman
Frank Halderman	Uwe Weindel
Roy Herlocher	Dorne White
Tim Horner	

Others in attendance:

Rachel Delavan – DEP
John Hines – DEP
Leslie Sarvis - DEP
Mark Stephens – DEP
Eric Long – Williamsport Sun Gazette

Chair Doug Manning began the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Finalize November 2005 and May 2006 Meeting Summaries

The committee approved both the Draft November Meeting Summary and the Draft May Meeting Summary with no changes to either summary.

November 17, 2005 Draft Meeting Summary:

Motion made by: Jerry Walls
Motion second by: David Snook
Motion carried.

May 18, 2006 Draft Meeting Summary:
Motion made by: Hank Webster
Motion second by: Mike Cavanaugh
Motion carried.

DEP Summary of Activities

Leslie Sarvis introduced Rachel Delavan as her job share partner. Rachel began working for DEP in July and will share responsibilities with Leslie. For now, Leslie is still the lead DEP contact for the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Committee, although this may change as job duties are divided between them. Rachel's contact information is rdelavan@state.pa.us and her phone number is the same as Leslie's: 717-772-5634.

Leslie reported that the nominations for two of the committee's vacancies ("horticulture" and "professional" categories) have been forwarded to the Governor's Office for review. Hopefully the appointments will be made by the November meeting date. DEP staff continue to seek nominations for the other two vacancies "county planning director or conservation district director" and "environmental." Suggestions from committee members are welcome. The 2006 committee member terms expire in September, and DEP staff have asked those whose terms expire to let us know if they are interested in continuing on the committee. Everyone contacted on the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Committee indicated that they would like to continue.

DEP is developing a GIS-based electronic tool to display all water attribute and water quality data known to the Department. It is called the WAVE Tool (Water Attribute Viewer for the Enterprise) and is being developed in two phases. Phase I is the internal DEP view and was completed in July. Phase II will be the external display of the data as determined by the respective water programs and is not yet complete. DEP would like for Regional Committee members to volunteer to attend a tutorial session in the coming months to learn more about the WAVE Tool and to provide feedback to DEP. Leslie will email committee members at a later date to ask for volunteers.

John Hines informed the committee that the Registration Regulations would be going to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on September 19.

Tom Beauduy informed the committee that SRBC's testing of the Yield Analysis Tool will be complete by the end of the month and that they will be able to deliver a product to the Statewide Committee by the end of the year. All of the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) data for this tool have been digitized.

Tom gave a handout and spoke to the committee about SRBC's West Branch Susquehanna River AMD Remediation Strategy. It is an ongoing effort to inventory and analyze water quality for the West Branch. SRBC is developing a database, including TMDL assessment work, as part of this strategy. The timeframe is one year, and the information can be integrated into the State Water Plan.

Related to this, Tom informed the committee that SRBC has received a \$6.1 million appropriation from the General Assembly to conduct agricultural consumptive water use compensation projects, including a project partnering with DEP to construct a treatment facility at the Barnes and Tucker mining operation site. The goals of this project are to restore 25 miles of acid mine drainage in the West Branch and to provide enough water to compensate for 10 mgd of agricultural consumptive water by discharging water into the Susquehanna watershed. The committee welcomed this report from Tom and discussed possibly using this as an example in the regional atlas.

Comments from the Public

Todd Giddings reported that the Spring Creek Watershed Coordinating Committee has identified six watershed priorities, and Todd will send a summary of these priorities to the committee. He also reported that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission is in the final stage of forming an operating entity through a municipal agreement. Todd will look into getting a copy of the agreement to the committee members.

Regional Priorities Facilitated Discussion

Leslie Sarvis led a discussion on the committee's Regional Priorities, which were originally developed in February 2004. The goal of today's meeting was to hone their priorities into "desired outcomes." These desired outcomes will be the basis of the committee's final recommendations in their Regional Action Agenda portion of the State Water Plan.

After much discussion, the committee re-grouped its priorities into three main headings and divided itself into sub-groups to continue working on the priorities between now and the next meeting. Leslie said that she would send a list of the headings and the sub-groups to the committee so that they could continue refining the priorities via email or conference calls. *Please see attached summary for details on the priorities discussion and sub-group members.*

Regional Atlas/Maps Discussion

More maps of the Lower Susquehanna basin were brought to the meeting for committee members to add to their Penn's Waters binders. The maps included:

- Water Use - Act 220 Registration
- Population Change
- Land Cover
- Average Minimum and Maximum Temperatures
- Average Annual Precipitation
- Community Water Supply Service Areas

Follow-up/Next Steps

-- Leslie Sarvis will send a summary of the priorities discussion to the full committee for continued refinement before the Nov. 15 meeting. The priorities, and the progress made on them, will be discussed again at the November meeting.

-- Todd Giddings will send the committee information about the Spring Creek Watershed activities

The next meeting will be held on *Wednesday*, November 15, 2006 at the Centre County Solid Waste Authority in Bellefonte, PA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.