

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

November 15, 2006
Centre County Solid Waste Authority
253 Transfer Rd.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Attendance

Committee members in attendance:

Tom Beauduy	Jennifer Means
Ed Bellis	Gary Petrewski
Mike Cavanaugh	David Snook
Todd Giddings	Jerry Walls
Drew Hadley	Richard Wardrop
Tim Horner	Harold Webster
David Kaufman	Uwe Weindel
Bill Manner	John Yamona

Committee members not in attendance:

Frank Halderman	Doug Manning
Roy Herlocher	Dorne White

Others in attendance:

John Hood - PRWA	Bill Gast – DEP
Rachel Delavan - DEP	Dave Jostenski - DEP
Leslie Sarvis – DEP	Mark Stephens - DEP

Vice-Chair Harold Webster called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
Introductions of committee members and guests were made around the room.

Finalize August 2006 Meeting Summaries

The Committee approved the Draft August Meeting Summary with no changes.

August 17, 2006 Draft Meeting Summary:
Motion made by: Jerry Walls
Motion second by: Mike Cavanaugh
Motion carried.

DEP Summary of Activities

Rachel Delavan introduced herself as a job-share partner with Leslie Sarvis at DEP. Rachel will be taking over as the lead DEP contact for the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Committee. Her contact information is rdelavan@state.pa.us and her phone number is the same as Leslie's: 717-772-5634.

Rachel reported that reappointments and nominations for two of the committee's vacancies ("horticulture" and "professional" categories) are still in the Governor's Office. An update will be sent to the committee when the reappointments and new appointments are final. DEP staff members continue to seek nominations for 1 "environmental" vacancy and 1 "County Planning Director or Conservation District Director" vacancy.

Todd Giddings informed the Committee of the death of Roy Herlocher and spoke a few words about his contributions.

DEP will begin to seek nominations for the vacancy in the "local government" category. Suggestions from committee members are welcome for all vacancies.

Rachel referred to the Statewide Committee update memo dated September 18, 2006 and the chart and text describing State Water Plan work products. The State Water Plan will consist primarily of online products, and it will be dynamic in nature allowing for ongoing updates. Each work product for the State Water Plan was discussed briefly.

An RFP for work on the Pennsylvania Water Atlas is under internal DEP review and should be advertised at the end of November. The RFP also includes finalizing the Public Information (marketing) Document once the Policy & Integration Subcommittee finishes revisions of the text.

The draft Forest Resources Summary for the Region (to be included in the Atlas) was distributed to the Committee. A motion was made to invite the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey and DCNR Bureau of Forestry to the February 2007 meeting to discuss the role of forests and aquifers. DEP staff will work to arrange this.

Motion to invite speakers to February Meeting

Motion made by: Todd Giddings

Motion second by: Mike Cavanaugh

Motion carried.

The Guidelines for Identification of Critical Water Planning Areas document was finalized on September 30. The Guidelines for Development of a Critical Area Resource Plan document should be published as Draft guidance early next year. The Draft registration and reporting regulations have gone through DEP's approval process and were approved by the Environmental Quality Board. The Draft Regulations are expected to go out for public comment early in 2007.

The committee agreed on meeting dates and locations for 2007.

February 21: DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes Barre

May 16: DEP Northcentral Regional Office, Williamsport

August 15: Center County Solid Waste Authority, Bellefonte
November 15: DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes Barre

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Regional Action Agenda Facilitated Discussion

Rachel Delavan and Leslie Sarvis led a discussion on the Committee's Regional Action Agenda Outlines, which were developed using the Committee's Regional Priorities and Desired Outcomes discussed and revised at the August 2006 meeting. The goal of today's meeting was to divide into 3 working groups to define the Action Agendas by stating desired outcomes and incorporating specific objectives and recommendations.

Todd Giddings provided Committee members with copies of the Spring Creek Watershed Plan and briefly reviewed the status of specific items in the Plan.

The Committee added to the Action Agendas in small working groups. A representative from each group agreed to email their work to Rachel Delavan after the meeting. The revised Regional Action Agenda draft will be distributed to the Committee in a follow-up email and we will continue to work on it at the February meeting.

Technical Analysis Update- Dave Jostenski, DEP

A presentation was given to update the Committee on the work being done by DEP, USGS and the River Basin Commissions. Pilot watershed work is being conducted to test the water budget screening tool and Critical Water Planning Area identification process. This work will also help develop a scope of work for statewide application, verify the data used by the screening tool statewide, and document technical work. The pilot work is expected to be complete in January 2007.

A report containing the results of the two pilots should be provided to the Committee before the February 2007 meeting. Dave will provide the slides from his presentation in PDF format.

Follow-up/Next Steps

The next meeting will be held on February 21, 2007 at the DEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes Barre, PA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.