

Upper Middle Susquehanna Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

September 17, 2008
2:30am – 4:00pm

Holiday Inn
100 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Tom Beauduy	Jennifer Means
Mike Cavanaugh	David Snook
Todd Giddings	Jerry Walls
David Kaufman	Hank Webster
Bill Manner	John Yamona
Doug Manning	

Committee Members not in Attendance:

Karen Chapin	Amy Jacoby
Dennis Hameister	Gary Petrewski
John Hood	Richard Wardrop
Tim Horner	

Others in Attendance:

Jay Braund, DEP	Susan Obleski, SRBC
Joel Jordan, PA Rural Water Assn.	Bob Reichart, PGWA
Dave Jostenski, DEP	Leslie Sarvis, DEP
Lori Mohr, DEP	

Hank Webster called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

Finalize Draft May Meeting Summary

The Draft May 21 Meeting Summary could not be approved because a quorum was not present.

Review Agenda and Materials for the evening meeting

Lori Mohr went through the agenda for the public meeting and hearing later in the evening.

Watershed Verification Update

Dave Jostenski updated the committee on the watersheds that were chosen by the committee to undergo further screening for potential water quantity problems. DEP has contracted with SRBC to perform verification of the watersheds in the Upper/Middle Susquehanna basin to determine which ones could potentially be nominated by the regional committee as a Critical Water Planning Area. SRBC's verification work is 85% complete. Dave expects to have executive summaries from SRBC in October, and he will report on the results of the verification at the November meeting.

Dave also told the committee about three data applications that are being developed for the State Water Plan website. The three applications are:

1. A general viewer that's based on the Atlas and will be interactive for the user
2. A download tool
3. A GIS viewer that will be a professional viewer similar to eMapPA

DEP hopes to have these tools on the web in May 2009.

Public Comments

The committee discussed the recent issue of oil and gas well drilling and the cumulative impacts on water quality and quantity in the basin. They are curious how water withdrawal scenarios are being dealt with, and they discussed how the committee should proceed with this issue. The committee would like for SRBC to give a presentation at the November meeting about their involvement with the Marcellus Shale drilling, in particular the results of the Oct. 15th deadline for well drillers.

Bob Reichart, President of the PA Groundwater Association, spoke to the committee about the concerns of PGWA regarding the lack of legislation of water well drilling standards and licensing proficiency in the state. Specifically, PGWA would like to see water well drilling standards and licensing proficiency as a fourth priority in the State Water Plan Principles document. He informed the committee that two or three members of the PGWA would be giving testimony on this issue during the public hearing.

Follow-up/Next Steps

- Committee requested that SRBC give a presentation on the Marcellus Shale drilling and its involvement in regulating the oil and gas well drillers
- Lori mentioned that there are still six vacancies on the committee (listed on the website), so please send any recommendations to Lori or Leslie.

The next meeting is November 19 at the DEP Northcentral Regional Office in Williamsport.