

Upper Middle Susquehanna Regional Water Resources Committee Meeting

November 19, 2008
10:00am – 1:00pm

PA DEP Northcentral Regional Office
208 W 3rd Street Ste. 101
Williamsport, PA 17701

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Committee Members not in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Jay Braund, DEP	Mark Stephens, DEP
Walt Nicholson	Lori Mohr, DEP
Dave Jostenski, DEP	

Hank Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Finalize Draft May Meeting Summary: Mike Cavanaugh made a motion to approve the draft September Meeting Summary. David Snook seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting Dates: The committee selected two meeting dates for 2009, knowing the meetings may be rescheduled as necessary. The 2009 meeting dates will be scheduled for February 18, 2009 and September 16, 2009.

Statewide Committee Updates: Lori provided an update to the committee on the October P & I Subcommittee meeting, and she reviewed the legislative action sheet under consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee will recommend this action sheet to the Statewide committee at the December 18 Statewide Committee Meeting. It will be available on the DEP website prior to the Statewide Committee Meeting.

Jerry Walls made a motion to support the legislative action sheet and authorize the chair of the committee to communicate committee concerns to Gary Petrewski and the Statewide Committee. Todd Giddings 2nd the motion.

Public Comments: Todd Giddings mentioned that the recently passed federal legislation concerning the bank bailout also contained tax credits for the installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems. These geothermal systems will require well drilling. As the amount of drilling increases to install these systems the risk for poor well construction increases. There is an essential need for standards to address this well drilling to prevent groundwater contamination.

Watershed Verification Update: Dave Jostenski and SRBC provided a detailed review of the verification reports for each of the areas selected for final verification by the committee. Dave recommended revitalizing the regional technical subcommittee to review the verification reports with DEP and SRBC over the next few months and report back to the full committee at the Feb 18th meeting.

Approval of Regional Plan: Doug Manning made a motion to recommend the regional component of the plan for consideration by the Statewide Committee with an amendment to include a statement on the Marcellus Shale formation as a top priority. Mike Cavanaugh 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously.

SRBC Presentation of Permitting Approach to Oil and Gas: Tom Beauduy gave on presentation of SRBC approach to permitting water withdrawals associated with Marcellus Shale gas drilling.

Jerry Walls made a motion to recommend that the Statewide Committee consider amending the trends section of the state water plan to include consideration of the assimilative capacity of streams to handle Marcellus Shale wastewater. Richard Wardrop 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting is February 18, 2009.