

**Minutes of the Nonpoint Source Liaison Workgroup**  
**Rachel Carson State Office Building**  
**400 Market Street, Room 105**  
**Harrisburg, PA**  
**June 10, 2003 Meeting**

**Overview/Announcements, Lynn Langer, Bureau of Watershed Management** - New DEP Staff include Cathy Curran Myers as new Deputy Secretary for Water Mgmt, Kathleen McGinty, DEP Secretary confirmed, and John Hines, Director for Office of River Basin Cooperation.

**DEP NPS News, Russell Wagner, Bureau of Watershed Management** - NPS Annual report prepared and sent to EPA. Copy provided today. Introduced new staff in NPS program. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and Watershed Plans are new focus, working with local watershed organizations to address TMDL implementation in specific watersheds.

**EPA NPS News, Fred Suffian, Region III NPS Program** - Introduced new staff, Susanne Hall is PA NPS contact, she has just started with EPA.

42 TMDLS approved in PA. PA's 2002 303(d) list approved last week, majority NPS. Liked the NPS annual report, its new format and the liaison workgroup connection. Negotiations with Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Executive Branch is looking to trim the federal budget. Looking at accomplishments / outputs, annual reports. Draft goals (7) from National workgroup effort for state programs to collectively meet Clean Water Act (CWA) goals, and 319 specific goals.

1. Water body designated use attainment.
2. Water quality improvements.
3. Pollutant load reduction / specific to 319 for phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment.
4. 319 program support for program development and plan implementation.
5. Increasing costs.
6. Plans fully implemented with best management practices (BMPs) identified.
7. Watershed based plans, not fully identify BMPs, could be more habitats related.

OMB will be tracking those and EPA management to buy in over next couple months. Build into NPS National Program Guidance. FY04 guidance will be coming out to states soon. Will be integrated guidance, no dramatic changes in direction. Want to review NPS goals and milestones and see how they relate to National milestones.

EPA Region III reorganized internally two weeks ago to integrate Water Quality, TMDL and NPS programs.

**CAFO Program, Alyssa Dodd, Penn State University Cooperative Extension** - New federal Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) rules have been published, a new publication is now on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) website. This is an educational publication and a free resource for citizens.

**PA Water Resources Planning Act, Stuart Gansell, Bureau of Watershed Management** - There are many lakes and reservoirs, miles of streams in PA. Act 220 of 2002 took effect March

17, 2003. Provides a framework for updating State Water Plan (SWP). A Planning and Process Act. Will answer questions like, "How much water do we have, use, and need"? Water use registering and withdrawal reporting are requirements. Update the SWP within 5 years of Act, are 6 regional components and an open public process. Identify Critical Water Planning Areas; hotspots where demand expected to exceed available supply. Water budgets will be developed for the regional basins. Within one year of effective date of Act, all water users > 10,000 gal/day need to register use with state. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is to establish requirements to provide alternatives to metering. No fees for registration or reporting, prohibits metering of private wells. Water Resource Plans will include water quality and quantity and more.

Plan development status - Implementation and Financial plan developed. Regional Committees are to be selected the end of June, with final approval later in 2003. Statewide committee recommendations have been submitted. Registration forms have been drafted, meeting w/ Agriculture interests has been scheduled. The Susquehanna and Delaware River basins have some background with water use registration. Other parts of the state are brand new to water use registration. Roles have been defined for the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS).

Questions – What are Interstate roles in Committees?

What was the trigger before in water use registration?

Do Regional Plans set priority for water use in times of drought and use restrictions?

Will CDs play a role in the Registration Process? No but several CD directors are nominated to be on Regional and Statewide committees, will play a significant role on the Water Resources Planning Committees.

Will the Environmental Futures Planning Process (EFP2) process be linked in with Water Resources Planning Act. Yes, the updated SWP will include all that's taken place in past and is the next generation beyond the EFP2.

### **Coastal Nonpoint Source Program, Pat Pingel, Bureau of Watershed Management**

Promotion of Coastal NPS program is increasing will be on agenda for October 2003 meeting.

The Coastal NPS program includes all of parts of Delaware, Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Lebanon, and Schuylkill counties in the Delaware River basin in southeast Pa, and part of Erie County in the Lake Erie basin.

### **Work Group Reports:**

#### **Hydromodification, Mike Lovegreen, Bradford County Conservation District**

Riparian management document tool, part of a GG project, can be available.

Riparian management ordinance – there is one countywide in Montgomery County.

Floodplain Management Ordinance – works through municipalities.

Sediment load reductions - the Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Program (CVMP) helps document this by using monumented cross-sections for stream restoration projects.

Sediment rating curves are developed for sampling during storm events.

The Keystone Stream Team (KST) has developed a guidance document for Natural Stream Channel Design. It is available on the Canaan Valley Institute's website, [www.canaanvi.org](http://www.canaanvi.org).

Need to collect more monitoring data – The next step.

**Silviculture, Gene Odatto, Pa DCNR, Bureau of Forestry**

Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&SPC) Action Packet - loggers use this, includes E&S map. E&S management plan being updated, printed by end of month, will be on DEP website. A pocket manual for loggers is combining E&S, and Wetlands Encroachment. A voluntary water quality assessment tool is being field-tested and might provide data on how loggers are complying.

Nine states including PA cooperate in a Regional Forestry Project. Three areas to expand workgroup are Sawmill Operator Certification, Forest Landowners' Association, and PSU faculty.

State of Forest Report by US Forest Service, done every 5 years, is an inventory of PA's forest resources. Two years are in now; third year is in near future. Includes trends in species makeup, timber production.

**Land Disposal, Steve Lathrop, Bureau of Watershed Management**

What can we do to measure progress, and reduce impacts? Land application of biosolids, on-site system disposal. New directions on 2004 re-write for NPS management plan - household chemical disposal, and land disposal practices of larger communities, e.g. municipalities, corps. Groundwater - How to separate from on-site wastewater?

**Lakes, Ed Molesky, AquaLink, Inc.**

Pa Lake Management Society (PALMS) Education and Outreach Fall Conference is scheduled for October 17-18, 2003 in State College.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Pinchot Lake Festival was held in May. It is a DEP/DCNR watershed education event.

Lake CVMP/Coastal Zone Management Pilot project - aquatic nuisance species is ongoing.

Volunteer Monitoring Project reports 2 times a month from volunteer monitoring efforts.

Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District (LWWMD) holds workshops in summer for homeowners.

Lake assessments – The TMDL lawsuit is satisfied, continuing to do under CVMP and DEP regional biologists. Fish data is used to complement water quality data on the 303(d) list. July is Lakes appreciation month in Pa, coinciding with EPA's Year of Clean Water celebration. Great American Secchi dip-in to be held in July, the CVMP will loan equipment for those who want to participate.

**Resource Extraction, Robert Hughes, Eastern Pa Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)**

Compare future samples from stream reach; Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) discharge point water quality with downstream water quality conditions.

Looking to quantify goals and accomplishments.

Successes – Abandoned Mine Drainage/Abandoned Mine Land (AML) conference was held in May. Included teacher certifications, Congressman Kanjorski attended, overall good attendance. Coalitions - \$90K in small grant projects, for initial watershed support. Western Pa Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) – AMD fact sheet completed. Coalition is working on a mine pool model, under pool mine workings for workshops completed.

AML reauthorization is scheduled in 2004. AML fund reauthorization meeting plan to meet with Senate staffers, Senator Santorum in Washington, D.C.

AML acres reclaimed - #'s don't include flows and metals reductions. A 319/Growing Greener elementary activity book to teach about the anthracite region was linked to the AMR clearinghouse website.

TMDLs – need to develop method of writing work plan for TMDL watersheds, e.g. Shamokin Creek. ArcView General Watershed Loading Function (AVGWLF) and Monte Carlo Models drive water bodies to the TMDL list.

Monitoring – what to monitor for? There are multiple water quality impacts, more than biological samples are needed. Need to link substrate in the stream to flow, macro-invertebrates.

### **Construction/Urban Runoff, Ken Murin, Bureau of Watershed Management**

Expand the Storm Water Management (SWM) program to private property owners - e.g. rain barrels, homeowner BMPs. Looking for opportunities to promote implementation for SWM demonstration projects. Future needs: resource list of common BMPs, need to evaluate and track BMP performance especially as a system or a treatment train. Update status of SWM post-construction manual - DEP is doing this now. What's the connection between impervious surface and surface water runoff/ground water infiltration?

### **Agriculture, William Bowers, USDA-NRCS**

Focus on Energy and uses for agricultural nutrients. Utilization of animal waste products is important.

Carbon sequestration - Economic and environ impacts need promotion.

Nutrient trading issues – Producers need brought into picture in Agricultural watersheds.

Agricultural operations – both non-Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) and non-Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) are a big part of achieving water quality goals.

BMP effects on nutrient/sediment load reductions - better report that, both literature and actual data. Local volunteer groups, e.g. Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI), can play a part in this.

State Conservation Commission revisions to the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) - exporting manure, and phosphorus - are now coming into play.

Air Quality - emissions controls, agricultural operations require more attention.

### **DEP Growing Greener Program, K.R. Young, DEP Grants Center**

Received 585 applications for projects in Round V. \$119 million requested, \$40 million in entire G2 preplan for the year including 10% innovative tech BAMR, BOGM projects. Several hundred grant awards possible, no fixed dollar amount. Secretary announced the new “Energy Harvest Grant Program”, a new administration priority. Approximately \$5 million, new and proven technologies for Energy, includes some G2, federal, and Clean Air Act funds. Proposal applications open end of June to September 19. For profit corporations are also eligible for specific components of the Energy Harvest Grant Program. Wind power, biogas and bio digesters, solar, and waste coal projects are eligible.

The program now has > 800 grants, has provided \$130 million in GG watershed grants so far, and the Pa DEP receives 37% of total Environmental Stewardship Fund. Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program (CREP) is looking for additional funding. Are projects being evaluated after they are done? Yes, some are. No Round V grant award announcement before June 30<sup>th</sup>. The DEP Grants Center now has a preliminary list. Tipping fee of \$4 was designed to cut garbage flow into state and it has worked, revenues are down. Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) is on hold right now, seeing how it plays out.

**Nutrient Trading Pilot Project, Andy Zemba, Water Management Deputate**

Pilot is ongoing in Conestoga River basin, issues listed /at talking stage. Looking at outreach, no time constraint as to when it will be implemented. Not a lot of state funds into yet. Looking for input on Trading Framework, please provide to Andy before end of June.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30pm.