

Nonpoint Source Liaison Workgroup Meeting Minutes
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA
June 2, 2004

Welcome – Lynn Langer called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Lynn provided an introduction for the meeting, reviewed the Goals, and welcomed all meeting participants.

Pa NPS Implementation Program – Russ Wagner gave an overview of the NPS Annual Report completed for 2003, noted it was posted on the PA DEP website, and thanked everyone for their contributions.

EPA Region III NPS Update – Suzanne Hall provided an update from the EPA Region III NPS program. The NPS Program Update is a “roadmap” for the next 5 years of PA’s NPS program.

PennVest Program – Brion Johnson

\$40 million of \$300 million/year for Brownfields is targeted. This is EPA funding. The DCED unified Brownfields Application = one common form. Loan amount depends on the Capital Interest Rate for the individual county. Depends upon the county unemployment rate.

A potential applicant starts with the Act 2 process up front. Caveats include:

1. Demonstrate a water quality impact. PennVest is working with the Pa DEP Regional Offices to determine water quality impacts.
2. Loan requires a responsible borrower.

Funding is transferred through the county or Industrial Redevelopment Authorities. It can be used by industry though.

The demand for Low-Interest Loans for On-Site Septic System Improvements has been about \$4 million/year over the last 6 years. The State Revolving Loan Fund is expanding the program to include riparian buffers and NPS activities.

Brownfields may also be linked with the CAFO and ACT 6 programs. PennVest is looking for more bangs for the buck with NPS activities. This may have a significant impact.

Approximately \$300 million/year in projects are funded. There are requests for approximately \$350 to \$400 million/year.

NPS Management Program Update – Lynn Langer

This is the EPA and State NPS Program “Roadmap” for the next 5 years.

Sets the spending priorities for the NPS program.

This document is a “Measuring Stick” for meeting Pa’s NPS Goals and Objectives. This is becoming more important every year.

We want to have Objectives and Goals that we can actually accomplish. But we don’t want to stifle creativity or ideas.

The focus today is on the Goals and Objectives; validate Goals, review Objectives and Action Items. The target date for initial input to the draft 2004 Update is August 15, 2004. Keep in mind partners in all of the workgroups’ Action Steps.

We will have a public comment period as noted in a future Pa. Bulletin Notice (proposed November 2004). We will work to get the document ready to post on the Pa DEP website for the public comment period. Comments are to be fed back to the individual workgroups.

Growing Greener Grants Program – K.R. Young

446 grant applications requesting \$94.5 million were received in the Growing Greener Round 6. About \$30 million is available in Round 6 now. Tipping fees have decreased and have had an impact upon the funding available. Act 223 precipitates a \$16.5 million transfer of funds to the Pa Department of Agriculture for the Farmland Preservation Program. This is a high priority for the administration. The Recycling Fund and Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund money is out.

There is an approximately \$30 million baseline for GG Round 6 grants, including:

- BAMR, Oil and Gas Contracts.
- 10% goes into New and Innovative Technologies.
- Conservation District Watershed Specialist are funded at approximately \$2 million.
- Energy Harvest Grants – approximately \$1.5 million (last year)
- CREP (Watershed Grants) – bulk of the watershed grants funding – approx. \$6- 7 million
- Need to repay back debts from GG by 2006-2007.

An announcement will be at the reduced level from prior years of GG grant awards. It is expected in mid to late summer.

There is the possibility of an \$800 million bond issue for continuing Growing Greener II on the May 2004 primary election ballot.

Summary of Meeting – Lynn Langer

Comments on Goals to Russ or Lynn are requested by the end of June.

The near future schedule for 2004 Update document includes:

- Workgroups meet as needed throughout summer.
- Workgroup responses to Pa DEP by 7/31/2004 (focus on own workgroup's items).
- Workgroup revisions to PA DEP by 9/7/2004 (after comparing own workgroup's items with those of other workgroups).

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2004, 10am at RCSOB, Room 105, Harrisburg, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.