

Draft Meeting Minutes

Nonpoint Source Liaison Workgroup October 30, 2008, PA Fish and Boat Commission Headquarters

Welcome – Glenn Rider, Pa DEP Division of Watershed Protection

Glenn welcomed all. He mentioned several recent NPS program successes.

(1) Pa.'s 2008 NPS Management Program Plan was given final approval by the EPA and Pa DEP and was published as a Final Technical Guidance document in the October 11, 2008 Pa. Bulletin.

(2) Two new NPS Success Stories have been approved and are now included on the EPA NPS Program website. These two streams have been impacted in the past by AMD and gas drilling related impairments. Both streams have been the target of remediation efforts and are now meeting their designated uses.

(a) Semiconon Run-Butler County, and

(b) Step Run-Clarion County.

(3) Partial Improvement successes have been documented for two watersheds. In these streams, some tangible water quality improvement has been made and is the basis for the partial improvement designation.

(a) Mill Creek watershed – Bradford County, and

(b) Swatara Creek watershed – Schuylkill County.

Glenn asked that if anyone knows of current water quality data that can help our efforts to document Partial or Full Improvements, please contact Steve Lathrop or Joe Kelly in the Division of Watershed Protection.

Environmental Protection Agency Region III NPS Program Update – Fred Suffian, NPS Program Coordinator

Fred thanked Pa. for the recently completed NPS Management Program Plan update, and said that this document can help Pa. to develop a successful NPS implementation program. Pa. is one of only (#) states that has updated their NPS Program Plan.

There are approximately 95 Success Stories nationally; Two of these new Success Stories are Pa. watersheds that have historically been impacted by AMD and petroleum drilling related impairments.

Other measures of success are being talked about on a National level. EPA Region III currently is the lead EPA Region for Water Programs within the EPA.

As for current funding, the NRCS EQIP program provides funds for watershed protection and restoration, there is significant new funding through Title IV Reauthorization available for AMD. The EPA is currently operating under a continuing resolution at this

time; The EPA's FY2009 budget is anticipated to remain at the same or a similar level as its FY2008 budget.

EPA Region III is trying to speed up the process for making NPS Program grant awards.

Pa.'s NPS Annual Report should include more information on Success Measures.

Watershed Success Stories in Pa. "Are we gaining or losing ground?"

Fred and Glenn both talked about how Pa. has struggled with documenting improvements overall. The AMD area has some to show, Agriculture is more challenging. There are still more than 15,000 miles of impaired streams in Pa., according to the current 303(d) list data. How do we define "making progress?" In 2007, Pa.'s streams were all finally fully assessed. Overall gain or loss is difficult to tell at this time. We are doing much better with focusing our limited NPS funding on a targeted watershed approach.

Small Group Breakout Sessions

Glenn then asked the small work groups to seek their areas for breakout sessions, and report back to the large meeting room afterwards to report back on accomplishments for Pa.'s FY2008 NPS Annual Report.

Agriculture workgroup-Lyn O'Hare, Berks County Conservation District

Work continues with the NPS BMP Tracker tool being developed by DEP, and the need to better document where we are making water quality improvements in agricultural-impaired watersheds.

Construction/Urban Runoff workgroup-Dan Snowden, PennDOT

Smart Transportation Initiatives are being implemented by PennDOT to address Zoning/Low Impact Development objectives. A greater emphasis is being placed on using composted materials to protect water quality. New technologies, tools and technical transfer are being accomplished with Villanova University with Section 319 and GG funding.

Hydromodification workgroup-Joe Kelly

Continuing with Success Stories, watershed improvement stories, work with Pa. Fish and Boat Commission. Efforts continue statewide with WIP development, and Keystone Stream Team is involved. The CVMP is working with other programs in Pa. to improve local water quality monitoring, and develop database for local water quality data.

Lakes workgroup-Barbara Lathrop, DEP, and Kerilynn Frey, PALMS

Reclassifying lakes, water quality standards are a high priority initiative with DEP, need to prioritize lakes that need to be reclassified. Provided 9 lake assessments in 2008. ICE is being updated to provide better lakes information. TMDL lakes are being monitored to detect water quality improvements, i.e. Harveys Lake. CSAW is partnering with other groups to hold pond/lake workshops.

Resource Extraction-Andy McAllister, WPCAMR

A spreadsheet was developed to use for measuring improvements and monitoring efforts. There is more AMD remediation coordination with other groups including the PFBC. Title IV Set-aside for AML and AMD remediation is a priority. Re-mining and tie in with water quality improvements. Forfeiture sites are being used for re-mining. Mine pool water is being used for refracting, in Marcellus Shale gas drilling. The 2009 AMR conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh.

Silviculture-Ken Manno, Pa. Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Private forest landowner numbers are increasing in Pa., now up to 744,000. Publication on BMPs for Woody Biomass Production completed, target audience is the logging community in Pa. A Pa. SFI study is aimed to identify where timber harvesting leads to water quality degradation, improper BMP installation. SFI now has an Environmental Logging Program to educate the forestry community.

Afternoon Presentations:

Water Quality Monitoring Data Overview-Gail Jackson, DEP Geospatial Data Center
Gail gave an overview of the NPS-BMP Tracker tool that her group is working on. The basics of the tool are that it is built around the National Hydrography Dataset, a USGS/EPA created set of spatial data. Data has been moved to the NHD framework and consolidated with other DEP GIS tools. NPS BMPs are being worked on. Gail explained that there she has many NPS BMP-related records but few have good location data.

Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program-Cheryl Snyder, DEP Division of Watershed Protection

There have been many changes with how water quality data is stored at this time, and where it is stored including STORET, POWR, and individual watershed association records. Cheryl described how she is involved with working to consolidate water quality data by establishing a new repository for data within the DEP.

2009 NPS Liaison Workgroup meetings

No 2009 meetings for the NPS Liaison Workgroup were confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.