



**WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WMAC) MEETING
MAY 7, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janet Bowers	Chester County Water Resource Authority
William Gast	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Joseph Miri	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bob Molzahn	Water Resources Association
Frank Schaefer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ronald Sloto	U.S. Geological Survey
Ferdows Ali	New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Debbie Lord	Pompeston Creek Watershed Association
Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network

DRBC STAFF PRESENT

David Sayers	Planning and Implementation Branch
Ken Najjar	Head, Planning & Implementation Branch
Jessica Sanchez	Basin Planner
Jonathan Zangwill	Planning & Implementation Branch

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Jan Bowers at 9:30 a.m. Staff announced that Dave Milan (current vice chair) had resigned from the committee, effective immediately, as he is moving from the area. The committee expressed thanks for Mr. Milan's contribution to the committee and wished him well in his new job. The WMAC membership list was examined and several vacant positions and non-attendees were noted. It was proposed that the committee examine the membership list in more detail after lunch. Apologies for absence were received from Leroy Young, Bruno Mercuri and Stewart Lovell.

REVIEW OF MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Minutes from the March 10th meeting were reviewed. At this meeting there was lengthy discussion on the topic of inter-basin and inter-watershed transfers. However, no firm committee decision was made on

appropriate objective language, although some suggested language was noted in the minutes. To make it clear that this language did not necessarily reflect committee opinion, Jan Bowers suggested that this section of the minutes from March 10th be amended to include the following sentence: *The following possible objectives were proposed and will continue to be discussed at the next WMAC meeting.* Bill Gast moved to approve the minutes which were approved on the basis of the above amendment.

Mary Ellen Noble suggested continuing the discussion of inter-basin transfers during the meeting. The committee agreed to put inter-basin transfers under item two on the agenda. The committee also added a discussion about KRA 3 under number three of the agenda before discussion of management strategies. With these amendments, the agenda for the meeting met with approval from the committee.

UPDATE ON INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP) -- MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROTOTYPE

Jonathan Zangwill of DRBC staff gave a presentation regarding the development of the Montgomery County Prototype IRP. Montgomery County representatives and consultants met with the DRBC in March 2003 to update us on the progress. Phase 1 of the project is a data collecting process which has been in progress for about a year and a half. The Swamp-Scioto Subbasin is in northwestern Montgomery County and it covers 17.7 square miles. This subbasin is comprised of 7 different municipalities, one of them being the Borough of Schwenksville. There are varying portions of the subbasin in different municipalities. Most of it is in Upper and Lower Frederick Townships and New Hanover Township with a smaller amount in the rest of the townships.

This subbasin is located within the Perkiomen Creek Watershed and is one of the subbasins within DRBC's Southeastern PA Ground Water Protected Area. Since 1990, PA DCNR has had a tracking system in place for new wells. Currently there are 398 wells, most of them being shallow and less than 50 ft.

Population totals for the subbasin were estimated and per capita use assumptions were applied to generate current estimates of water demands at 211.4 MGY. Net withdrawals (total withdrawals minus septic recharge) equals 70.1 MGY. Water needs other than for domestic use have not been calculated at this stage; information on agricultural withdrawals may prove particularly problematic. Population projections were made through to the year 2025 to determine future needs. Net withdrawals for the end of this period are forecast to be 119 MGY.

DRBC Ground Water Protected Area withdrawal limits for the subbasin have been set at 994 MGY (net withdrawals). This uses (or is equivalent to) the 1-in-25 year average annual baseflow rate. The subbasin is deemed stressed at 75% of this limit (746 MGY).

There was a sub-presentation by Normandeau Associates (subcontractor) on the topic of instream flow needs. They looked at a number of different habitat flow models and are trying to model the relationship between the instream flows and the system health. They looked at a number of indicators, the index of hydrologic alteration, and different uses -- navigation, aquatic habitat, recreation, fisheries, commercial/recreational, etc.

Phase 1 work is expected to end in June and Phase 2 is still being developed. There are a number of different potential conflicts in terms of multiple planning initiatives that are going on in the area. The county is working on an ACT 157 plan, and source water assessment and protection plans are going on right now. These different initiatives may be looking at the water resources from different standpoints, or meeting certain needs, but not all, relative to water resources. One of the challenges is trying to find the overlap in these different initiatives and working out how to coordinate them and avoid duplication.

The next steps for finishing up this phase are to analyze user needs, compile a list of the known alternatives, determine how stormwater management relates to this process, and hold more public meetings. Montgomery County would also like to produce a "municipal user document" to help identify where the information is and how to use it. This should build upon and compliment DRBC's existing IRP guidelines.

UPDATE ON INSTREAM FLOW STUDY COST ESTIMATES

For the last two meetings, the WMAC has had substantial discussions with Leroy Young who has put together a team and a scope of work that would be necessary to address instream flow needs in the basin. From that scope of work came a suggestion to pursue a pilot study on Piedmont physiographic province where the best data is available for undertaking the RVA (Range of Variability Analysis) approach which looks at not just setting a minimum flow requirement, but tries to mimic a natural flow regime. Since the last WMAC meeting in March, the DRBC has received cost estimates from Cornell University which is represented on the handout.

For Cornell University to take the lead with this study, they have provided us with scenarios 1 through 4, listed below:

1. Statistical analysis for the pilot study area only \$69,085
2. Statistical analysis for pilot study area and expansion of statistical analysis to basin \$138,170
3. Statistical analysis and data acquisition for pilot study area only \$132,422
4. Statistical analysis and data acquisition for pilot study area and expansion to the basin \$266,424

There was some confusion over why the costs for the pilot study and subsequently expansion of the methodology to the entire Basin would be of equal costs. This had also puzzled staff and David Sayers has sought clarification from Cornell University. David Sayers read from an email received from Leroy Young explaining the cost allocations. The letter stated that Cornell University expected the bulk of the time for the pilot study to be spent setting up the statistical analysis; data acquisition is not expected to be particularly onerous for the pilot study area (Piedmont). For the expansion to the rest of the Basin, data acquisition will be more onerous, but analysis will be easier as the necessary models and statistical tools will have been developed. The bulk of the costs are staff time and overall the two pieces are expected to take similar amounts of time, hence similar costs.

The WMAC commented that this chart, in essence, shows that the rest of the Basin could be done for as much as it costs to do the pilot.

WATER BUDGETS / GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY

This project is underway with USGS. The contract was signed in mid-February 2003 with preliminary results expected early- 2004. DRBC will endeavor to provide USGS with water use and discharger data by the end of June. The better the data, the more reliable the results. The DRBC's ability to provide USGS with this data is contingent upon the states providing current water use data. So far we have received data from NJ, PA, and some from NY. More recent data have not yet been received from Delaware. The DRBC staff will also gather discharger information from the national PCS database.

We are looking at five prototype water budgets under the two-year contract. One of them being the Wissahickon Creek in Pennsylvania as a complex urban water budget. We met with the Philadelphia Water Department and the Pennsylvania Suburban Water Company. The WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning) model is being developed under an AWWA Research Foundation grant and originates from the Tellus Institute in Boston. This work may help inform policy on watershed transfers.

LUNCH 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee reviewed the current WMAC membership list and noted several vacancies and non-attendees. Jan Bowers suggested that letters be sent out to non-attendees advising them to either reaffirm their membership, nominate someone else from their staff to attend if appropriate, or resign from the

committee opening the position for someone else. For known vacancies, the DRBC Executive Director can appoint someone from the appropriate sector. Suggested names were taken from committee members. Staff agreed to write the letters and contact potential new members.

BASIN PLAN ACTIVITY

There was a Commissioner's Basin Plan Workshop on March 18, 2003. On April 15th, the draft Basin Plan was sent to the Commissioners and to the Watershed Advisory Council. The document is still in the process of being developed. Some cross-cutting issues have been identified. The document does not yet have any management strategies with it. Although these have been developed by several committees, it has not been determined how these will be incorporated in the plan document. Neither Ken Najjar nor Jessica Sanchez were available to further explain where the process stands. The WMAC noted that there is confusion as to which version of the Basin Plan they are working from.

Discussions continued from the previous WMAC meeting on the topic of inter-basin and inter-watershed transfers. After much debate the new agreed language stood as follows:

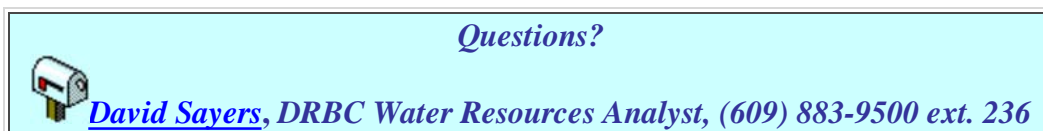
Discourage and where necessary manage any expanded or future transfers into or out of the basin to minimize and mitigate environmental or other negative impacts, while giving consideration to feasible alternatives, the water needs of the sending basin and the efficient use in the receiving basin of available resources.

Manage future and expanded inter-watershed imports and exports among the Basin's watersheds to minimize and mitigate environmental or other negative impacts, while giving consideration to feasible alternatives, the water needs of the sending watershed and the efficient use in the receiving watershed of available resources.

Some members of the committee expressed concern about one or two objectives (specifically drought coordination KRA 4) which appeared in the plan without discussion or input from the committee. Staff responded that it was not always possible to get the committees to sanction every change to the plan as they are working on it and responding to changes and suggested input on a daily basis. The WMAC suggested that the DRBC make the Commissioners aware that this is a working draft of the document that is being changed daily and not every change has been sanctioned by the committees.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2003.



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