



WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 10, 2001

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janet Bowers Chester County Water Resources Authority
Stewart Lovell Delaware DNREC
Martin Wallaston (for Bernard Dworsky) University of Delaware
John Mello U.S. EPA, Region II
David Froehlich Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Dr. Bruno Mercuri Mercuri & Associates, Inc.
William Gast Pennsylvania DEP
David Milan Superior Water Company
Mike Bleicher New Jersey DEP
Chad Pindar (for Howard Neukrug) Philadelphia Water Department
Mary Ellen Noble Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Ferdows Ali (for Sam Race) New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Schaefer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ronald Sloto U.S. Geological Survey
Bob Molzahn Water Resources Association

OTHER ATTENDEES

Debbie Lord Pompeston Creek Watershed Association

DRBC STAFF PRESENT

Lance Miller Head, Planning and Implementation Branch
David Sayers Planning and Implementation Branch
Jon Zangwill Planning and Implementation Branch

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mercuri at 9:30 a.m.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Procedural Issues (Attachment 1) (Lance Miller)

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. The minutes were accepted as written, by consensus.

Lance Miller presented existing procedures/changes (handout given). Discussion involved voting procedures. The Chairman of the Committee will attend the Commission Meeting and report the recommendations. For any submittal of the Committee that requires Commission Action, the Committee Chair will ensure the preparation of a report summarizing the discussions leading to a vote which shall attach any opinion(s) provided by the dissenter(s). The revisions to the Procedures were accepted by consensus and the revised version provided to the members.

2. Revised Draft of IRP Guidance (Attachment 2) (Janet Bowers)

Janet Bowers discussed the IRP draft dated June 20, 2001 (Guidelines for Developing an Integrated Resource Plan). This was presented to this Committee in January as a preliminary draft. The purpose of this IRP is to provide a framework for a comprehensive approach to water resource management. Comments from several Committee members were made on issues concerning the science behind the IRP and the potential for some municipalities to use the guidelines to restrict growth given.

The Committee was in agreement that members should have more time to review the IRP guidelines. Janet Bowers recommended that any comments be submitted to the Subcommittee as quickly as possible. The Subcommittee will meet on August 23, 2001. All comments/suggestions/concerns should be submitted via e-mail by July 31, 2001, to Jonathan Zangwill.

3. Instream Flow Study - Paper for Discussion (Attachment #3) (Ronald Sloto)

The materials presented were prepared by Leroy Young who was not able to attend the meeting. The various issues included:

- Surface water withdrawals
- Impact on the fish habitat
- Pumping ground water and reductions in base flow

The instream flow study provides a method where the above issues can be quantified and resolved. Leroy Young developed a basic methodology for the cold water fisheries. The proposed methodology would be applicable to warm water fisheries. The Committee then gave comments. Discussion related to whether the model would be for average flows for each month, how much fieldwork would be necessary to develop the model and what it would cost. William Gast suggested that this was an issue that needed to be discussed with the PADEP. The Committee accepted this suggestion.

4. Comprehensive Plan - Goals Document (Lance Miller)

Lance Miller presented the Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Plan process draft dated June 5, 2001.

DRBC is working on a revision to the Comprehensive Plan. At the direction of the Commissioners this effort is being done in consultation with a Watershed Advisory Council.

The original process called for the Council to develop a set of issues to guide discussions. Once the Council agreed to the issues, then these issues would be given to the various Advisory Committees to develop goals.

Once drafted, these goals would be given back to the Council for refinement. Thereafter, the Advisory Committees would develop strategies to achieve these goals.

At the Council workshop in May the Council suggested a change in the process. The Council asked DRBC to develop a straw proposal for the Comprehensive Plan goals. The Watershed Advisory Council would then review these goals.

DRBC has prepared a draft goals document (copy given to the Committee). The Council will review (modify/refine), these goals at their July 24th meeting. Advisory Committees are being asked to review these goals and objectives and provide input to their liaison (which is your chairman, Bruno Mercuri) to the Council.

- After the July meeting, the goals document will be revised and sent out for written comments
- Another version of goals document will be prepared and another meeting held in September for further discussion of the document
- If an agreement is reached on the goals and objectives, the next step would be public review at a series of meetings to be held in November. There would then be a workshop in November to review that input and to finalize the goals and objectives at that point in time
- The goals and objectives would be submitted to the Commissioners for their consideration
- Once the Commissioners agrees these goals and objectives, they would be given to the Advisory Committees for the development of management strategies and performance indicators
- DRBC Staff and Consultants will be used to develop draft documents for the Advisory Committees to review
- A mid-course discussion will be held between the Advisory Committees and the Council and then the Advisory Committees would formally present the draft strategies to the Council (Nov. 2002)
- These strategies would go out for comment at another round of public meetings.
- Advisory Committees will meet in 2003 for reaction of information received and for final strategies to be present to the Council in March 2003
- Last stage of the process would be for DRBC and their consultants to take this information and prepare a draft Comprehensive Plan that the Council will review. A final set of public meetings will be held in the fall of 2003 and the Council will provide the Commissioners with their recommendation for a Comprehensive Plan by the end of 2003.

Any comments on this document should be presented to Bruno Mercuri by July 24, 2001, so that he can have them when he attends the Council Meeting. Another opportunity will be available to comment on the goals and objectives. A third opportunity will be available to comment on the goals and objective as strategies are developed.

5. Data Needs Resolution - Reporting Template (David Sayers)

David Sayers reviewed the reporting template that he is preparing for implementation of the Data Needs Resolution, 2001-8 (handout). DRBC would like to receive the data in a consistent format to ease data entry and use. David requested some clarification on how terms were defined in the resolution. The Committee gave suggestions and comments but also decided this issue was best addressed by a conference call between DRBC and the members of the former data needs sub-committee.

6. Other Business and Next Meeting

- Janet Bowers stated appreciation to staff for getting members to the meeting, replacing members, and having a quorum.
- A request was made to distribute an updated list of members of this committee.
- The next meeting of the Water Management Advisory committee will be on September 25, 2001.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Questions?



[David Sayers, DRBC Water Resources Analyst, ext. 236](#)

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