

**Minutes of the Capital Region Water Board- Susquehanna River Basin
Commission
February 10, 2003, 1:00 PM
Minutes recorded by Cindy Metzger**

Introductions- Betty Conner

Name Org/ Address Phone Email Address

John Hollenbach	UWPA	561-1103 x613	John.Hollenbach@unitedwater.com
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Louise A. Knight	Malatesta Hawke & McKeon	236-1300	laknight@mbm
Jack Stabley, Jr.	Harrisburg City Bur of Water	238-8725	jstabley@hbgcity.com
John Seitz	York County Planning Com	771-9870	jseitz@ycpc.org
Dick Neubauer	PA American Water	691-2115	rneubaue@pawc.com
Kevin Breen	US Geological Survey	730-6970	kbreen@usgs.gov
Betty Conner	Susquehanna Conference	274-3826	brconner@msn.com
Walter Lyon	20 Clifton Rd. C. H. PA	761-5518	walter.lyon@verizon.net
Jane Earle	DEP/BWM	772-5173	jearle@state.pa.us
George Lazorchick	SRBC	238-0425x203	glazorchick@srbc.net
Marshall Goulding	SRBC-Retired	533-5055	msgoulding@aol.com
Elmer Knaub	DEP-SCRO	705-4934	eknaub@state.pa.us
Roger Karsnitz	Myerstown Water Authority	866-4839	magic@redrose.net
Susan Parry	Capital RC& D	948-6633	Susan.parry@pa.usda.gov
William Gast	PA DEP	772-4048	wgast@state.pa.us
David Jostenski	PA DEP	772-5659	djostenski@state.pa.us
E. Drannon Buskirk, Jr	Paxton Creek Watershed & Education. Assoc	545-1336	dredb@paonline.com
Cindy Metzger	CRWB Secretary	761-5518	c.metzger2@verizon.net

MINUTES from the November 20, 2002 Meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The October 1, 2002- December 31-2002 quarterly report was distributed and approved.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE - Dave Jostenski

Dave Jostenski reported for the Committee and distributed a proposal for new corporate annual dues that will change from being based on water utility connections to one based on water withdrawals. (Attachment A). George Lazorchick suggested that clarification be provided for the first line of the second paragraph. Right now there is no wording about other income being considered in the equation. Other income we receive is subtracted from our total need before establishing our cost per gallon figure.

Drannon Buskirk asked if we (the Board) had ever considered discussing the "Water Rate Structure" that the companies use for billing consumers. Walter Lyon explained that the Board has nothing to do with how the water companies structure their water rates and that our membership fees are not based on their water rate structures. The recommendation of the By-Laws Committee for new corporate annual dues was adopted.

Dave also recommended a change for the By-Laws (attachment B) on page 3 section 3.2 changing the annual meeting to the second Thursday of September, in order to be closer to the end of our fiscal year on September 30. This was an issue that the Directors needed to vote on. A meeting of the Director's was held at 1:15 PM and Betty Conner, Roger Karsnitz, Marshall Goulding, and Dick Neubauer voted to approve the By-Laws change.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA STUDY:

Walter Lyon asked to form a committee for the Lower Susquehanna Study, like the Executive Steering Committee for the Swatara Creek Study, to take a look at the finishing up of the Phase 1 Report and to begin looking at Phase 2. George Lazorchick reported on behalf of Glenn DeWillie that the Corps is actively working on the product with Frank Skidmore of the Louis Berger Group. The Report itself is good, but the backup material needed polishing. Robert Gore of the Baltimore Office of the Corps of Engineers is working on it. The Board voted to set up an Executive Steering Committee for the Lower Susquehanna Study. Marshall Goulding suggested that the Executive Steering Committee for the Swatara Creek Study also do the Lower Susquehanna Study because of the relationships between the Studies. George Lazorchick suggested that since Phase 1 is in the wrap-up stage there is no need yet for a Committee until Phase 2 gets started. Walter said it was important for the Committee to be for both phases, but that there was no need at this meeting to appoint the Committee. The Committee would be very important because this is the largest study the Board has ever undertaken.

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE for the Swatara Creek Study:

Frank Skidmore provided a preliminary document giving a summary of data they had collected. There was a public meeting in April 2001, and the next one is scheduled for March 25, 2003. This public participation meeting will be very important to the Study. Data, alternatives, and criteria will be presented.

It was reported that a water leak in Lebanon City was losing 2 million gallons a day. It was asked whether requirements are in place for leak detection and repair in DEP water allocation permits.

CAPITAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) COUNCIL:

Susan Parry, coordinator for the Capital Region Resource Conservation and Development Council, gave a short presentation on this new organization formed under the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a seven county area similar to that of CRWB in South Central PA. The purpose of an RC&D Council is to provide local leadership from county conservation districts and county commissioners to develop and carry out a regional plan for the conservation, improvement and use of natural resources and for community development and economic opportunity. The RC&D Council can develop needed programs that do not yet exist, and they can seek funding from the federal government, state government and private resources. They can promote and supplement agricultural programs, natural resource conservation programs, and energy programs by working with working with a variety of agency and organizational partners. Susan said there are all kinds of opportunities for CRWB to partner with the Capital RC & D. NRCS is providing office space and salary for the coordinator and an administrative assistant. The Capital RC & D just passed their Bylaws and they are applying for 501 C 3 status. They will be conducting monthly meetings at Penn State, Harrisburg in the Educational Activities Building. Betty Conner is a delegate from Lebanon County to the RC & D Council. This region of PA is the last to have an RC & D Council. Walter mentioned that there is outstanding work being done in Philadelphia by 10,000 Friends of PA. They are showing that the area is growing faster than cost effective infrastructure can support and that the growth of State approved sewer systems is causing sprawl. We might want to suggest that the RC&D consider applying for funds to conduct such a study in our region.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE and DEVELOPMENT- Walter Lyon

Walter reported that he has contacted a few people to serve, but that there is not much sense getting started until Phase 2 of the Lower Susquenanna Study Plan & Budget have started.

WEB PAGE:

Dave Jostenski pointed out that the web page no longer has a log-in for members and feels that we need it for draft documents and members names and addresses. Cindy Metzger said she would check into it.

Roger Karsnitz has been trying to figure out a way to get all the organizations that are listed on our web page as links to put our address on their web pages. He said that there is no fast way to contact them all, except to do it individually. He suggested that each member of the Board contact 5 of the links. Someone else suggested that each of the entities represented at the meeting go back to their organizations and check into getting our web page listed on their web pages.

Walter also felt that it would be helpful to have a "forum" on our web page where committees could converse and have a dialog about concerns and ideas. Cindy is going to check with Jeff Hines.

GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE: Kevin Breen

USGS has agreed that Kevin Breen will be the Chair for the Groundwater Committee. A kick off meeting to discuss the scope of the committee will be held this month. Members of the Groundwater Committee will be getting a notice soon.

BOARD INSURANCE: Louise Knight

We asked Louise Knight to look over an estimate we were given for board liability insurance. She said that it seemed expensive and perhaps there was too much coverage. Cost of the policy is \$1020 per year. Deductible is \$1,000. The question was asked whether we need liability insurance as a board. It was decided that further discussion and exploration of the subject would be done by Walter and Louise, beginning with a conference call.

501 C 3 STATUS: Walt Lyon

Walter reported that we now have 501 C 3 tax status. Appropriate contributions will be tax deductible.

OFFICE MOVE: Walt Lyon

The Office of the CRWB needs to move out of Walter's home because Walter is moving to an apartment. Walter asked what our priorities should be as we look for a new office. Roger asked what specific equipment the office would need and how much space, what furniture, etc. Dave Jostenski asked if accessibility should be a priority. Discussion took place about places and convenience to the Secretary and Bookkeeper and Executive Director. The files only take up one cabinet and the office would need one desk, a computer, internet access, a printer and available copier. The Secretary may be able to do the work from home. Suggested locations were the Commission, SCAFEG location at Penn State Harrisburg, and possibly DEP. Walter will begin checking into these places. Then the Board will decide where would be best.

NEW WATER PLANNING ACT:

How will the CRWB fit into the basic structure of the new Water Planning Act?

There are new Regional Advisory Committees being formed based on the six major river basins in PA. The Lower Susquehanna Basin covers about 20 Counties under this new Act. Walter asked if the CRWB could become part of this Committee? While the CRWB does not cover the 20 counties, it would be appropriate for a representative of the Board to serve on the Committee. It was suggested that the Chair of the Board be recommended to serve on the Committee and Walter agreed to submit her name in a letter to Stuart Gansell, Director DEP Bureau of Watershed Management. The board approved.

REPORT on the GOVERNOR'S REGIONAL MEETING: Walter Lyon

Mayor Stephen Reed held a meeting with local regional organizations eight weeks ago to prepare for the Governor's Regional Meeting. A lot of recommendations were made, mostly to do with land use planning, but not much about water. There were eight working groups.

The Governor's Regional Meeting was postponed because of the death of a Congressman. It has not been rescheduled yet.

DROUGHT REPORT: George Lazorchick

In 2002 the Susquehanna Basin reported that precipitation was 2" above average and that 2002 was actually a wet year. However July and August were unusually dry. Monthly average stream flows were mostly at or slightly above normal. We do have snow pack in the northern parts of the basin, but as far as our groundwater goes, it has not yet returned to normal and the reservoirs in Maryland have not refilled. Maryland is still in a drought emergency. Harrisburg City is at 73% of normal. We are still hoping for more snow and a wet spring to bring the levels up.

Susan Parry asked if there was a relationship between education for water conservation and groundwater recharge. Daniel Standish said that the question had many factors. People have been so good at conserving water that the water companies are hurting. So, yes, in theory groundwater recharge can be addressed through education, but there are no easy answers that are good for everyone. There are enhanced infiltration methods that have a strong geologic tie, natural infiltration with wetlands and aquifer restoration projects. You can inject water into the ground, but it is very expensive.

Drannon Buskirk reported that Paxton Creek has a strong water conservation retrofit program. They are working on low impact development and new development principles, including having less impervious surfaces. They are doing studies on the Paxton Creek Watershed including lots of public participation.

Dave Jostenski announced that DEP is sponsoring a Symposium at State College on Water Reuse in May.

NEXT MEETING: May 22, 2003 10 AM at SRBC

Walter suggested inviting Oliver Carley from 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania to tell us about how the expansion of sewer systems has impacts on land use. There is a case pending in Chester County where there may be a reversal on a prior State Policy linking water permits with land use. Walter will contact Mike Klein, the attorney on that case, and Oliver Carley.

ACTION ITEMS:

Everyone: Contact the person in charge of your company web page to get CRWB put on as a link.

Cindy: Check with Jeff Hines about the log-in on the web page and a Forum.

Walter: 1. Conference call with Louise Knight about liability insurance for the Board
2. Invite Mike Klein and Oliver Carley to speak to the Board
3. Submit letter to Stuart Gansell recommending Betty Conner (Chair) to represent the CRWB on the new Lower Susquehanna Basin Regional Committee.