

Capital Region Water Board Minutes
September 10, 2003 at 1:00 PM
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
1721 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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E. Drannon Buskirk, Jr	Paxton Creek WEA/HACC	780-2393	pcwea@paxtoncreek.org

Introductions

Minutes

Minutes of July 22, 2003 Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Betty Conner

Proposed Budget for 2003-04- Betty Conner

Betty reported that because there is a change in the way membership dues will be figured for water purveyors, a new office location and a change in office management, the budget is only a draft and will be re-examined after the new office is in place and the new amounts for membership are figured.

The Directors have proposed a new policy about dues. In light of the surplus in the CRWB budget from this past year, that the water companies may get a credit toward their next year's dues if there is a surplus at the end of the year.

Study Reports

Glen DeWillie reported that the LSRB Comprehensive Phase 1 report is available on CD and can be requested by contacting SRBC. Both the LSRB and Swatara Study Executive

Summaries are posted on the SRBC Web page and they have also posted the Phase II POS for LSRB Comprehensive Study. There is a place on the website to request the CD's of the Studies.

Glen DeWillie also thanked Roger Karsnitz for his input at the last meeting about public outreach and publicity for the studies. He said that they had a meeting with Senator Brightbill and that Susan Obleski put out a press release. The Senator wants to keep the momentum going for work on the Swatara, but he didn't offer any suggestions for funding.

WGAL & The Susquehanna Conference (SC) Offering Workshop

Walter Lyon reported that WGAL & the SC are holding a FREE Workshop to educate organizations about getting press coverage of their projects and events on October 1st. He handed out registration information.

Director's Meeting Report- Betty Conner

The Director's met prior to the Board today and discussed possible funding for Phase 2 of the LSRB Comprehensive Study. They discussed funding the Study with separate funding, raising the money from industry and government sources, or using Section 22 money, which is not commonly used for comprehensive studies. They also mentioned the new Water Resources Planning Act that could possibly designate the Study and fund it. The Board will also look into [the] what congressional legislation would be required to enable the Corps to work on Phase 2 through the CRWB and SRBC.

The Directors felt that the Board accomplished a great deal this year with the completion of the two Studies. Glen DeWillie thanked the CRWB for taking leadership in these Studies and he also thanked the water purveyors and DEP. He said that these Studies really provide a comprehensive look at the water situations.

Committee Reports-

Groundwater Committee- Kevin Breen

Kevin reported that the Committee had their initial meeting and looked at the aquifer map for the Capital Region. The committee wants to use an ongoing USGS study of recent droughts to document where aquifers have the most sensitivity to drought. He said the next step is to combine available water-use information from DEP and SRBC with the aquifer map for a preliminary evaluation of priority areas for groundwater protection. He said this preliminary evaluation process would lead to a recommendation from the Committee on the need to seek funds for a formal study of groundwater protection zones.

The CRWB Workplan proposes a possible ground water study. Walter Lyon suggested contacting the DRBC to find out what it cost DRBC to have the technical studies completed for establishing a groundwater protection zone in the Delaware Basin. The costs DRBC is incurring annually to maintain a permitting and review process for withdrawals from the groundwater protection zone also need to be determined.

Drannon Buskirk reported that the Paxton Creek Watershed Association is putting together a plan with the Corps of Engineers, elected officials, local municipalities, and conservation districts to look at the groundwater, surface water, water security and planning in the Cameron Street Corridor, Lower Paxton, Susquehanna, Pennbrook, and the City of Harrisburg.

Membership Committee-

Betty Conner suggested that each person on the Board come up with organizations or people who would be good candidates to approach to join the CRWB.

Cindy Metzger announced that there is an opportunity for the Board to have a booth at the upcoming PA Watershed Conference. Roger Karsnitz and Marshall Goulding volunteered to man such a booth.

Website Committee- Jeff Hines

Jeff reported that the website is up and running and he has installed a counter that would tell us how many times the website is hit. He also confirmed that the log on is "crwb" and the password is "water" to get into the "members only" section.

Basin Report- George Lazorchick

George reported that the hydrologic conditions for 2003 have been history making for wetness. All groundwater in the basin are about 25% above average and this is very unusual for August. The water levels are beginning to decline, but they are falling much more slowly than normal. Stream flows are also higher than normal. Someone asked if flooding of basements from the groundwater recharge being so high was being reported. George said that while he is aware that sump pumps in his neighborhood were running with some regularity that he would think it could be due to the groundwater, but that it could also be due to the surface water.

Old Business-

Copies of the Report of Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for years 2001-2002 from McKonley & Asbury, Certified Public Accountants were made available to the Board.

Officers & Directors' Insurance is still being investigated by Louise Knight. Roger Karsnitz is going to contact her to see what she recommends.

Marshall Goulding reported that he now has the files of the CRWB and has been given the authority to make arrangements for a new office situation since Walter Lyon will no longer be housing the office after December 31, 2003. He has also been given the authority to negotiate for the services of secretary and bookkeeper.

Walter Lyon reported that Professor Cole who is on the Faculty of Penn State Harrisburg has offered to have our next Board Meet there. After our meeting they would host a luncheon for us, then give us a tour and go over what training is available and what they are working on.

Next Meeting- November 6, 2003 tentatively scheduled at SRBC, but Walter is going to check with Professor Cole to see if that day would be good for our meeting at Penn State Harrisburg. Cindy will inform everyone as soon as possible.

Jeff Hines announced that the York Water Company has had its groundbreaking on the Susquehanna where they are building a pump station. The project should be completed in one year.

The **next meeting** of the Capital Region Water Board was scheduled for November 5, 2003, location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

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