

CAPITAL REGION WATER BOARD
Minutes of January 16, 2008 Board Meeting
Held at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building
1721 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Meeting Called To Order: 1:00pm

Present:

Roger Karsnitz, CRWB	magic@redrose.net
Jeff Hines, York Water	jeffh@yorkwater.com
Ed Carney, Dauphin County Planning	(email not provided)
John Seitz, York County Planning Commission	jseitz@ycpc.org
Dave Jostenski, PA DEP	djostenski@state.pa.us
Randy Hurst, Mette, Evans & Woodside	rghurst@mette.com
Walter Lyon, CRWB	walter.lyon@comcast.net
Joe Nordella, GTS Technologies	jnardell@gtstech.com
Paula Ballaron, SRBC	pballaron@srbc.net
Betty Conner, CRWB	ghbrconner@verizon.net
Marshall Goulding, CRWB Executive Director	msgoulding@comcast.net
Cindy Rock, SB Professional Enterprises Inc.	cindy.l.rock@comcast.net

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting and the November 7, 2007 were reviewed and approved with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Audit/Review Status – as reported by Roger Karsnitz – John Seitz and Roger met with John Hollenbach's secretary, Kim, to review the financial records. Some holes were found—missing checks, missing invoices—so they did not feel comfortable signing off on the review until the missing items could be identified. Roger noted that there was no indication of any impropriety. It is just a matter of a few missing items. Marshall met with Kim after that meeting and she gave him all of the financial information for the previous two years which he requested so SB Professional Enterprises can set up and take over the financial functions. Marshall will go back through those records to see if he can identify any missing information. Roger indicated the informational voids were probably older than two years ago. According to Marshall, the last official audit was done in 2002. That audit may have addressed this issue. He will check into it with the goal of having this resolved by the next meeting.

2007-08 Budget Discussion – Marshall presented the proposed budget, which includes billing amounts under income as well as anticipated expenses. Billing amounts were determined based on annual usage, rather than the number of connections. This was then translated into a cost per gallon delivered by the system. The budget is open to suggestions and is subject to some final tweaking. Anyone with ideas or suggestions should communicate directly with Marshall. Otherwise Marshall will proceed with the budget as presented. Jeff Hines asked for clarification of the line items for Administrative Services and Professional Services. Marshall identified Administrative Services as the secretarial and financial services provided by SBPE. Professional Services covers activities on behalf of the CRWB by Marshall, Walter, and other Board Members. Jeff asked about the contingency plan if any of the member organizations

decide not to pay their invoiced dues. Marshall said there is the option to transfer funds to cover costs if approved by the Board.

Member Dues & Invoice Processing – Once the financial information has been transferred to SBPE and the system has been set up, invoices will be sent.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY:

Betty Conner reported that the last meeting was held in November. The upcoming meeting dates are February 11th, August 11th, and November 10th. There is also a state-wide meeting set for February 21st. An Act 220 Resource Page is available via the DEP website. Under Topic, click Regional Committees; then click Lower Susquehanna. Information about critical water planning areas can be found there as well as a draft watershed atlas. The atlas can be found under Statewide Water Resources, Atlas Section. There is a section that is password protected and is only accessible by committee members. Other information is available to the public.

Dave Jostenski (PA DEP) explained the process for identifying the critical planning areas. He noted the work so far is geared toward planning, and is not intended as regulatory. Information will be shared with communities and smaller group meetings will be held within the communities to identify areas where the plan will be implemented. The critical area resources plan will be performed in those areas finally selected. This will be done on a voluntary basis.

The plan will be rolled out in a number of ways to promote water resources awareness: the atlas will be printed in a “coffee table” book format; screening results and white papers will be produced; as well as policy level documents for promotion information about the state water plan. It was also noted that some of the issues identified in the plan have already been addressed by individual communities.

Joe Nordella asked if a tool was in the works to assess future activities in the water basin. Dave said they initially thought it would be possible to do that but due to some sensitive governmental and security issues it cannot be done yet. They are developing a website where you can download base information but they haven’t come up with a way to display an operating tool without breaching security issues.

Walter asked about the DEP’s position regarding adequate budget and staff to implement the plan as well as passing laws that would allow the state to go beyond planning and actually manage water quantity, especially in critical areas. Betty said the focus of the plan is on recommendations for critical areas. Dave said an assessment of existing laws is underway. Plans for staffing are to work closely with the Commissions. Marshall asked if there is a role for CRWB. Dave said there are no restrictions on who accomplishes the planning work.

By the next meeting names of watersheds selected for further study will be available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Groundwater – No committee report. Marshall has been urging Paula to get a committee together to address issues brought up by the Planning Committee. Marshall said the new budget shows an increase for this committee’s activities.

Basin Conditions – Paula said the reports are done quarterly. The next quarterly Basin report will be available at the next CRWB meeting in March. The drought level has been lifted or reduced in most counties. Some water companies still have voluntary water restrictions in place.

Planning – It was agreed to suspend this committee's activities (i.e, the planned workshops) until a new chair is selected. Marshall is searching for a new chair to replace Walter with the hope that the committee will be reactivated before much longer. Walter said he looks forward to helping that person get started.

Membership – Updating Database – New Brochure – Marshall is working on the new brochure. He received an estimate of \$300-400 to produce 1000 copies of a two-color brochure.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Walter attended the AWRA meeting in November and made two presentations. He discussed some of the papers that were presented at the meeting which were relevant to the CRWB.

Walter presented a letter which he drafted to the PA DEP regarding the fact that Pennsylvania has been identified as the second worst state for non-compliance violations. He made a motion that the letter be sent by the CRWB. Ed Carney seconded the motion. Jeff Hines asked if it is possible that the PA DEP is more diligent and that is what accounts for the higher number of non-compliance violations reported? It was suggested the letter be amended by removing the fourth paragraph and making that paragraph the subject of a separate letter. Paula asked whether there is anything the CRWB can do to help address the situation. Do we want to end the letter with something positive by offering our help? Walter and Marshall will revise the letter and send it out to the group for final comment.

NEXT MEETING: The group discussed possible locations for future meetings. Possibilities include Lebanon, the DEP South Central Office, and the GTS Technologies office. Marshall will look into this.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, location to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:50pm