

CAPITAL REGION WATER BOARD
Minutes of March 19, 2008 Board Meeting
Held at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building
1721 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Meeting Called To Order: 1:10pm

Present:

Roger Karsnitz, CRWB
J.T. Hand, York Water
Ed Carney, Dauphin County Planning
John Seitz, York County Planning Commission
Walter Lyon, CRWB
Paula Ballaron, SRBC
Marshall Goulding, CRWB Executive Director
Cindy Rock, SB Professional Enterprises Inc.
Betty Conner, CRWB

magic@redrose.net
jth@yorkwater.com
(email not provided)
jseitz@ycpc.org
walter.lyon@comcast.net
pballaron@srbc.net
msgoulding@comcast.net
cindy.l.rock@comcast.net
ghbrconner@verizon.net

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved with one change:

On page 2, fifth paragraph, first sentence under Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee Activity, amended as follows:

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.

Motion/Second: Roger Karsnitz/Walter Lyon
Motion (passed): To approve minutes as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Audit/Review Status – Marshall reported he is working to resolve a few remaining issues with John Hollenbach. At the May meeting, it is intended that the financial books be officially closed for the period 2002 through 2007. An official audit performed prior to 2002 was approved with no issues found. Roger reiterated that there was no indication of irregularities in the audit performed for the current period—just a few minor questions.

2007-08 Budget and Member Dues Set, as presented at January Meeting – No further discussion.

Member Dues & Invoice Processing – Marshall reported invoices were mailed to the corporate members and one payment has been received as of this date. A check from York Water Company was received.

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY:

John Seitz reported that the last meeting was held in February and most of the time was spent going over the USGS analysis tool. A list of watersheds was submitted to the committee to be considered as critical water planning areas in the Lower Susquehanna region.

The results and recommendations of the technical subcommittee were discussed by the full Regional Committee. Dave Jostenski led a discussion of 12 areas the subcommittee recommended for further discussion and asked the Committee to reduce the list to five watersheds. After weighing various factors, the Committee chose the top six watersheds to be passed on to the Statewide Committee for further investigation. These include:

1. Conestoga
2. "Petition Plus" – portions of Conewago/Codorus
3. Beaverdam Branch of the Susquehanna, including Mill Run
4. Chickies
5. Swatara
6. Shrewsbury – Deer Creek

Walter suggested CRWB review the list to see if we agree with the findings, and that we ask DEP how they plan to implement corrective action. Walter will draft a letter to DEP.

John mentioned a Bill that seemed to cover some of Walter's concerns—House Bill 2266. Walter agreed after first reading the Bill it seemed to address some issues; but after pondering this Bill and others, he feels there are further issues to be addressed; notably the proliferation of a large number of laws governing land and water which need consolidation into a code—a recommendation that CRWB made to DEP sometime in 2005. After some discussion of the pros and cons of this Bill, Walter suggested copies of the Bill be provided to CRWB members and a time be set aside for further discussion. Marshall will either put this on the agenda for the May meeting or a special meeting may be called for this purpose.

This Bill was introduced by Representative Stile of Bucks County. Walter feels CRWB should take a position on this Bill. It has passed the House Environmental Committee and has been handed over to the Local Government Committee. Walter will draft a letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Groundwater – Paula is working to put together a group to make this an active Committee. She reported the SRBC held a meeting recently about the proposed consumptive water use mitigation fee, which drew a large audience. The proposed fee is to be doubled to 28¢. The fee has not been increased over the years to keep pace with inflation. This would make the fee current and a mechanism for increasing it due to inflation would be devised. A meeting for public comment will be held on April 23rd at 10:00am at the Fish & Boat Commission on Elmerton Avenue. A fact sheet will be posted on the SRBC website. The plan is to review public comments and act on this at the June 12th meeting which will be held in New York State.

Walter asked what percentage of this fee is included as SRBC income. Paula said the fees go into a dedicated water management fund to pay for stored water in federal reservoirs. None of the fees are used for SRBC operating expenses.

Basin Conditions – Andrew DeHoff with SRBC joined the meeting to report on current Basin conditions. A summary of the March 2008 Hydrological Conditions is attached. Conditions are looking good going into the dry months. We don't need too much rainfall at this point because the ground is already saturated.

Planning – Marshall is searching for a new chair to replace Walter with the hope that the Committee will be reactivated before much longer.

Membership – Updating Database – Over the past months, Cindy has identified a number of bad email addresses on the current membership list (which has not been updated for several years) and she forwarded that information to Marshall. Marshall is reviewing the list to verify names and identify contacts for various agencies.

OLD BUSINESS: Two letters were sent to the DEP per discussions held during the January meeting. Responses to both were received under Kathleen McGinty's signature.

The first was about the report (*Troubled Waters: An Analysis of 2005 Clean Water Act Compliance*) that identified Pennsylvania as low on the list of enforcement actions. DEP's response was that while "the national-level report provides reasonable statistics on the performance of major National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted facilities within individual states, it does not reflect on nor imply any specific deterioration of DEP's enforcement of Federal and State water pollution laws." The letter also cited the implementation in mid-2006 of a policy entitled "Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking and Resolving Violations for Water Quality". Marshall felt the response essentially talked around the issue without admitting to any fault on their part.

The second letter addressed staffing issues within DEP technical areas and how it will affect the industry. The response from DEP's Human Resources Department stated they have had difficulty attracting engineering candidates for civil engineering and environmental engineering positions. Effective January 1, 2008, the Governor's Office of Administration authorized a pay increase to boost the starting salaries for engineers. They are hopeful this increased along with their increased recruitment efforts will result in larger number of engineering candidates. The letter did not address the impact of upcoming retirements.

It was suggested that CRWB may want to shift from letter writing to working on legislative action to address attracting and retaining expert staff within DEP.

NEW BUSINESS: Walter suggested we start posting meeting minutes on the website. The minutes would be posted after they are reviewed and approved at each official meeting.

Motion/Second: Walter Lyon/Roger Karsnitz

Motion (passed): Cindy to work with Jeff Hines to have approved minutes posted on website.

Ed Carney provided information about the Swatara Greenway Committee in conjunction with the Manada Conservancy. Information about Conservancy programs and upcoming events can be found at www.manada.org.

Betty Conner mentioned the posting of a new Executive Order: Governor's Executive Order #2 of 2008, establishing a Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force. A copy of that order is attached.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2008, at the Lebanon Water Authority office located at 2311 Ridgeview Road in Lebanon. The meeting will begin at 11:00am followed by a light lunch. After lunch the group will take a tour of the wastewater treatment plant. A map with driving directions will be posted on the CRWB website as soon as it is prepared.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:40pm