

**Capital Region Water Board Minutes  
Held on May 22, 2003 at 10 AM  
At Susquehanna River Basin Commission  
1721 North Front Street, Harrisburg**

Introductions

Name	Org/ Address	Phone	Email Address
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Roger Karsnitz	Myerstown Water Authority	866-4839	<a href="mailto:magic@redrose.net">magic@redrose.net</a>
Cindy Metzger	CRWB Secretary	761-5518	<a href="mailto:c.metzger2@verizon.net">c.metzger2@verizon.net</a>

Minutes approved.

No Treasurer's Report

Bylaws Report- No new updates

Study Reports: Glen DeWillie

LSRB Study- Glen reported that a new contractor, Berger Associates, had been hired to do the final rewrite on the LSRB Phase 1 Report which includes the Plan of Study for Phase 2.

The Final Draft is almost finished and is quite an improvement over the last draft. The Final Draft will be available in 2 weeks. The Phase 1 data summary has been amplified and incorporates data from the Swatara Study. The Phase 2 Plan of Study only needed minor editing. It becomes a feasibility study and explores various aspects of water planning at length. Glen will be offering the Phase 2 Plan of Study as a potential framework for a Comprehensive Study on a regional level under the Act 220 Water Resources Legislation.

Swatara Creek Study - The Final Workshop will be held on June 4 at 8 AM. at the Hershey Convention Center. There will be a summary of the previous 2 workshops sent out to participants prior to the Workshop. A summary of the 2 previous Workshops will be presented at the Workshop along with an analysis of alternatives. This is a Water Supply Study only and will give alternatives for additional supply, with the advantages and disadvantages of each, including costs. Cost analysis will be based loosely on past costs of projects and will be approximate. The costs projected will include both design as well as construction, but Glen wasn't sure how the costs would be estimated for regulatory changes or incentives.

Elmer Knaub asked if the Board would be giving a final recommendation as a conclusion to the Study. Betty Conner said she didn't believe that was the Board's intention. Roger Karsnitz suggested that Senator Brightbill be given a copy of the Report and Glen DeWillie said that he and Paul Swartz will be meeting with him on May 29 to discuss the report with him. Roger said that he felt that the Board should be involved with the presentation to Senator Brightbill since we initiated the Study. George Lazorchick explained that this Study is a report that presents pertinent facts and analysis of options and costs. Planners, water suppliers and officials will decide whether to use the alternatives and which ones to choose.

Kevin Laptos asked about a Gannett Fleming Study on Adequacy & Safe Yield of the Lebanon Water system done 3 years ago and whether its data compared with the Swatara Creek Study. George Lazorchick said there is nothing in the Swatara Creek Study that contradicts what the Gannett Fleming Study showed 3 years ago. They may have overlapped data and added to it.

#### Groundwater Committee Report- Kevin Breen

Kevin reported that the Groundwater Committee had its first meeting on April 30. There are 6 members on the Committee representing a broad range of interests. The Committee reviewed the aquifer framework in the Capital Region and discussed the scope of the Committee work. The Committee will use aquifer boundaries rather than county boundaries to scope their efforts. There was discussion of who the customers for the Committee are. Planners at township and county levels were identified as customers. Groundwater users also were possible customers. To develop a database of groundwater users, Tom Yeager from DEP and Paula Ballaron from SRBC are gathering the data their organizations have and will present it at the next meeting. The Committee wants to determine if major users are represented on the CRWB and evaluate the need for additional efforts to encourage groundwater users to join the CRWB. The Committee reviewed a set of questions on groundwater that had been posed by Walter Lyon and others at earlier CRWB meetings. The availability of groundwater from the most drought-sensitive aquifers was identified as a priority. The availability of groundwater in the most rapidly developing areas was another priority issue. A key question was, "Do we have a good inventory of groundwater withdrawals in this area?" The Committee wants to stay abreast of findings relating to groundwater from the new State Water Plan Inventory. As part of the inventory process, DEP is finalizing its questionnaire for groundwater users to help in the assessment of withdrawals. The next meeting of the Groundwater Committee will be June 18, 2003.

#### CRWB Website: Cindy Metzger reported in Jeff Hines absence

At the last meeting Walter Lyon suggested having a forum or chat room for the exchange of ideas on the web site and Jeff looked into this. He said that he didn't recommend a chat room because there would need to be someone to police the room and to make sure that inappropriate comments were not there. If someone wants to comment or make suggestions etc, they can contact the email address on the web site. The Board discussed this and decided to leave the web site the way it is and not add a "chat room."

#### Drought Report- George Lazorchick

George reported that in the upper basins of the State of PA there are still some places with a rain deficit, but from Sunbury south, there is no deficit. However, he showed us maps and graphs indicating that the stream levels are running normal and even above normal during rainfall, but they are quickly going down more than they have historically. He indicated that SRBC is keeping a close eye on this trend. He said that the rivers can handle the fluxion because all of the reservoirs are full. This information is based on a new 30 day moving average.

#### Mike Klein- Environmental Lawyer

Walter Lyon invited Mike Klein to speak to the Board about some efforts to revise the 1939 Water Rights Act which covers surface withdrawals by public water suppliers and has proven to be inadequate. Now that the Water Resources Planning Legislation has passed, information should become available to enable the legislature to enact subsequent legislation to regulate major water withdrawals. The Growing Smarter Legislation was passed in 2000 providing for smart growth and tools for local entities to control sprawl. The Act says that State agencies such as DEP, Penn Vest, PennDot, and PUC that issue permits, other approvals or approve loans shall consider and may rely on zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans. So far only

the zoning ordinances are relied on, but (since this was part of his plan when he ran for office) Governor Rendell is likely to instruct State agencies to consider and rely on both the zoning ordinances and the comprehensive plans. But for this to work the subdivision or municipality has to be consistent with the comprehensive plan of the county.

Someone asked if all of the municipalities have comprehensive plans. Mike answered that some do not, but all should because that is what the zoning ordinances should be based on.

Currently Chester County Planning Commission has a comprehensive plan called "Landscapes." The county has told the local political subdivisions that if they adopt the Landscapes plan they will help with funding.

One advantage of a Comprehensive Plan is that you can time growth, but zoning ordinances don't do that under the Growing Smarter Legislation. Only the state has the right to deny permits based on comprehensive plans or zoning ordinances.

The Growing Smarter Legislation has largely been unimplemented as it applies to State agency consideration and reliance on comprehensive plans. DEP sends out questionnaires asking questions about the specific comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances to see if they are consistent with the permit requested. DEP is totally dependant on the information the municipalities tell them because they do not routinely have copies of all the comprehensive plans. There are no planners currently in the regional DEP offices.

Mike Klein said that if we had further questions we could contact him by email or phone. [mklein@llgm.com](mailto:mklein@llgm.com) <<mailto:mklein@llgm.com>> or 717-232-8199.

New Business

Preparation for Annual Meeting

Betty said that we need to appoint a finance committee and she recommended that the following be on this committee:

Jeff Hines, Jen McDonel, John Hollenbach, Betty Conner, Marshall Goulding, Walter Lyon

Insurance- No report

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at 10 AM at SRBC