

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 5, 2009
MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Emery Cleaves, Allison Dungan, Dave Duree, Senator Roy Dyson, Jan Graham, Fred Jacobs, Neil Jacobs, Shannon Lucas, Terry Matthews, Norm Meadow, Matthew Pajeroski, Sarah Taylor Rogers, Fred Samandani, John Scarborough, Ed Singer, Burt Sklar, Mark Symborski, Karen Wigen, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Nancy Pentz, Kevin Koepenick, Bill Stack, Steve Witt

Others: Ken Pensyl (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Tony Allred (DNR), John Hill (MDE/SSA), Adam Rettig (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), P. Petrick (PAPP), Dan Wilson (Imbrium Systems Corp.)

Victoria Woodward opened the meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** to approve April 3, 2009 meeting minutes - **approved**.

News from MDE – Ken Pensyl (*attachment*)

- **Stimulus Funding Update**
 - Workshop held on April 27, 2009
 - About 114 people attended
 - Information was given on funding process for potential grant/loan recipients
 - MDE is working closely with those that were selected
 - Projects to be ready for approval of plans and specification by July 30, 2009
 - Future deadlines are to open bid document by September 30, 2009
 - Issue notice to proceed construction by December 31, 2009
 - Letters have been sent to all applicants on Stimulus Priority List that have not been selected for funding.
- **Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Conference**
 - Neil Jacobs spoke on plans for upcoming Acid Mine Drainage conference
 - Date is as yet undetermined
- **Crellin Borehold Lime Doser Project**
 - Latest lime doser project going on between Maryland and West Virginia
 - AMD site is on West Virginia side but on our border
 - Drainage is having a major impact on water quality of Laurel Run, Snowy Creek and Youghiogheny River in Maryland
 - West Virginia will provide all operation and maintenance funding while MDE's Bureau of Mines will perform all operation and maintenance activities.
 - Public meeting was held on March 25, 2009 to inform stakeholders and local residents of the startup of the lime doser which will likely turn stream a milky white.
 - Start up is expected in the next few weeks

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- **Maryland Ground Water Symposium**
 - Water Supply Program is seeking presenters for this year's Symposium
 - Usually attracts about 400 ground water professionals from around the State
 - It will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at Martin's West in Baltimore
 - Contact is Lyn Poorman 410-537-3589

- **MDE Septics Upgrades Tracing and Initiatives** – (Attachment)
 - Presently funding everyone
 - Still taking applications
 - MDE has list of approved contractors
 - Victoria asked that SWQAC be notified of upcoming meetings on this topic

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Power Plant Research Program (PPRP)** – Paul Petzrick
 - PPRP and Friends of Blackwater did a study of the Upper North Branch of the Potomac River
 - Interest was in the degradation of the River and results of different remediation efforts
 - The study produced a 96 page draft report
 - PPRP asking for SWQAC volunteers to review draft & provide comments by end of June
 - Volunteers included: Neil Jacobs, Sarah Taylor Rogers, Mat Pajeroski, Victoria Woodward, Dave Duree.

- **Algal bloom Update**
 - Fish kills have been reported in the news recently
 - Mid to late May scientists observed extensive blooms in middle of Chesapeake Bay, lower Magothy and Patuxent Rivers and Baltimore Harbor.
 - To track current and past harmful algae blooms in Maryland visit DNR website at: http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/hab/HAB_maps.cfm
 - MDE and DNR teams will continue to track the situation and respond to reports of fish kills related to this bloom.

- **Deep Creek Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program**
 - Monitoring program began in April
 - Staff sampling monthly in mainstem and tributary coves of Deep Creek Lake
 - Website will be going up later this month with a lot of information

- **Tributary River Wade-Ins**
 - Some began last month
 - List of this month's included in report

- **Chesapeake Bay Program – Summer Water Quality Forecast**
 - Program will release its summer ecological forecast of dissolved oxygen and phytoplankton conditions next week.
 - Uses analyses of spring river flow patterns and pollutant loads to predict where harmful algae blooms and low oxygen “dead zones” may occur.
 - Once it is released, copies will be provided to SWQAC

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- **Rebalancing' Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Activities**
 - A workshop was convened to develop a process that would result in the development of a plan to “re-align” the Chesapeake Bay monitoring effort to address new objectives of the Bay Program’s Management Board, which includes:
 - “Delisting of the Chesapeake Bay
 - Define management effectiveness in implementing nutrient and sediment control programs in the watershed.
 - Recommendations for proposed changes and a listing of concerns will be delivered by the teams to the Bay Program Management Board in October.
 - Implementation of a modified monitoring program would begin as early as January 2010.

- **Regulations**
 - List of regulation changes attached

- **Bay Stat**
 - Looking at redesigning the Governor’s Bay Stat website and to include all monitoring information

News from SSA – Adam Rettig

- **Use Attainability**
 - Putting together a workgroup

- **Tier II**
 - Workgroup to deal with issues identifying triggers that can be used in the regulatory process

- **Triennial Review**
 - Public hearing held
 - About 15 people attended
 - Lot of constructive comments
 - Day before hearing an informational conference call for those who could not attend hearing – 7 people attended - no comments or questions
 - Deadline for comments is June 17, 2009
 - On MDE website under Maryland Register

- **TMDLs**
 - Four documents up for public comments
 - Public comment closing date June 26, 2009

- **Fish Consumption Advisory**
 - Advisory to cover striped bass and bluefish caught through recreational fishing in Atlantic coastal waters
 - Advisories are based on a 2008 report by the Eastern Coastal Striped Bass and Bluefish Consumption Advisory Workgroup.
 - Workgroup evaluated methods used by states for developing consumption advisories regarding PCB in striped bass and bluefish from Maine to Georgia
 - MDE continually updates fish consumption advisories to reflect new data:
<http://mde.maryland.gov/CitizensInfoCenter/FishandShellfish/home/index.asp>

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Presentations

Coastal Plains & Fractured Rock Studies – Dave Bolton of Maryland Geological Survey

- 2 studies were recommended by the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources:
 - Sustainability of the Ground-Water Resources in the Atlantic Coastal plain of Maryland assessment which began in 2006
 - Sustainability of Water Resources in the Fractured-Rock Area of Maryland

SWQAC would like to ask John Grace to do presentation at next SWQAC meeting on water appropriation regulations. Victoria will contact him.

Subcommittee Reports

No reports from Watershed, Water Resources and Wastewater Subcommittees.

Acid Mine Drainage – Neil Jacobs

- Bureau of Mines has run out of funding for maintaining Acid mine drainage
- SWQAC is working on putting together a source of longer term funding
- Will hold workshop to get to elected officials, legislators, etc.
- Senator Edwards agreed to take active part
- Downstream strategies goes beyond recreational aspects of remediation
- The date being looked at is mid-September at Rocky Gap
- Summary of Program activity, scope, nature, etc. by Bureau of Mines (will send pdf version to Chris to distribute).

Membership – Dave Duree

- Need more alternates
- Next round of nominees will be presented at August meeting
- In October hope to submit recommendations to agencies for approval
- Election of Officers in October
- Interest in Vice Chair positions
- Need Subcommittee participation
- Proposed new members – submit names

Miscellaneous

Retreat

- Was held on May 1, 2009
- Proposed changes in Subcommittees:
 - Water Reuse & Wastewater – Dave Duree
 - Watershed – Mike Clar
 - Water Resource Management – Terry Matthews
 - Planning & Growth Management – Members: Ed Singer, Mat Pajerowski, Mark Symborski, Fred Jacobs, Allison Dungan, Norm Meadow, Shannon Lucas
 - Executive – as needed
 - Ad hoc subcommittees as needed: currently AMD
- **Motion** made by Dave Duree to approve the above subcommittees – seconded Senator Dyson – **approved**.

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- Discussed long-term goals – suggested we do a self-assessment every 2 years
- List of accomplishments
- Request that Agencies notify SWQAC about wider range of pending meetings so we can have better input
- Annual report – would it be beneficial and who will do it
- Future workshops? – State/local coordination, etc.

Tributary Team

- SWQAC to meet with Tributary Team Steering Committee
- Bruce Michael will let Victoria know when next meeting is.
- Link from SWQAC webpage to Trib Team webpage suggested by Tony Allred
– **Motion** to do this link - **approved**

Caroline County Forum – Allison Dungan

- Caroline County Commissioners want to be educated on health of Choptank River
- Invited Delaware and neighboring counties, Secretary Wilson, Tom Horton
- Scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Meeting Adjourned 12:35 p.m.