

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 2, 2007

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Vince Berg, Michael Clar, Dave Duree, Linda Hanifin Bonner, George Hanson, Louise Lawrence, Ed Merrifield, Anne Pearson, Fred Samadani, Burt Sklar, Bill Stack, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Thaddeus Graczyk, Jan Graham, Nancy Pentz

Others: Ginny Kearney (MDE), Dave Goshorn (DNR), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Jay Prager (MDE), John Backus (MDE), Joseph Mills (MDE), Ken Pensyl (MDE), Brian Clevenger (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Matt Pajerowski, (US Geological Survey), Brad Dinder (MES), Mark Symborski (MNCPPC), Larry Koffman (Stormwater Services), Rizwan Siddiqi (EBA Engineering)

Frank Wise opened the meeting with introductions at 9:45 a.m. He announced that Bob Summers has been named as Deputy Secretary of MDE and Ginny Kearney as Acting Director of WMA. Two corrections to be made to the minutes. **Motion** to approve minutes with corrections – approved.

News from MDE – Ginny Kearney (*attachment*)

- **Bay Restoration Fund**
 - \$9 million. was approved for multiple jurisdictions for upgrades to onsite sewage disposal systems with nitrogen removal technologies
 - Treatment systems not in jurisdictions covered by a grant award or individuals must apply directly to the Department.
- **Projects Approved by Board of Public Works**
 - List attached of projects approved by Board on December 6, 2006 and January 3, 2007.
- **National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program**
 - Waste Management Administration is working with the above program to provide mercury vehicle switch collection services at auto salvage yards.

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Some changes at DNR:**
 - Secretary Griffin has returned as Secretary of DNR. He served as Secretary 8 years ago.
 - Stephen Abel, Director of Communications is leaving and going to Oyster Recovery.
 - Jamie Baxter is now Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
 - Current Assistant Secretaries are all still there.
- **Water Quality Monitoring**
 - Intensive monitoring and water quality mapping every 3 years
 - It is being initiated at Susquehanna flats and upper Bay tributaries
 - Focus is Potomac wide

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- **Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS)**
 - Sampling used to be 5-year periods, plan is for 3-year periods but less intensive
 - At least 10 samples in 100+ watershed
 - MDE requesting additional samples and going to sites recommended by MDE

- **Chesapeake Bay Health Report**
 - Revised copy of Report by February 12th
 - Comments due by February 19th
 - Will send email version to Chris for distribution

- **Seasonal Pools Workshop**
 - Maryland Water Monitoring Council sponsoring one-day workshop
 - Workshop planned for March 23, 2007
 - Introductory seminar

- **Diamondback Terrapin**
 - Public informational meeting on February 7, 2007
 - Will describe 2006 commercial fishery
 - Will discuss current knowledge of stock and habitat issues
 - This is not a hearing on regulations

- **Chesapeake Bay National Research Reserve**
 - Working to finalize a draft management plan
 - Public meetings will be held in the Spring to solicit input

SWQAC asked to get Dave Duree on Corsica Restoration Committee instead of Victoria. Dave Goshorn to talk to Charlie Evans. Sherm to get Corsica River update.

TARSA – John Backus

- **Triennial Review**
 - Received letter from SWQAC on Triennial Review
 - SWQAC issues were mixing zones and intermittent streams
 - Copy of letter was handed out

- **Beaches**
 - Report put together of beaches impaired
 - Group in cooperation with health department
 - What are pollution sources
 - Completed survey – electronic version – send to Chris for distribution
 - Contamination from birds, feces, failing septic systems, cattle near streams, lots of potential contamination from pets (dogs & cats)

Special Presentations

Mining Program and McDonald Mine – presented by Joe Mills, MDE (copy attached)

Stormwater Recommendations – Larry Coffman of Stormwater Services (copy attached)

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Subcommittee Reports

Nominating Subcommittee

- Two new Public Official nominations:
 - SWQAC sent a letter sent to Environmental Health Directors requesting a member. Ed Singer, Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors, was recommended.
 - Matthew Pajerowski, U.S. Geological Survey, submitted an application.
 - **Motion** to move these nominations forward – passed.

Watershed Subcommittee – Mike Clar

- Discussing 2 areas: stormwater and sediment and erosion control
- Consensus of their group is a need for change
- Draft letter (handed out) regarding reconvening a multi-stakeholder group to look at stormwater program
- Ken addressed some issues, but not all, and there is no plan to address some of them.
- Ginny said there are several bills in the legislature on stormwater; that there would be only one process, not just with SWQAC; and anything MDE does will have to be after the legislative session is over.
- **Motion** was made for Executive Subcommittee to redraft and finalize letter to the Secretary – motion passed (Anne Pearson abstained)

Water Resources Subcommittee – Frank Wise

- Focusing mostly in keeping connected with the Governor's Advisory Committee
- At one of the last full meetings, Gene Piotrowski spoke on DNR leasing policy and said it is in hiatus, except for one request to withdrawal water from Deep Creek Lake.
- Matt Pajerowski and Frank are on the Water Quality Subcommittee - working on a list of contaminants; talking about treatment requirements – next meeting February 15th.

Wastewater – Victoria Woodward

- Sent a letter to TARSA on mixing zones
- Sludge is the next topic group will be looking at – regulations have not been revised since 1978 so we want to take a strong look at these regulations
- Meeting called off for today
- Setting up meeting with John Backus regarding Triennial Review

Other Business

- Handout from the Forest Conservation Meeting held at DNR on December 13th.
- Need for a short-term Election Workgroup – interested members let Frank know
- Legislative Issues:
 - Mike Clar will look at stormwater bills
 - Linda will bring anything of interest to wastewater group
 - Suggestion made that Chairs should track and report any legislation of interest to their subcommittee.

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Retreat

- Reminder it is on Friday, March 2 – 9:00-9:30 a.m
- At Arlington Echo Education Center
- DNR providing lunch
- Kim Lamphier from MDE facilitating meeting
- Working on agenda for inviting the four Secretaries: Environment, Natural Resource, Agriculture & Planning
- Bob Summers to give a Budget 101 presentation
- Identify and prioritize issues with Statewide water quality concerns
- Frank will sent out email requesting issues on statewide water quality concern
- Frank told group that Rich Eskin had suggested an article be written about SWQAC for the eMDE News.

Meeting Adjourned 12:15