

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 5, 2007
MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Linda Hanifin Bonner, Dave Duree, Senator Roy Dyson, Thaddeus Graczyk, Jan Graham, George Hanson, Shannon Lucas, Ed Merrifield, Anne Pearson, Nancy Pentz, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Burton Sklar, Mark Symborski, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Dave Duree, Mat Pajerowski, Ed Singer, Karen Wiggen

Others: Ken Pensyl (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), John Backus (MDE), Dr. Peter Bielensohn, Bruce Gilmore (CBF), Jay Prager (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Terry Matthews (Charles Co.), Fred Jacobs (AKRF), Neil Jacobs, Shan Abeywickramera (MDE), Norm Meadows, Michele Merkel, Vince Berg (MPTT)

Victoria Woodward opened the meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motion** to approve the August 3, 2007 minutes **approved**.

News from MDE – Ken Pensyl (*attachment*)

- **Drought Update**
 - Currently, Central and Eastern regions of State in drought “watch.”
 - A watch is to heighten awareness, but no action is required.
 - Most of the State remains in moderate to severe agricultural drought as of last week.
- **Revised Appropriation Permit Law**
 - SB 970 changed existing law creating an exemption for certain groundwater users (<5,000 gpd)
 - Law became effective October 1, 2007
 - MDE will begin notifying users in violation and requiring plans for returning to compliance.
- **Maryland Groundwater Symposium**
 - Water Supply Program sponsored the 16th annual Symposium on September 27th
 - Almost 400 groundwater professionals attended
 - Topics included onsite sewage disposal, water resource management, source water protection, stormwater management and water reuse.
- **Charles County “Closed Loop Treated Effluent System” Proposal**
 - MDE met with Charles County reps to hear this proposal
 - The system will manage WWTP discharge and direct it to energy plants in the County for use as cooling water.
 - The County asked MDE to be flexible on the policy on nutrient cap management/trading in light of this project.

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- **2008 Clean Water Needs Survey (CWNS)**
 - In 2008 Clean Water SRF eligibility is no longer required to be an “official need”
 - Data collection for 2008 – January to October
 - CWNS is unfunded mandate –WQIP is using existing MOU with MCET to provide resources and staff
- **Town of Boonsboro**
 - Studies showed many individual drinking wells with bacteriological contamination
 - Proposed solution is to serve existing homes, school and businesses with water from the Town of Boonsboro
 - This will be done by constructing a main water line to Mill Point Road
- **Maryland Stormwater Management Act 2007**
 - Act became effective on October 1, 2007
 - Ken Pensyl will give presentation later on the agenda
- **Bay Restoration Fund**
 - Map attached showing the breakdown of Bay Restoration Fund OSDS Grant Awards
 - Total award \$9,830,700
 - Total applicants 295
 - Total installed 37

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **DNR Reorganization**
 - Creation of the Office of Sustainability which has taken the lead on redefining DNR’s vision statement and guiding principles
 - DNR’s Watershed Services renamed Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Services
- **BayStat**
 - Bay Stat is now online
 - Click on Health of Bay – by Tributary Strategies
- **Water Leasing**
 - Working to update its water leasing policy for State-owned lands
 - Gene Piotrowski expected to release draft to Committee for review and comment
- **Vibrio Monitoring**
 - There is no routine monitoring for Vibrio in State waters or in shellfish/fish.
 - During warm months more bacteria can be found in shellfish increasing risk to consumers
 - For Vibrio Fact Sheet – contact Kathy Brohawn at MDE
- **Non-Native Exotic Insects and Forest Health**
 - These insects pose a continuing threat to forest health in Maryland
 - Nutrients in streams increase following tree death or defoliation.
 - Much research is being done on biological controls, which could mean less damaging infestation in the future.

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- **Reports on Biofuels**

- Two recently released reports detail potential effects of biofuel production and global warming on the future of the Bay
- Report titled “Biofuels and the Bay can be downloaded from www.chesbay.state.va.us/Publications/BiofuelsAndTheBay1.pdf
- Report titled “The Chesapeake Bay and Global Warming” can be downloaded from: www.nwf.org/sealevelrise/chesapeake.cfm

SSA Administration – John Backus

- **Triennial Review**

- Went to Assistant Secretary Pattison
- It will then go to other Administrations
- 3 week turnaround time
- In Federal Register before the end of the year

- **Tier II Waters**

- Anti-degradation outreach
- Created county map with pending Tier II waters
- Outreach to Planning, Agriculture offices
- Lots of requests from counties on what do Tier II waters mean?

John will ask Jim George to come to next meeting to talk on TMDL.

Special Presentations

Water Quality Issues – Redevelopment of Golf Courses – Dr. Peter Bielenso

- Dr. Bielenso was former Health
- Currently Howard County Health Officer
- Discussion on redevelopment of golf courses with respect to groundwater and within our purview
- Turf Valley – do redevelopment on old golf courses
- Not all chemicals migrate into soil
- Since 1994 less pesticides are applied
- Old golf courses are where problems are
- MOSH was brought in to do air/water quality for workers
- Legislation – forces owners of Turf Valley to enter voluntary cleanup
- They have to follow phase
- Remediation for arsenic and lead is easy
- Seven courses in the State are being considered for redevelopment

Maryland Stormwater Act Update – Ken Pensyl (*attachment*)

Subcommittee Reports

Watershed Subcommittee – Shannon Lucas

- Reviewed Core Principles
- Will give recommendation
- Seeking recommendation of engineers and builders

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- Will provide something in next 30 days

Water Resources – Frank Wise

- Trying to reorganize and refocus
- Continuing to track Governor's Subcommittee
- Final Report is due in 2008
- Keeping an eye on Water Leasing Policy
- Corresponding with Gene Piotrowski regarding this
- Meeting immediately following this meeting today

Wastewater– Dave Duree

- Victoria attended Interstate Commission for Potomac River Basin meeting
- Bob Summers if the new Chair
- Improvement of nitrogen reduction in wastewater systems
- MOWA has certification program for wastewater installers/operators and a product for training
- Operation/Maintenance – looking at different levels of certification

Membership– Dave Duree

- Members whose term will expire this year are:Victoria Woodward, Dave Duree, Frank Wise, George Hanson, Jan Graham, Ed Merrifield and Linda Hanifin Bonner
- No Response received from Ed Merrifield and Linda Hanifin Bonner
- Recommending new member – Norman Meadow of Maryland Conservation Council
- **Motion** to approve new member Norman Meadow and renominees – **unanimously approved.**

Miscellaneous

Retreat

- Requesting suggestions be submitted prior to December meeting.
- Location
- Topics
- Presenter
- Should Secretaries be invited

Tax

- Proposal to Senator Dyson and it may be repealed
- Issue is being delegated to Wastewater Subcommittee

Followup

- Jim George at December meeting on TMDLs
- Jay Prager regarding BRF initiative
- Letter to Dr. Bielson
- Golf course issue to Subcommittee & Jan Graham to draft brief letter for SWQAC to sign.

Meeting Adjourned 12:30 p.m.