

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 7, 2007
MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Michael Clar, Emery Cleaves, Dave Duree, Senator Roy Dyson, Jan Graham, George Hanson, Neil Jacobs, Shannon Lucas, Terry Matthews, Ed Merrifield, Robert Mitchell, Matthew Pajerowski, Nancy Pentz, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Burton Sklar, Bill Stack, Karen Wigger, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Fred Jacobs, Anne Pearson, Edwin Singer

Others: Ken Pensyl (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), John Backus (MDE), Jay Prager (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Shan Abeywickramer (MDE), Matt Rowe (MDE), Norm Meadow, Vince Berg (MCFB)

Victoria Woodward opened the meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motions** to approve the October 5, 2007 minutes **approved** and today's agenda **approved**.

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Bay Report Card**
 - Chesapeake Bay Foundation released its 2007 State of the Bay report card on December 3, 2007 and gave it another overall grade of “D” to the Bay
 - This is a decline of from a score of 28 in 2006 to 27 in 2007
 - Score is based on 13 indicators

- **Chesapeake Bay Executive Council**
 - Governor O'Malley hosted the 2007 Executive Council Wednesday, December 5, 2007 in Annapolis
 - Press release issued identifying key initiatives to address in the next few years

- **Drought**
 - DNR looks at drought for Chesapeake Bay impacts
 - Summary of precipitation from BWI
 - About 8 inches below normal rainfall for the year
 - Much higher salinity and freshwater flows starting to approach normal conditions

- **SAV Observations**
 - SAVs being evaluated
 - Upper Bay looks good in regards to SAVs
 - In many parts of middle and lower Bay no SAV were seen
 - Final results will be out in April

- **Chesapeake Bay Program**
 - Comparison of 3 key measures in Bay – dissolved oxygen, harmful algal blooms and underwater bay grasses – predicted mixed conditions for this summer.

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- Report available on line at www.eco-check.org/pdfs/2007.

- **Program Open Space**

- Meeting held in early November
- Developing priority system for purchasing land
- Since early 2007, State has provided funding for preserving 282 acres of land in Maryland.

- **Power Plants**

- Last meeting MDE report addressed proposed Closed Loop Treated Effluent System in Charles County
- Similar proposal being disputed in Frederick County
- Neither DNR or MDE have been directly involved yet

Discussion on water reuse from power plants:

Request of Jay Prager to give brief overview at February meeting on:

- Type of reuse going on
- What other types could be done
- Challenges of getting there

Request of Terry Matthews:

- Look into getting perspective from private industry

- **Revised Nutrient Reduction Plan for Mississippi River**

- EPA is requesting comments on revised Nutrient Reduction Plan
- Document reads like mini Chesapeake Bay Program
- Update is they are trying to get states to pick up the lead

News from MDE – Ken Pensyl (*attachment*)

- **City of Cambridge**

- MDE representatives met with City of Cambridge DPW to address questions about project solicitation and selection process
- Meetings are on MDE website

- **Westernport**

- Plans and specifications completed
- Construction bid secured to upgrade aging water treatment plant
- Project costs \$6.44 million

- **British Government Interest**

- MDE is preparing response to email from a water quality specialist in southern England interested in Maryland's ENR/BNR nutrient cap efforts.

- **Annual Solicitation for Projects**

- Gearing up for annual solicitation of projects seeking financial assistances
- Post cards will be mailed to MDE stakeholders mid/end of December

- **Tributary Strategy Steering Committee Meeting**

- Steering committee advised that MDE received latest stakeholders' comments on Draft Trading Policy in July
- EPA has issued a new Water Quality Trading Toolkit for Permit Writers

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- **Coal Combustion Byproducts**

- MDE started regulation process on 11/19/07
- Draft went to LLR Committee
- Plan to propose in 12/21/07 issue of Md. Register
- Public hearing on regulations to be held 2/5/08
- Public meeting to discuss Advanced Notice of Proposed Action on 2/26/08

- **McDonald Mine**

- Continuing to operate lime doser
- Regularly collecting water quality samples of seep
- This will continue until adequate funding can be identified for capital construction and long-term O&M costs for alternative treatment technology

SSA Administration – John Backus

- **TMDLs**

- TMDLs implementation – Jim George offered to come to next meeting to give overview

- **Water Quality Assessments** – Matt Rowe

- Developing 303D list
- Public review period will be starting February 1, 2008
- Public meetings to be held in:
 - Baltimore
 - Hagerstown
 - Salisbury
- Request to send copy to SWQAC to circulate to members

Special Presentations

Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards – John Backus (Powerpoint attached)

BRF Update on Activities – Jay Prager

- Handout shows applications and installations to date
- First 2 installations are in the ground
- Map shows good distribution across State
- List of manufacturers having units installed & how they were evaluated
- All installation now come from 4 different manufacturers
- Ten on list, but only 4 have been installed
- Other bids have come in, but have been high
- In future, will be focusing on bigger projects rather than residential projects
- On website:
 - Maps
 - Manufacturers
 - List of installers who submitted bids
 - Working on getting data layer of where all septic systems are
 - Can then fill in other information, what type of system, performance of system – how much nitrogen is being discharged, etc.
- Released last month an application proposal for grant funding

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Subcommittee Reports

Watershed Subcommittee – Mike Clar

- Focused on Stormwater Management Act 2007
- Received extensive comments
- MDE getting ready to release draft recommendations
- MDE's Short term strategy to revamp Chapter 5
- MDE to report to legislature by December
- Committee is focusing on providing public comment
- Mike to provide link to SWQAC

Water Resources – Frank Wise

- Refocusing, reorganizing and reenergizing mode
- Draft issues of concern, mission statement and some goals
- Monitoring Governor's Committee and recommendations coming from group
- Some issues of interest are:
 - DNR water leasing
 - Water reuse
 - Emerging contaminants
 - Well regulations

Wastewater – Victoria Woodward

- ICPRB meeting – Victoria attended
- Suggests having presentation from them in July

Membership – Dave Duree

- Give vacancy update at meetings
- There are vacancies in each category, except Public Official
- Need to have alternates

Subcommittee Participation

- Need better participation outside of bi-monthly meeting
- Contact list to be sent out to member
- Conference calls or email use for Subcommittees as options
- MDE has conference-call capability for up to 8 people

Miscellaneous

Golf Course Letter

- **Motion** to approved draft letter - **seconded**

Retreat

- Will be held on Friday, April 4, 2008 in place of regular meeting
- Time at 10:30 a.m.
- Location in Western Maryland
- Possibly tour of McDonald Mine

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Meeting Adjourned 12:15 p.m.