

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 1, 2006
MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Vince Berg, Dave Duree, Senator Roy Dyson, Jason Groth, George Hanson, Kevin Koepenick, Louise Lawrence, Ed Merrifield, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Burt Sklar, Bill Stack, George Wilmot, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Thaddeus Graczyk, Mary Marsh, Linda Hanifin Bonner

Others: Ginny Kearney (MDE), Dave Goshorn (DNR), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Jay Prager (WMA), Joe Beaman, John Backus (TARSA), Chris Thomas (MDE), Shannon Lucas (Brightwater)

Frank Wise opened the meeting with introductions at 9:45 a.m. **Motion** to approve minutes – approved.

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Chesapeake Bay**
 - Water quality summary – end of summer report is available online
 - Large increases in scoring attributed to runoff
 - Bay had highest score in the past 4 years

- **The State of the Chesapeake Forest report**
 - Forestry Conservation Directive – one of the 2006 Bay Initiatives
 - Goal is to target water quality protection streamside
 - Each state to set its own goals
 - Wednesday, December 13th is the first meeting – 1 or 2 SWQAC members are welcome to attend
 - Report is available online or you can get a copy from Eric Sprague

- **Forests & Parks**
 - Large storm caused major damage at Assateague State Park beach
 - Staff attended 2 public meetings regarding the closure of the north cell of Hart-Miller Island. Comments were generally favorable and supported options already under consideration.

- **Maryland Water Monitoring Council**
 - MWMC will be sponsoring a workshop on March 23, 2007.
 - One day – introduction
 - Website will post more information.

News from MDE – Ginny Kearney (*attachment*)

- **Bay Restoration Fund**
 - Funding will be going to ten jurisdiction totaling \$9 million.
 - Will be on Board of Public Works agenda for December 6th.

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- **Projects Approved by Board of Public Works**
 - List attached

- **Interagency Technical Assistance Committee (ITAC)**
 - Stakeholder group to create inter-agency MOU
 - Coordinating funding of projects in less advantaged communities
 - Met once and will meet as needed once or twice a year.

- **Anne Arundel County ENR**
 - Signing of MOU – blanket agreement
 - Covers all WWTPs owned by county
 - Will proceed to see where nutrient reduction can be made.

- **McDonald Mine**
 - Continues to discharge
 - Looking at different kinds of doser systems to get more limestone into stream
 - Report under review by Bureau staff
 - Options are limited
 - Should know within a short period of time
 - Mining Program brought in experts from other states.
 - A lot of states are struggling with these types of issues
 - EPA has turned down funding
 - If SWQAC wants a Presentation from Mining Program – it can be set up

- **Sewage Sludge Regulations**
 - Waste Management Administration is revising the Sewage Sludge Regulations for the first time since 1986
 - Regulations are on website
 - Wastewater Subcommittee to get in touch with Hilary Miller to set up presentation.

TARSA – John Backus

- Joe Beaman will be leaving MDE to take a position at EPA headquarters in the Aquatic Life Criteria Group.

- **Triennial Review** – Joe Beaman
 - Information on Triennial by January
 - Need issue by mid-January
 - There will be a public comment period and then public hearings

Subcommittee Reports

Executive Subcommittee – Frank Wise

- A meeting was held with Bob Summers and Ginny Kearney on Monday, November 27, 2006 for about two hours. Meeting was very productive – topics discussed:
- List of Nominees to replace or renew members whose terms are expiring this year.
 - Approval of slate was requested by email
 - Letter to go to Secretaries
- Issues pertinent to transition of new Administration
 - How far down does at will appointments go?
 - Succession planning – highly technical employees leaving –Secretary Philbrick identified as area of concern and has appointed person

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- Piloting it in Air and Radiation Administration to help smooth the impact of lost employees
- State Budget:
 - \$200 surplus budget
 - \$400 million projected deficit for upcoming fiscal year
 - \$1.2 billion project the year after
- Retreat:
 - Bob Summers agreed to come to March Retreat to do Budget 101 – identify areas where SWQAC could have possible impact.
 - Talked about facilitator from MDE
- Typical meeting dynamics that follow Departments' reports – on occasion get counter productive
 - How to smooth process
 - Issues that warrant further discussion – not at that point
 - New information Department might not have

Nominating Subcommittee

- Soliciting nominations from Bob and Ginny
- Even after slate is sent to Secretaries, there are still vacancies.
- Nominations are ongoing process in recruiting members
- MDE/DNR have interested individuals
- Bring interested parties along to meetings
- Victoria to serve as 1st Vice Chair in Jay Charland's departure
- Need to get a full slate of members

Watershed Subcommittee – Vince Berg

- Working on trying to revise sediment & stormwater regulations
- Hope to have something at February meeting
- Going to rewrite regulations

Wastewater – Victoria Woodward

- Linda Hanifin Bonner resigned as Chair
- Triennial Review interested in mixing zones, presentation on sludge regulations, AMD, etc.
- Members are George Hanson, Kevin Koepenick, Dave Duree, Ed Merrifield, Jason Groth
- Meeting briefly to set up meeting after this meeting.
- Centreville WWTP response letter
 - EPA set table for self-monitoring
 - Work w/ MDE to find better way of accountability
 - Flaw in federal system – financially beneficial to not report
 - Department offered opportunity to have a workgroup
 - Talk about proposals or thought to help MDE – whether \$\$ or regulations are needed
 - More inspections?
 - In Executive meeting it was pointed out that there are about 50 vacancies in Department – long-term vacancies risk being cut.
 - Department cant compete with salaries and there is a long recruitment process

Legislative Subcommittee

- Need a person to track legislation and bring pertinent legislation awareness to group
- We are not structured to be an effective lobbying group
- When Departments need support on legislation – make SWQAC aware
- Letter to Department Secretaries would be entered on record prior to hearing.

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Water Resources Subcommittee – Frank Wise

- Has not been meeting regularly
- Frank did not attend October 11 Governor's Advisory meeting
- Water Quality and Financial Subcommittee – Frank was assigned to Water Quality
- Conference call – discussed subcommittee charge – How should water quality impact resource planning process?
- Their next meeting is November 15th and they will meet again in December
- Financial Subcommittee was to meet November 16th
- Discussion of need for outreach recommendations

Other Business

Beach Program Response Letter Discussion

- They would like new funds
- Letter did not suggest workgroup
- Letter states they have made adequate changes
- Joe Beaman said report surveyed all counties and defined where beaches are.
- Monitoring and reporting differences – How can we better monitor water and notify public
- Senator Dyson said of particular concern was that every beach in county was put on notice and they didn't even know that
- Should there be more oversight of counties?
- County's responsibility to post signs
- Even private beaches want monitoring – water is public – access may not be
- Beach regulations do say if there is an outfall – notification is required
- County trying to determine where to we post and how long?
- Frank Wise said we need to respond – maybe this is a workgroup item
- Local health officials need consensus – talk to Environmental Health Directors – have them attend meeting – possibly have a member on SWQAC
- This is not to be locally controlled
- Beach workgroup – Frank, Steve Witt, Mary Marsh

Bylaw Policy

- Presented at August meeting – could not vote on it
- Change is to move clause regarding Operational Policy
- Substitute when Chair is absent
- Take word “Addendum” off
- Make into 2 separate documents
- **Motion** to approve changes - approved

Retreat

- Reminder Planning Retreat March 2nd – 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
- Facilitator
- Agenda items
- Subcommittees structure
- Budget Presentation by Bob Summers

Meeting Adjourned 12:15