

STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 1, 2008
MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Members/Alternates: Linda Hanifin Bonner, Michael Clar, Dave Duree, Jason Groth, George Hanson, Fred Jacobs, Neil Jacobs, Louise Lawrence, Terry Matthews, Norm Meadow, Michele Merkel, Matthew Pajerowski, Anne Pearson, Fred Samadani, John Scarborough, Burton Sklar, Mark Symborski, Frank Wise, Steve Witt, Victoria Woodward

Excused Absences: Thaddeus Graczyk, Jan Graham, Nancy Pentz, Edwin Singer

Others: Virginia Kearney (MDE), Sherm Garrison (DNR), Dave Goshorn (DNR), Matthew Rowe (MDE), Jay Prager (MDE), Lyn Poorman (MDE), George Harmon (MDE), Jim George (MDE), Ed Stone (MDE), Chris Thomas (MDE), Kathryn DeBoer (Charles Co. Govt.)

Steve Witt, Vice Chair, opened the meeting with introductions at 9:30 a.m. **Motions** to approve the December 7, 2007 minutes **approved**.

News from DNR – Sherm Garrison (*attachment*)

- **Tributary Strategy Meeting**
 - 12th Annual Tributary Team meeting on Saturday, Feb. 9th
 - Register online – free
- **Tributary Strategies – Implementation Plan**
 - Statewide Tributary Strategy Implementation is now available on DNR website
- **Corsica River**
 - Cover Crops - working diligently trying to reach various goals.
 - Wetland Restoration – 32 acres of nontidal wetlands have been constructed in the watershed.
- **BayStat**
 - New, free electronic publication available by subscription
 - Newsletter will provide updates and progress of Bay restoration
- **Seasonal Pool Workshop**
 - Md. Water Monitoring Council is sponsoring workshop on March 20th
 - Workshop will elaborate on fauna found in vernal pools.
 - Registration should be available soon online.
- **Legislative Priorities**
 - Focus is on fisheries and wildlife bills
 - Fisheries issues will provide authority to manage nuisance/exotic species.

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DNR - Dave Goshorn

- **Office of Sustainability**
 - Name change, now Office for Sustainable Future
 - Started about 6 months ago in August 2007
 - Nine employees – with 8 long-term DNR employees
 - Consists of biologists, foresters, engineers, & planners
 - Objective – to move DNR and State toward more sustainable policies & programs
 - Developing statewide standardized base map
 - Developing new strategic plans
 - BayStat falls under their purview
 - New Projects:
 - Getting all DNR rank and file on the same page
 - Develop sustainability framework for lands
 - Procurement – working to modify to give preference to “greener” products.

- **DNR Water Leasing**
 - Policy on how DNR makes decisions on leasing water on state lands
 - DNR had no policy
 - There has not been a lot of requests, with the assumption there will be more
 - Developed a draft policy – never finalized it - working to revise
 - Submitted to Governor’s office for review, then SWQAC and Wolman group
 - Intent of revision was to make it stricter
 - Standard answer will be no, except in extreme cases
 - Wolman committee – workgroup will review it and finalize comments by March 4th meeting
 - SWQAC can send their comments by next meeting

Water Resources Subcommittee to put together comments for SWQAC to submit on policy.

News from MDE – Ginny Kearney (*attachment*)

- **Annual Solicitation**
 - For grant & loan applications for capital projects
 - Send out solicitation notices
 - Projects from local governments
 - Rate & rank according to eligibility in priority system
 - About 18 months ahead so we are soliciting now for July 2009

- **Point Source Strategy**
 - Corrections and update made
 - Should be up on MDE’s website

- **Brac**
 - Department just awarded through the Board of Public Works a contract for \$280,000 to look at the wastewater facilities in APG region
 - Looking at things like capacity and limitations.

- **Clean Water Survey**
 - Every 4 years, EPA does national needs survey

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- Used to document infrastructure needs nationally & by state for clean water capital projects.
- This is done to come up with national needs & takes a year or two for final report

- **EPA Clean Watershed**
 - EPA is just coming out with last 2004 needs survey
 - Maryland needs increased by \$1.3 billion to \$5.9 billion

- **McDonald Mine**
 - Department continuing monitoring
 - Know what the problem is -Issue is finding funds to fix it

- **Drought**
 - At end of month, look at monthly data and come to conclusions
 - Worst area is the groundwater situation on Eastern Shore

SSA Administration – Matt Rowe

- **Triennial Review**
 - Every 3 years – look at regulations and make any updates
 - Looking to put advance notice of public rulemaking
 - Announcement going out in February 29th version of Register

- **Use Attainability Analysis**
 - Set water quality goals
 - Most goals are achievable
 - Want to obtain 2-step process
 - Pull stakeholders together & establish what that process will be
 - Talk about specifics

- **Integrated Report**
 - Report is in draft form, going through internal review
 - Formal public review period starts 2/15
 - 3 public meetings – coordinated with trib teams (3/4 Baltimore, 3/6 Hagerstown & 3/12 Salisbury)
 - Meeting announcements will be on MDE website – “In Focus” homepage

- **TMDL** – Jim George
 - Process of developing TMDLs and implementation - what to do afterwards
 - Corsica River – major experimental project
 - Focusing resources to Western Maryland – Aaron’s Run \$1 million total to remove from 303d list
 - 319 program has made long term commitment to Western Maryland – maintain constant funding there

Jim offered to do presentation in June on development or implementation.

BRF Update – Jay Prager

- On chart - How much money obligated to projects
- Pending awards – those haven’t been granted yet
- Total number of applications
- Actual number of installations

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- Last column – unit cost/county
- Unit cost \$2,000/unit because of sampling requirement – 1 year quarterly monitoring
- Shaded area – county outsourced funds to

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Subcommittee Reports

Watershed Subcommittee – Mike Clar

- Focused on Stormwater Management Act of 2007
- MDE circulated draft of Chapter 5 – shows progress:
 - Now have guidance for green roofs
 - Guidance on permeable paving
 - Broad range small landscape practices
- Should have comments ready in next 30 days
- Conducting a review of Core Principles
- Looking for feedback from Subcommittee on endorsing document in whole or in part

Water Resources – Frank Wise

- Committee has not met since last meeting
- Keeping abreast of Wolman group's activities
- Wolman's Water Quality Subcommittee report is in final draft – due in July – was presented to the full Committee
- Water Resources Subcommittee will now be looking at Water Leasing Policy

Wastewater – Dave Duree

- \$7 million coming to put in onsite systems
- Need to have operation and maintenance
- Initiative to establish a onsite wastewater component in COMAR
- Ask SWQAC to have Executive Subcommittee generate letter to ask MDE to support initiative
- **Motion** to have SWQAC draft letter of support to Secretaries – **withdrawn**
- **Motion** to vote on letter from Wastewater Chair (Dave Duree) with supporting documents – unanimously passed. Vote by email within a week.

CAFO – Document sent out in December & received no comments on CAFO General Discharge Permit for animal feeding – MDE will take comments any time

Miscellaneous

Retreat

- Will be held in Allegany County – Bureau of Mines - 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Focused on Western Maryland acid mine drainage (AMD)
- Tour of McDonald Mine
- Open to suggestions:
 - Review Subcommittees
 - Pending Issues
- Draft Agenda
 - Need to outline timeline
 - Time dedicated to doing business
 - Notify legislators

Propose Executive Subcommittee meet with Jay Sakai.

June Meeting

- Water Reuse – what Charles Co. is doing & State's response
- TMDLs – Jim George
- NPDES – Wastewater – allowed expansion of wastewater discharges - Ed Stone?

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Meeting Adjourned 12:50 p.m.