

# West Virginia Water Gaging Council

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 20, 2010

1:00 P.M.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Headquarters, Kanawha City

### Council Membership Representation

Organization	Present	Proxy	Represented By
<b>WV Conservation Agency (WVCA)</b>	X		Ed Cox
<b>U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)</b>	X		Hugh Bevans Ron Evaldi Terence Messinger
<b>WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)</b>	X		Mike Stratton Brian Carr
<b>WV Division of Highways (WVDOH)</b>	X		Doug Kirk
<b>WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)</b>	X		Bill Wood
<b>WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR)</b>	X		Danny Bennett
<b>WV Water Research Institute (WVWRI)</b>			
<b>National Weather Service (NWS)</b>	X		John Sikora
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</b>	X		
Huntington District			Stephen Porter Tim Curran
Pittsburgh District			Robert Yue
Baltimore District			
<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</b>			
<b>WV Rivers Coalition (WVRC)</b>	X		Shanda Minney
<b>Canaan Valley Institute (CVI)</b>	X		Todd Miller
<b>Michael Baker Jr., INC. (MBJ)</b>	X		Mohiuddin Shaik

### Other Representation

<b>West Virginia Rural Water Association</b>	Lew Baker
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# **Administration**

## **Roll-Call**

The Secretary conducted a Roll-Call of the member organizations. Upon conclusion of Roll-Call, the Secretary notified the Council Chair that a Quorum had been established.

## **Call to Order and Introductions**

Hugh Bevans, USGS, Vice Chair (Chair), called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

## **Agenda Review**

Bevans, Chair, asked if there were any additions to the Agenda. Lew Baker requested that a discussion about Marcellus Shale impacts be added to the agenda. Ron Evaldi reported that the talk by Tammy Vandivort on the Monongahela Water-Quality study was postponed until next meeting. Mike Stratton asked to move the report about the USACE and WVDEP Section 205 Project be moved to the end of the meeting. He also suggested adding an Action Item List to the minutes.

## **Approval of 9/22/09 Meeting Minutes**

Bevans, Chair, asked if there were any additions, corrections, or comments to the minutes. Hearing none, Mike Stratton moved to approve, Ed Cox seconded, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

# **Unfinished Business**

## **1. Council Webpage :**

Hugh Bevans moved that the web copy of the MOU needs to be updated to show membership of Michael Baker Jr., INC. and the NRCS. John Sikora seconded the motion and it carried by voice vote. It was noted that some past meeting minutes need to be added to the web page. Ed Cox reported that the web site had been visited 222 times since the last meeting. It was suggested that a survey be added to the web page to determine the reason for web visits and to solicit suggestions for web page improvement. Ed Cox stated that he might look at web tracking to determine usage trends. Danny Bennett may be able to mention the Council web page and switching station in the newsletter of the Wildlife Council or other media outlets.

## **2. Water Resources Protection and Management Act:**

Mike Stratton reported that public meetings have been held in 4 watersheds. DEP is ready to put out large quantity single use withdrawal guidelines. Office of Oil and Gas sent out requirement of companies to find suitable streams for withdrawals. Reference gages are to be used to indicate present flow level. They will be adding more gages to the system. DEP is working to set minimum flow limits for protection of aquatic life.

DEP is working with the WV Bureau for Public Health to map all water intakes. USGS is proposing to assemble time-of-travel studies to plan for protection of these water intakes. Lew Baker reported that the Rural Water Association is talking about having water-quality monitors placed in raw-water intakes or in upstream water sources for early warning of spills or other problems.

### **3. Floodplain Managers Group:**

Todd Miller reported that the organizing committee continues to prepare a charter. They will be meeting again in the next month or so. Todd is serving as Secretary at this time to help get the group going. He will serve as a link between the Council and the Floodplain Managers Group. Mohiuddin Shaik is planning to be a member. The Floodplain Managers group is envisioned as a non-governmental advocacy group. Stephen Porter added that such a Floodplain Managers Group can be a good resource for support of gage programs.

### **4. USACE & State upgrade of gage equipment initiative:**

The original part of the USACE and State initiative was to pursue gage network improvements listed in Appendix B of the Statewide Flood Protection Plan. The plan is available online at the West Virginia Conservation Agency web page. The Council Chair asked that all Council members review the Statewide flood plan to suggest needed changes. A meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23 at WVDEP headquarters to discuss the Section 205 Program. A meeting on Feb. 17 at the National Weather Service office in Charleston was set for Council members to review Appendix B and suggest changes that might still be needed for gage program improvements.

### **6. USGS Hydrologic Alert System:**

Ron Evaldi reported that the system under development in the USGS North Carolina Water Science Center to provide real-time email or text message alert notifications when user-specified thresholds are met at gaging stations will be available in West Virginia by the end of the year. This is intended to be a free service that the public will be able to subscribe to by filing an on-line form describing which gage to base the alert upon and what conditions are to be met.

## **New Business**

### **1. Appalachian Plateaus Regional Curves:**

Terence Messinger presented the results of a recently completed report "Regional Curves for Bankfull Channel Characteristics in the Appalachian Plateaus, West Virginia." The study was done in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Conservation Agency. The report is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5242/>.

### **2. Summary of WV Water-Resources Data:**

Ron Evaldi presented the results of a recently completed report "Summary of West Virginia Water-Resources Data through September 2008." The study was done in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Water and Waste Management. The report summarizes continuous-record gaging station data for all streams, reservoirs, and wells ever operated by the USGS in West Virginia. The report is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1199/>.

### **3. Action Item List:**

Hugh Bevans moved that an Action Item list be added to the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Stephen Porter and passed by voice vote.

#### **4. Water Intake Monitors:**

Lew Baker, Source-water Protection Specialist for the West Virginia Rural Water Association, spoke about the need for more data collection on the quality of raw water used for public supply. He described an "early warning system" proposed for the Susquehanna River Basin which is looking at installing 30 water-quality monitors in headwaters streams. The West Virginia Rural Water Association is proposing to have plant operators monitor raw water at public supply intakes. This would be a less expensive approach than stream-bank monitoring, but would not provide much lead time in detecting potential water-quality problems. Lew stated his concern that if gas development in the Marcellus becomes big in West Virginia then the ionic character of the stream water could change with negative impacts. For example, bromide substitution for chloride could cause problems for water treatment. Health Departments may be available for purchase of the intake monitoring instruments and systems that may participate include Buckhannon, Elkins and Morgantown.

Hugh Bevans said that the USGS might be adding QW monitors in cooperation with WVDEP and warned that such instrumentation requires a high level of field maintenance. Mike Stratton stated that Marcellus development water is not allowed at West Virginia water treatment facilities and that the treatment problems may not be as great here as in Pennsylvania. General discussion agreed that illegal dumping of frak water could be harmful to streams and could threaten public water systems. It was concluded that one possible benefit of linkage between the Rural Water Association and the Gaging Council might be to suggest gages that should be considered as water-quality monitoring sites.

#### **5. USACE and WVDEP Section 205 Project:**

Mike Stratton issued an invitation to all interested Council members to attend a meeting at WVDEP headquarters Feb. 23 with the following goals:

1. Identify what can be used for funding match.
2. Identify restrictions on the use of the grant money.
3. Determine what to do within the indicated restrictions.
4. Develop a document that can be used for the grant application.

#### **Next Meeting:**

April 15, 2010, at Stonewall Jackson Dam (No capability for conference calls).

#### **Meeting adjourned at 3:48 P.M.**

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Ed Cox to add membership of Michael Baker Jr., Inc. and NRCS to web copy of MOU.
2. Ed Cox and Ron Evaldi to add past meeting minutes to web page.
3. Ed Cox to look into survey and web tracking for web page.
4. Danny Bennett to see if mention of WVWGC web page can be in newsletter of Wildlife Council.
5. Membership to review Statewide Flood Protection Plan to suggest needed changes.
6. Feb. 17 meeting to review Appendix B of Statewide Flood Protection plan.
7. Feb. 23 meeting for the Section 205 Project.

*Respectfully submitted*

Ronald D. Evaldi  
Acting Secretary