

JEFFERSON COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (WAC)
Minutes
February 16, 2004 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting was scheduled for the Old Charles Town Library County Meeting Room at 3:00 PM in the afternoon. As this meeting room was inaccessible, the meeting was moved to Jumpin Java Coffee Shop.

In attendance were Carol Boughton-United States Geological Survey, Joseph Hankins-The Conservation Fund (Freshwater Institute), Peter Vila-Shepherd College Environmental Stream Ecologist.

Dr. Oscar Stine, attended in the absence of Janet Stine - Representative of the Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District.

Brad Reed-West Virginia Department of Health, Sherry Kelly-Charles Town Chief Planner, Lisa Dunn-Jefferson County Department of Health, Lee Snyder-Jefferson Utilities, and Robert Schnably – USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service were absent due to prior commitments.

Commissioner Al Hooper, JCC liaison was also absent.

Chairman Hankins opened the meeting at 3:15 PM. Chairman Hankins noted the absence of a recorder for the meeting and indicated he would take notes for the minutes. Chairman Hankins indicated that no quorum could be achieved for the meeting, as only three of nine members were present and no business requiring a vote could be addressed. Hankins noted that this was the second consecutive meeting falling on a federal holiday, a result of the Monday meeting dates.

Dr. Stine submitted a resignation letter from Janet Stine and indicated his interest in continuing as her permanent replacement. Hankins will submit the letter to JCC and request that an appointment be considered.

Carol Boughton reported that the Joint Funding Agreement for the USGS study has been forwarded to the county administrator; she will track progress and make sure the county budget process includes this commitment. Boughton also mentioned the need for public communication at the point when wells need to be identified for testing. The project will be looking first for volunteers to allow access and pumping of their wells.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of discussion surrounding priorities for action for WAC in the coming year.

One of the roles identified for WAC is to act as a data and statistical repository for water resource information. Currently there is no effectively available GIS resource that would allow county level data to be viewed, analyzed or stored. This creates a problem for

future work, as there is no real common platform for information display and for public access. One of the priorities for WAC should be the encouragement of JCC or other responsible institutional entity to immediately begin to explore GIS capacity for the county as a shared resource across county agencies and interested community organizations.

A key priority is still a well and septic system inventory tied to a geospatial database as a critical step to private source water protection and for targeting on-site systems that are most likely failing due to age, soil type or lack of maintenance. Vila expressed an interest in following up with Dunn and Reed to assess what the actual data challenge is.

Vila also is planning a Jefferson county Watershed Coalition meeting March 16th. Boughton will consider preparing a Groundwater 101 presentation as a keynote presentation. Hankins also asked that some time be blocked to present the Tributary Strategy Implementation Plan draft report as it will be available for public comment by that date.

Hankins expressed concern that the missed meetings in the last 90 days had caused some momentum loss and the WAC would have to look at making progress in between meetings through small groups and sub-committees. In particular work on land use and planning should incorporate water resource protection zones. This should be a priority to engage in this discussion.

Hankins provided some background and a progress update for the ongoing WV Potomac River Tributary Strategy Plan Development process. There was general discussion about the implications of the Bay watershed effort. Hankins indicated that the JCC would be receiving an update from the WAC and the Tributary Strategy workgroup in early March when a draft of the plan would be available for public comment.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 16th at the Old Charles Town Library County Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.