

Meeting Summary
Christina Basin Policy Committee
FINAL

Fri Dec 9, 2005
9:30 am

Delaware Nature Society
Ashland, Delaware

Submitted: Monday, January 9, 2006

Attending: Jonathan Zangwill, Jim Jordan, Bob Struble, Dave Wolanski, Kathy Bunting-Howarth, John Schneider, Ken Najjar, Linda Stapleford, Richard Lapointe, Leslie York-Hubbard, Joseph Manning, John Gaadt, Jerry Kauffman, Dan Everett, Donna Suevo, Amie Howell, Jan Bowers, Ralph Spagnolo, Kevin Donnelly, Melissa Zechiel, Elaine Grehl, Steve Williams, Dough Rambo, Martha Corrozi and Robert Tudor

Purpose: Annual meeting of the Christina Basin Policy Committee meeting to review the progress of the Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership during 2005 and establish an agenda for 2006.

I. Welcome and Agenda Review - Bob Tudor (DRBC)

II. State of the Water Quality in the Christina Basin

David Wolanski (DNREC). Since 1970 the DNREC has been monitoring the streams in the Christina Basin. The trends so far:

Parameter	Brandywine	Red Clay	White Clay	Christina
DO	Better	Better	Better	Better
N	Slightly Worse	Little Change	Slightly Worse	Slightly Worse
P	Little Change	Better	Worse	Little Change
TSS	Better	Little Change	Little Change	Little Change

At DE stations just downstream from the state line, short term trends, 1995 – 2005:

Parameter	Brandywine 104051	Red Clay 103041	White Clay 105031	Christina 106191
DO	Better	Better	Better	Better
N	Little Change	Little Change	Slightly Worse	Little Change
P	Little Change	Better	Worse	Little Change
TSS	Better	Little Change	Little Change	Little Change

Along the Red Clay for zinc the DNREC has reduced the full fish consumption advisory to a limited consumption advisory.

Phosphorus is limiting in freshwater systems and nitrogen is limiting in tidal systems. The Christina Basin is mostly freshwater so P is limiting here. Along the tidal Christina River at Wilmington, N is limiting.

The USGS, DGS, DNREC, and City of Wilmington have installed real time turbidity gages along the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford, WB Brandywine Creek, and EB Brandywine Creek stream gages. The DNREC is considering real time water quality gages along the Red Clay Creek and White Clay Creek gages in the future. Logical partners here would be the City of Newark Water Department and United Water Delaware intakes.

Andrew Reis (USGS) – The PA water quality slides will be posted on the Christina Basin web site at www.wr.udel.edu. Opportunity to present at the January Christina Basin Coordinating Committee meeting,

III. Update on Low Flow/ High Flow TMDL – Tom Henry/ Mary Beck (USEPA)

The presentation provided by Mary Beck is posted on the Christina Partnership website.

The EPA Region 3 has done more TMDLs than any other region.

The EPA is modifying the Christina Basin TMDLs. The model was modified to include Little Mill Creek. The low flow TMDLs may be less stringent for wastewater dischargers.

The high flow TMDL changes may modify Wilmington CSO allocations but not much

The EPA will be sponsoring a TMDL public meeting in Jan 2006 at the Kennett Fire Hall. The schedule anticipates establishment of revised TMDLs by April 15, 2006.

IV. Status of Implementation Projects - EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant

A one-page handout was provided for each of the tasks outlined below.

Tasks 3.1, 5.1 PA Restoration projects – C. Sprenkle/B. Callahan (CCCD) –

Presentation at next CB Coordinating Committee meeting. Presentation will be posted on Christina Basin web site, www.wr.udel.edu

Task 3.2 DE Smartyards - John Harrod (DNS) – see handout

Task 4.1, 5.2 DE Stream restoration projects - Steve Williams (DNREC) - see handout

Task 5.2 Raingarden retrofitting - E. Grehl (UDWRA) – see handout

Task 6.1 PA monitoring - Alan Everett (PADEP)

The PADEP conducted pre-monitoring of 3 farms that will receive agriculture conservation projects from the CCCD during 2006. The farm are Windle Farm along Doe Run, Fischer Farm along WB Brandywine, and Hicks Farm along Doe Run. Pre monitoring indicates TSS, N, and P above 200 ppm. % EPT bugs 1% and 0%.

Task 6.2 DE monitoring – David Wolanski (DNREC)

DNREC has established pre monitoring based on existing stream water quality stations in the Christina Basin.

White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Watershed Committee – Chuck Barcz, US National Park Service.

Chuck provided a short overview of NPS activities in the White Clay, focusing in particular on biomonitoring with Stroud..

USACOE Project, Red Clay/White Clay Flooding - Steve Williams (DNREC)

V. Remaining Restoration Needs

DE implementation (TAT) – Kathy Bunting Howarth (DNREC)

DNREC will be working with UDWRA to assemble a Tributary Action Team for the Christina Basin who will recommend priority BMPs to implement the TMDL. Work on the TAT will commence in Jan 2006 and have draft CB implementation PCS by Dec 2006.

PA implementation – Jan Bowers (CCWRA) (See Handout)

PA, Chester County, and municipal governments have contributed over \$5.8 M to Christina Basin programs in 2005 alone.

Non-profits such as BVA, RCVA, WCC W&S, WCWA, and Christina Conservancy have invested much in the Christina Basin.

NPDES Phase II MS4 requirements are driving stormwater ordinances and programs in 46 PA municipalities in CB.

An implementation and funding strategy for the Christina Basin needed for 2006 – 2010 based on successes so far. Determine how \$1.3MM was spent to leverage additional projects. Use success of Watershed Initiative grant to feed additional funding efforts.

VI. Strategic Planning for Sustainable Funding - Group Discussion

EPA watershed initiative grant as the basis for continued funding

List of Federal, state, local funding opportunities

Fund raising opportunities

Organize a coordinating committee to pursue additional funding

VII. Policy Level Coordination Next Steps - Policy Members

1. Schedule CB Policy Committee briefing of Federal, State, County, and municipal officials about progress, implementation, funding in the Christina Basin. Timing – July to September 2006.
2. Delaware (DNREC and UDWRA through TAT) and Pennsylvania (PADEP, CCWRA, CCCD) to assemble 2006 – 2010 implementation and funding strategy to be presented to the CB Policy Committee by Dec 2006.
3. Complete Christina Basin EPA Watershed Initiative Grant projects by Sep 2006 ideally or within 3 years of grant award.
4. Seek media opportunities to publicize progress in Christina Basin related to water quality (DO, P, TSS) and watershed initiative projects.
5. Research water quality trading as a CB strategy. Attend the EPA WQ trading workshop in Philadelphia.
6. Coordinate with City of Newark, United Water and others to explore possibility of deploying more real time monitoring capability.
7. UDWRA will post the presentations from this meeting on the Christina Basin web site at www.wr.udel.edu.
8. Next Christina Basin Coordinating Committee meeting 9 am Thu Jan 26, 2006 by conference call or in person TBA.

VIII. Adjournment - Lunch provided by BVA/RCVA. Thank you!