

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2003
TO: DRBC Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) Members
FROM: Jessica Sanchez, River Basin Planner; Abby Arnold, Resolve Inc.
RE: Next steps from June 10-11 meeting

Thanks to all of you who attended the workshop on June 10-11 for all your hard work. We will prepare a full summary of the meeting, but in the meantime we wanted to outline the action items to update everyone – and remind you of all you accomplished.

Important Date – Next Meeting

Please hold **Monday, July 21, 2003** for the next WAC meeting. We will be in touch with you soon to let you know further details. We are planning to hold the meeting at the DRBC offices in West Trenton or at another location in Trenton.

Action Items

State and Federal Review of the Draft Basin Plan

- The **governors and agencies** will continue their review of the draft plan. Comments will be reported to the WAC at the July 21 meeting.

Statutes and Legal Structures

- **DRBC staff** will propose a way to integrate an explanation of / references to relevant existing federal, state, and municipal statutes and legal structures into the Basin Plan.

Guiding Principles and Concepts

- **Jan Bowers** and **Barbara Hirst** will propose revised language for the principle on sound decision making and best available scientific understanding to be reviewed by the WAC.
- The **Flow Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)** and the **Committee on Ecological Flows for the Upper River (CEFUR)** will propose a definition for ecologic integrity for review by the WAC at the July 21 meeting.
- **DRBC staff** will
 - revise the wording of the new principles to make them parallel with the other principles.
 - review the draft Basin Plan to ensure that terms related to ecologic integrity are used consistently and appropriately throughout.
 - delete the four criteria for actions to implement the goals and objectives and instead include a statement that actions should be judged against the guiding principles. Staff will check that the concepts in the suggested criteria are all represented in the guiding principles and propose revised language for the principles as needed if they are not.
- The **WAC** will reconsider adding “and/or restoration” to the principle on preservation and enhancement of ecologic integrity at the July 21 meeting, if the WAC agrees on a definition of ecologic integrity.

Goals and Objectives

- At its July 16 meeting, the **Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)** will consider the suggested language for two new objectives on reassessing existing basin transfers and existing watershed transfers under goal 1.1. Key points of the WAC discussion on this issue will be presented to the WMAC. Results of the WMAC deliberations will be reported to the WAC at the July 21 meeting.
- **Jan Bowers, David Burd, Ruth Jones, Pat Lynch, Kurt Rieke, and Dave Forney** will work with **DRBC staff** to draft language for a new or revised objective on consideration of recreation for allocation under drought conditions under goal 1.4. The WAC will review the proposed language at the July 21 meeting.
- **Meghan Wren** will work with DRBC staff and other WAC members to revise and expand the objectives for KRA 5 for review at the July 21 WAC meeting.
- **DRBC staff** will incorporate the revisions to goals and objectives agreed to by participants in the small group and plenary discussions. Staff will edit the revisions as requested to improve clarity and consistency with other objectives.

Milestones, Indicators, and Partners

- **DRBC staff** will complete the milestones, indicators, and partners sections of the objectives table, incorporating ideas from the June 10 small group discussions and State feedback.

Plan Adoption and Implementation

- **DRBC staff** will provide the WAC additional detail for the steps in the adoption and implementation processes.
- At the July 21 meeting, the **WAC** will further discuss roles and responsibilities, including 1) the role of the WAC and its members in the development of management strategies and the plan implementation stage and 2) the involvement of other entities (e.g., NGOs, companies).

Public Review

- **DRBC staff** and **RESOLVE** will propose a public and targeted constituency meeting plan for review at the July 21 WAC meeting.

Key Points of Discussion and Agreement

Statutes and Legal Structures

WAC members agreed to include in the plan an explanation of existing relevant federal, state, and municipal statutes and legal structures. DRBC staff will propose a way to integrate this information without diluting the focus on the key points of the plan itself.

Guiding Principles and Concepts

The WAC agreed to add two guiding principles (with wording to be revised by DRBC staff to be parallel with the other principles):

- In making decisions, avoid creating a problem in a different location or environmental medium.
- Recognize and where appropriate build on existing planning efforts.

Some participants voiced concerns about the definition of the concept of ecologic integrity. The WAC agreed to ask the Flow Management Advisory Committee and the Committee on Ecological Flows for the Upper River for assistance in defining ecologic integrity. Participants also asked DRBC staff to review the plan to ensure that terms related to ecologic integrity are used consistently and appropriately throughout.

The WAC identified other potential revisions to be addressed as outlined in the action items above.

Goals and Objectives

The WAC reviewed and revised a number of the objectives. A revised draft reflecting the changes will be distributed to you in the next couple weeks.

The WAC also agreed to add a new goal to KRA 5 related to establishing a basinwide sense of place. Participants noted that the objectives for KRA 5 are not yet as robust as those for the other KRAs. The WAC agreed that a subgroup of members would work with DRBC staff to revise and expand this section for review at the next WAC meeting.

The WAC identified other potential revisions to be addressed as outlined in the action items above.

Prioritization of the Objectives

Through a multi-vote process, participants identified their priorities among the objectives (see attached summary of voting results, including votes received since July 11 (Objective Voting.xls)). The results will provide the basis for further discussion on prioritization at a future WAC meeting.

Plan Adoption and Implementation

DRBC staff proposed a framework for adoption and implementation of the Basin Plan (see attached diagram (Combined FlowDiagram.doc)). Participants commented that the role of the WAC and its members in the development of management strategies and the plan implementation stage needs to be clarified. Participants requested additional detail for each of the steps in the adoption and implementation processes.

Public Review

DRBC tentatively plans to hold six public meetings in the fall, with support from WAC members. WAC members identified the groups, constituencies, and geographic areas on which they will focus their own outreach efforts. They also identified some of the questions to be asked at the meetings. DRBC staff and RESOLVE will propose a meeting plan for review at the July 21 WAC meeting.