Natural Resources Committee  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 3:00 pm  
In the WRC Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Natural Resources Committee present: John Whitman Co-Chair, Bill Dunkel, Kevin Stine, Everett Wilson, Liisa Kissel, Andy Toepfer

Staff present: Marion Major, Emily Davis, Chris Campany, Jeff Nugent

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm with a quorum present and led by John Whitman.

1. Minutes
   - The minutes of October 12, 2016 Natural Resources Committee were approved.

2. Discussion on the Clean Water Advisory Committee’s Overarching goals/priorities for the basin
   - The committee along with representatives from South Eastern Watershed Alliance and Trout Unlimited reviewed the Basin Plans and their implementation tables with Watershed Coordinator Marie Caduto. Funding priorities from the state lie with nutrient loading, impaired waters, sedimentation, and bacteria. With the priorities the committee put forth, Marie will go back to the list in the implementation table and cull out projects which do not align with the priorities. Voiced priorities were:
     o Upper branches and higher elevation water bodies also targeting habitat fragmentation and wildlife corridors.
     o Water quality improvement also targeting habitat improvement, and flood resiliency
     o Re-classification of waters thereby protecting what is already a high standard
     o Invasive species control thereby addressing sedimentation, fluvial erosion implemented by partnerships with towns and water quality groups
     o Agriculture and nutrient control
     o Focus on main river corridor
     o Buffers
     o Focus on connectivity thereby targeting aquatic health and culverts
     o Work geographically from headwaters down to mouth

3. Energy Planning and Map Presentation
   - Marion gave brief introductory presentation to energy resource mapping reviewing that these are not siting maps; more an inventory. The maps show where solar, wind, hydro, and biomass exist in the region based on slope, direction, azimuth, elevation, wind patterns, water bodies, and forest resources. To these data layers is added a list of constraints developed by the Department of Public Service. The maps produced for the meeting reflected the list of constraints for which we have data. The updated constraints list and data are being developed
and will be applied to the maps. The regions will be able to apply regional constraints to this list. These new constraints must be internally consistent with policy laid out in regional and town plans. The committee discussed the data inputs to the maps and asked for data verification. Concern was noted that these maps would be used as the policy tool. The maps will be supporting and informing the plan but the policies will be drawn from the plan itself.

- Staff and committee decided that the maps will need separate event from the Act 174 Municipal Training event on December 7th at 7pm in the Marlboro Graduate Center.

4. **Update on current projects**
   - Tabled until later meeting

5. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 (second Wed. of the month) or as determined.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

*Respectfully submitted, Marion Major*