

Canaan Valley Wastewater Meeting
July 28, 2005 6:00 p.m.
Canaan Valley Fire Hall

Attending:

Paul Durham, Heritage Resources LLC
Cindy Cook, Land of Canaan
Joe Beam, Windwood Resort
James Snyder, Tucker County Health Department
George Constantz, Beaver Ridge Resort
Keith Teter, Operator
Murray Dearborn, Black Bear Resort
Elbert Morton, WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)
Geert Bakker, WV Public Service Commission (WVPSC)
Rob Gilligan, Canaan Valley State Park
Pio Lombardo, Lombardo & Associates Inc. (LAI)
Natalie Brown, LAI
Jack Fleshman, WVDEP – Environmental Enforcement (EE)
Paul Frantz, WVDEP – SRF
Gary Jarrell, WVPSC – Engineering Division
Michael Helmick, Hamrick Public Service District (PSD)
Woody Thrasher, Thrasher Engineering
Dayton Carpenter, Thrasher Engineering
Tom Blanz, Timberline
Stan Skutek, Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge (CVNWR)
Fred Rechile, Timberline Four Seasons Resort
Frederick Herz, Timberline Four Seasons Resort
Rob Stull, Canaan Valley Institute (CVI)
Jenny Newland, CVI
Kiena Smith, CVI
Tracy Coon, CVI
Lois Nelson, CVI, meeting recorder
Ed Winant, CVI
Karen Bonner, Tucker County Planning Commission, CVI Board member
Roscoe Beall, Canaan Valley farmer and CVI Board member

Welcome and Intros

Rob Stull, CVI welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves.

Canaan Valley Institute – Jenny Newland gave a powerpoint presentation on Canaan Valley Institute (CVI), our mission and our work. The presentation included explanation of CVI's teams, work with local communities, focus on outcomes and an example of our work, the Horseshoe Run Watershed Association and projects.

Decentralized Feasibility Study –

- “\$1,840,000 to the Canaan Valley Institute to work in conjunction with the Highlands Action Program for an innovative wastewater demonstration program in Canaan Valley in Tucker County, West Virginia”

What we know is:

- The STAG program is administered by US EPA and WV DEP
- All money spent requires 45% local match
- Resources are intended for implementation of improvements
- About 3% of award will be used by EPA for administration
- Federal regulations (NEPA, MBE/WBE) will have to be addressed

Still to be determined is:

- Desired role of Hamrick PSD
- Process for prioritizing possible projects
- Possibilities for using resources on privately owned plants

There are resources through EPA to prepare a facilities plan with the interested plant owners. It can be started almost immediately. We need to collaborate with the plant owners and engineering firms.

Where to from here?

- This meeting is to gage the plant owners' interest
- Working with engineers and operators on facilities plans
- Discussing management options with all interested parties—owners, Hamrick PSD, PSC, citizens, local officials
- Investigating fine print of STAG

An audience member suggested that we could first go through the NEPA process. Unfortunately, we cannot use the STAG monies for that. The monies are for implementation.

Question – Will we be going from 15 plants to a lower number of plants? Response - CVI hasn't had any discussions with anyone about consolidation. CVI can't even speculate about what would work best. We have had limited conversations with plant owners and we have been to every plant. The bottom line is all options need to be evaluated.

Facilities Plan Process

Pio explained the Facilities Plan Process. Participation is voluntary.

Planning Process Steps:

- 1) Existing conditions assessment
 - a. I/I location and quantities
 - b. Daily flow data
 - c. Effluent monitoring results
 - d. System deficiencies
 - e. WVDEP compliance orders
 - f. TMDLs
- 2) Planning period projections
 - a. Analysis of future growth potential

- b. Interviews with WWTFs
- c. Public meetings
- d. Project website

The result is the preferred plan.

Timeline – Could be initiated in September or October 2005. It must be completed by Spring 2006.

Question – If one entity holds out, would that prevent further allocation or planning until everybody participates? Response – No, everyone isn't needed to participate for a decentralized system to work. All are not penalized if one isn't compliant. The WVDEP Enforcement Division is responsible for insuring facilities meet their permit requirements.

Question – Can money be used by existing plants? Response – The STAG money is not to be used to do a facility plan. The STAG money is for construction. The facility planning is covered separately by EPA.

Question – Is a facility under obligation to go through with the preferred plan, once it is created? Response – No.

Question – What do facilities have to do to be included? Response – There are no requirements. Participation is voluntary.

Question – Where does the 45% match come from? Response - We're not sure private entities can get the STAG money. Yes, entities will have to come up with the 45% match. The public can use a variety of methods to come up with the match. The Wildlife Refuge voiced concern about how they, as a Federal agency, would be able to come up with the 45% match.

Question – Assuming grant monies could be used for private facilities, could it be for a new facility. Response – Conceivably, however it would need to be the most cost effective solution and be prioritized high in the preferred plan. For instance, it might be a new plant to solve an existing problem.

Question – At what point will new development be considered? Will new allocations be allowed? Response – The WVDEP gives out permits, and manages allocations. They would need to address those issues. The information in the preferred plan could be used to go to WVDEP to get allocations changed.

Timeline is that the earliest construction of anything could begin is 2007. An entity has to accept the preferred plan.

Question – What is the downside of not participating in the facility plan? Response – None are known.