

Greetings Stakeholders,

As we approach the Stakeholder Committee organization meeting next Wed, June 30th, we have received a number of questions regarding the process for forming up the Stakeholder Committee and its role in the overall planning process. To help allay the concerns that some of you have, and to ensure that the answers to these questions are provided to everyone, I want to pass along the following information. The content of this email will be incorporated into our website (www.waterqualityplan.org) on the Executive Director's Page and into the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that go on the website.

It is important to start by emphasizing the importance of Stakeholders in what we are doing:

1. If we don't have all the Stakeholders represented in the process, we cannot know what their concerns are and we cannot respond to those concerns in the Plan.
2. If the Plan doesn't respond to the concerns of some of the Stakeholders, then it will not be possible for those Stakeholders to support what we have done.
3. If the Stakeholders do not broadly support the Plan that we produce, then we are wasting our time and we will achieve nothing because the Plan will not be implemented.
4. We want to be fair to all the Stakeholders and to do the best job we can at balancing all of their interests. Knowing they were treated fairly will help the Stakeholders support the Plan once it is completed.

With the above as a background, here are some of the questions that we have received and our short answers:

Q1. Who are Stakeholders?

A1. Stakeholders are the people who may be impacted by the outcome of what we do, and who therefore have an interest in our work.

Q2. What are the Stakeholder Categories that will be represented on the Stakeholder Committee?

A2. Eight Stakeholder Categories were identified at the Stakeholder meeting on June 8th. Additional information about the categories may be found on our website in the documents from the June 8th meeting.

1. Concerned Citizens
2. Development Interests
3. Economic Interests
4. Governmental Entities
5. Local Environmental Preservation/Good Governance Organizations
6. Neighborhood Interests
7. Property Owner/Agricultural Interests
8. Public Interest Organizations

Q3. I cannot be at the meeting on June 30th. Can I still be on the Stakeholder Committee?

A3. Yes. I recommend that you have a trusted colleague attend the appropriate Stakeholder Category Break-out group and inform them that you would like to serve on the Stakeholder Committee. It would be up to the others in that group to make a decision as to whether or not you are selected as a representative. However, you will be at a disadvantage because you will not be there to make your case for being on the Committee, and you will miss the discussion about what the Committee will be doing and the commitment that you will be expected to make if you are on the Committee.

Q4. How much time will I be required to spend if I am selected to be on the Stakeholder Committee?

A4. That is difficult to say, but it will be significant. At present, there are 4 major meetings of the Stakeholder Committee planned over the next 7 months. However, the members of the Stakeholder Committee will be required to put in additional time and effort to prepare for those meetings, to coordinate with other Stakeholders of your Category about the meetings and other matters, and to review the Planning Products that are produced. The responsibilities of a Stakeholder Committee member are significant. Members who fail to meet their responsibilities will be asked to step aside and be replaced by others who are better able to meet those responsibilities.

Q5. If I am NOT named to the Stakeholder Committee, can I still play a part in the Planning Process?

A5. Yes. Even if you are not on the Stakeholder Committee, you are still a Stakeholder. You will have a representative on the Committee who is there to bring your views to the table. Your representative is also expected to keep you informed about the activities of the Stakeholder Committee and the Stakeholder Category Group that you belong to, so that you can make input into the process.

Q6. How will the members of the Stakeholder Committee actually be selected?

A6. The Stakeholder Committee representatives will be selected by all the members of each Stakeholder Category who are present during the meeting on June 30th. For example, all the people who join the "Neighborhood Interests" category during the Break-out Session will select 3 representatives and one alternate who will be on the Stakeholder Committee representing neighborhood interests.

The actual selection process will be up to the Stakeholder Category group as to how to select their representatives; it need not be a voting process, and, ideally, should be a consensus process within the Stakeholder Category group. However, it is important to remember the thoughts I laid out at the beginning. We want to have ALL the stakeholders' views represented at the Stakeholder Committee table. If we find that some important view point is being left out, then we will ask the group to adjust its selection process to ensure all important views are represented.

Q7. What if someone from one Stakeholder Category tries to "infiltrate" another Stakeholder Category Group and influence who is selected to represent that Group on the Stakeholder Committee?

A7. "Infiltration" will not be allowed. Attempts to infiltrate would not be in the spirit of openness and fairness that we have set for this process, and would be a waste of effort and goodwill. There is no advantage to anyone to infiltrate, because, at the end of the day, we are seeking consensus agreement from ALL the Stakeholders to the Plan. Additionally, infiltration would adversely affect those who might attempt it, because it would dilute their voice in the process, and would create a bias against them for not respecting the fairness standard of the larger group. I believe that anyone who understands the fairness standard we have established will see that it would be counterproductive to attempt to infiltrate other Category Groups.

Q8. What if one special interest group or organization tries to flood the next meeting with more people than anyone else, in order to have more "votes" when the members of the Stakeholder Committee are selected?

A8. Widespread participation by Stakeholders is encouraged at this and all meetings, but Stakeholders need to understand that our process must be fair and representative of all Stakeholders' interests. It would not meet the fairness and openness standards if important

Stakeholder viewpoints are excluded. Refer again to the thoughts I laid out at the beginning and to Answer 5 above.

Q9. What procedural rules will the Stakeholder Committee follow?

A9. The Stakeholder Committee will follow Bylaws that it adopts. Proposed Bylaws are being developed by the Consultant for consideration by the Stakeholder Committee, and will be available on our website.

Q10. What is the role of the Stakeholder Committee in connection with the actual development of the Water Quality Protection Plan?

A10. The Consultant is responsible for drafting the Water Quality Protection Plan in accordance with his Scope of Work. The Stakeholder Committee will make input to the Consultant during the development of the Plan. This input will include prioritizing the issues and concerns of all the Stakeholder Categories, and balancing the benefits and costs of proposed measures in ways that are acceptable to the Stakeholder Committee as a whole. The Stakeholder Committee will review and evaluate the planning products produced by the Consultant. Planning products and the final Water Quality Protection Plan will not go forward until the Stakeholder Committee achieves consensus that the plan is acceptable and can be supported.

Q11. How will the Stakeholder Committee reach its decisions?

A11. The decision process to be followed by the Stakeholder Committee will be a Consensus Process. The specific definition of Consensus will be established by the Stakeholder Committee as part of its Bylaws.

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