



State Water Plan Update Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

April 13, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	James McCarthy
Ed Boscola	Susan Myerov
Mark Bowen	Mark Nemitz
Becky Bradley	Chad Pindar
Carol Collier	Bill Royer
Kate Harper	Peter Rykard
Irvil Kear	Elaine Paul Schaefer
Gary Kribbs	Eliza Walbridge
	Nathan Walker

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Joseph Buczynski	Christopher Norris
Patrice Dume	Jane Rowan
Andrew Frankenfield	Christopher Uhland

Others in Attendance:

Kristina Peacock-Jones - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mark Matlock - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	
James Horton - DEP	
Summer Kunkel - DEP	
Brian Chalfant - DEP	

Visitors:

Alex Ridyard
Emily Eyster
Curtis Schreffler

Welcome

Mark Matlock, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting was being recorded, and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology. Chad Pindar, Committee Chair, welcomed all committee members to the meeting. Attendance was recorded through the online participants' log.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that priority number 2 described in page 3 of the minutes has a typo error and repeats the first sentence twice. A question was also asked about the reference to Sanofi in the regional projects showcase on page 6. There is a reference to the Sanofi Pasteur advance wastewater treatment project and should have had additional information or clarification.

The minutes of the meeting with the corrections as noted were approved on a Irvil Kear / Jim McCarthy motion.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Bylaws of the Delaware Regional Committee require an annual election of the committee chair and vice-chair positions. Chair Pindar opened the meeting for discussion and asked for nominations for both the chair and vice-chair positions.

A Kate Harper / Gary Kribbs motion was unanimously approved to re-elect Chad Pindar to the chair position for the committee.

A Kate Harper / Gary Kribbs motion was unanimously approved to re-elect Jim McCarthy to the vice-chair position for the committee.

Public Comment

Chair Pindar opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment.

DEP Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones gave the committee an update of what DEP is working on regarding the State Water Plan update.

The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing projects are progressing well. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is complete and will be deployed soon. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) has been initiated with the IT architecture and data sharing protocols in place. Testing of the data sharing has begun, and the project should be fully operational during the second quarter of 2021.

The fifth Statewide Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2021.

Public Hearing Summary

Mark Matlock informed the committee that a public hearing on the State Water Plan update was held on January 6, 2021. The January 6, 2021 hearing was advertised in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 26, 2020 and all sunshine requirements were met. Each committee's hearing was held for one hour via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to preparation of the regional component of the State Water Plan update.

Written comments were accepted by the committees on or before January 20, 2021. The following public comments were offered:

- Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee – 9:00am – no participants
- Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee – 10:00am – one participant
- Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee – 11:00am – no participants
- Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee – 1:00pm – nine participants
- Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee – 2:00pm – no participants
- Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee – 3:00pm – one participant

Mark reviewed who the individuals or organizations were that presented comments and provided a brief synopsis of the comments. The committee members have received a complete written transcript of the comments provided through the public hearing.

Regional Priorities

Mark Matlock, DEP staff, presented draft statements of the Delaware Regional Committee's priorities to be included in the State Water Plan update. The draft priorities were created from previous ideas, discussions, and prioritization by the committee. The draft priorities presented were:

Regional planning and land use collaboration

"Think regionally and act locally" is a priority for the committee. The committee's solutions to the region's water issues focus on developing regional coordination and planning to address stormwater management, water quality, water availability, water diversion, protecting fish and wildlife habitats, and protecting recreation areas. Solutions are developed through regional planning efforts, education and outreach with policy makers and the community, along with adequate funding. Growth in rural and suburban areas continues to place stress on water infrastructure; larger scale coordination efforts can help ensure more of the region's needs are being accounted for during the planning phase.

Link land use decisions and water resources management

Linking land use decisions and water resources management to sustain and enhance the quality of life in the Delaware River basin is a top priority of the committee. The development and implementation of water resource initiatives would help decision-makers at local, county, regional, and Commonwealth levels strengthen recognition of the link between land use and water resources management. These initiatives would outline how water resources management, flood controls, storm water management, and sewage management relate to land use decisions, infrastructure funding, construction decisions, and grant decisions. The goal of these efforts is to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the quality, quantity, and availability of clean, sustainable water supplies for the people, businesses, and ecological needs of the Commonwealth.

The draft priorities were discussed in depth by committee members and revisions were made to the draft statements and new ideas added to clarify the statements. The revised priorities for the Delaware Regional Committee follow:

Strengthen the link between land use and water resources management

Linking land use decisions and water resources management to sustain and enhance the quality of life in the Delaware River basin is a top priority of the committee. The development and distribution of water resource information and data will help strengthen the link between land use, soil, and water resources management among multiple stakeholders. These educational initiatives would improve how water resources management, soil and vegetation conservation, flood controls, stormwater management, and sewage management relate to land use decisions, infrastructure funding, construction decisions, and grant decisions. The goal of these efforts is to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the quality, quantity, and availability of clean, sustainable water supplies for the people, businesses, and ecological needs of the Commonwealth.

Regional planning and land use coordination and collaboration

“Think regionally and act locally” is a priority for the committee. The committee’s solutions to the region’s water issues focus on developing regional coordination and planning to address stormwater management, climate change, water quality, water availability, water diversion, aquifers, healthy soils, and vegetation, protecting fish and wildlife habitats, and protecting recreation areas. Solutions are developed through regional planning efforts, education and outreach with policy makers and the community, along with adequate funding. Water planning should be considered on a holistic watershed basis considering both droughts and floods. A One Water concept that can further educate the community and increase collaboration among stakeholders for integrated water resources planning. Growth in rural and suburban areas continues to place stress on water infrastructure. Replacement and retrofitting of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure can be a challenge in both urban and suburban communities. Larger scale coordination efforts between local, state, and federal entities can help ensure more of the region’s needs are being accounted for during the planning phase and available resources can be maximized.

A Jim McCarthy / Mark Bowen motion was unanimously approved to accept the “Regional planning and land use coordination and collaboration” priority as revised by the committee members.

A Mark Bowen / Eliza Walbridge motion was unanimously approved to accept the “Strengthen the link between land use and water resources management” priority as revised by the committee members.

A Mark Bowen / Bill Royer motion was unanimously approved to establish the order of the priorities as follows:

1. Strengthen the link between land use and water resources management
2. Regional planning and land use coordination and collaboration

Next Steps

Chair Pindar thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas.

Mark Matlock, DEP staff, provided an overview of the committee's future work.

- Summary notes from today's discussion will be provided to committee members.
- The Statewide Committee will be meeting on May 19, 2021. Delaware Committee members are invited to attend if they would like to listen to the presentations that will occur.
- The next Delaware Regional Committee meeting will be held on July 13, 2021. At this meeting DEP staff are planning to share a StoryMap of water projects completed or in operation since the last State Water Plan update. The committee will also be working on education and outreach ideas. It was recommended that representatives from County Planning Offices be invited to attend and share ideas on education and outreach of the State Water Plan update.
- A future meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am on a Jim McCarthy / Bill Royer motion.