



## **State Water Plan Update Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting**

October 27, 2021  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Tim Bruno	Deborah Phillips
Tony Foyle	Brenda Sandberg
Patrick Gehrlein	Timothy Wachter
Tom McClure	Dennis Whitney
Zachary Norwood	Matthew Wolford
Craig Palmer	David Wright

### **Committee Members Not in Attendance:**

Robert Buhl	Rebecca Hosack
James Cardman	Melissa Lyon
Jason Childs	Susan Moyer
Daniel Gold	Amy Murdock
Joe Greco	Kathy Wyrosdick

### **Others in Attendance:**

Kristina Peacock-Jones - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mark Matlock - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	
Dave Jostenski - DEP	

### **Visitors**

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. Craig Palmer, Committee Chair, welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Palmer opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. No public comment was offered. Mark

Matlock added there was no one attending from the public at the DEP meeting room in Harrisburg.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the April 28, 2021, and July 28, 2021, meetings were unanimously approved on a Tim Wachter / Brenda Sandberg motion.

Chair Palmer discussed committee membership and noted the committee has one vacancy as Harry Diz will be resigning from the committee. There are several members who have missed consecutive meetings and could be removed according to the bylaws. He will work with Mark Matlock to contact the members to see if they would like to continue on the committee or to find replacement committee members if needed.

### **DEP State Water Plan Update**

Kristina Peacock Jones provided an update of what DEP is working on in regard to the State Water Plan Update.

The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing projects are progressing well. The project involving Chapter 110 data for moving water use registration forms from paper to online is complete and has been deployed. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) is in the testing phase. The project should be fully operational during the fourth quarter of this year.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) continue to be under development and the drafts are progressing nicely. Two of those CARPs are for the Ohio Regional Committee and one is for the Potomac Regional Committee.

The State Water Plan Atlas from 2009 is being developed into a Story Map as a Digital Atlas. The Digital Atlas should be ready in the first half of 2022.

The Power BI report summarizing water use data is public and on the DEP website. The link to the Power BI report was distributed to committee members by email.

The eighth Statewide Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021.

### **Story Map**

Mark Matlock shared a draft of the Story Map of the state water plan that is in development. DEP is still developing content for the Story Map and will be adding additional sections. The Story Map will be interactive and is not available for public view at this point. Mark can provide a text version for committee members to review. Sections of the Story Map are:

- Overview of the state water plan
- Tab for the state committee
- Tab for legislative priorities
- Tab for each regional committee

- Each regional committee will have the following sections and content relative to the region
  - Introduction to the region
  - Review of the specific regional priorities
  - Region's uniqueness and characteristics
  - Stormwater and flood management
  - Climate change adaptation and mitigation
  - Notable projects with an interactive map

A discussion followed on the Story Map content.

- Tim Bruno provided editing clarifications and comments on the Story Map to align with existing compact agreements.
- Tony Foyle suggested adding a scale bar to compare the size of Lake Erie along Erie, Crawford, and Potter Counties
- The Committee requested a text version of the story map to provide suggested edits and revisions and also a pdf version to review the layout and pictures.

Mark will revise the draft based on the comments provided and share the revised text with committee members prior to the January committee meeting.

### **Region's Priorities**

Suggested edits to the region's two priorities have been proposed by Matt Wolford. The committee discussed changes to the language on the diversion of water from Lake Erie. It was recommended to create a workgroup to review and make recommendations for editing the priorities and then circuit the revised priorities to the committee for review and approve at the January 2022 meeting. Matt Wolford will lead the workgroup. The revised priorities in the present form are:

### **Protect Water Quality and Quantity in the Basin**

Lake Erie is vitally important to the prosperity of northwestern Pennsylvania, serving regional domestic, commercial, agricultural, and industrial needs. The Great Lakes supply power generation, offer world-class recreational opportunities, and provide transportation and trade access to the entire Great Lakes region, as well as regions connected to it by the St. Lawrence Seaway and various canals. The committee believes that Pennsylvania should have a larger role in federal legislation and other measures that may impact Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, with continued support from local agencies, Commonwealth agencies, and federal agencies. In addition to adequately regulating all sources of pollution that affect the Great Lakes, specific areas of concern include invasive species, diversions, sewage regulations, and agricultural and municipal storm water management.

The committee is opposed to any diversions that do not comply with the existing compacts and agreements. The committee recognizes that the region's waters are not composed solely of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, so inclusive efforts must be made to protect water quality throughout the entire region. Emphasis should be made on analyzing contaminants, evaluating the impacts of storm water management, and utilizing

agricultural best management practices. This will also allow for a better understanding of the impact of climate change on this unique watershed.

### **Coordinate with Partners**

The committee believes that the best way to achieve its goals is to actively engage with partners along multiple political strata. This includes other Great Lakes States, Canadian Provinces, and other stakeholders including governmental and non-governmental organizations. Coordination should begin with education and outreach to better understand land use impacts and implement best management practices to better maintain and enhance the hydrologic integrity of the region. On a local level, municipalities should collaborate toward a regional approach with support from the DEP, whose role would be to champion open and continual communication and incentivize cooperation through grant funding. In addition, local agencies in Erie and Potter Counties should play a larger role in State legislation and rulemaking that affect the Great Lakes region. The Commonwealth should continue to participate and promote an active role in multi-state representative cooperative groups.

### **Logic Model**

James Horton, DEP staff, shared a template for a logic model that can be used to make the region's priorities actionable and measurable. A logic model is a picture that links the long term and short-term outcomes, or changes and results you hope to achieve, with the program activities and resources available to move the priorities forward.

The logic model template has the following components:

- Resources
- Activities
- Outputs
- Intermediate outcomes
- Long term outcomes

Committee members developed comments and ideas to be included in a logic model for each of their two priorities. The Committee will receive a copy of the ideas developed and the draft ideas discussed in the meeting are included at the end of the minutes.

### **Resources and ideas provided in the chat**

- Larger voice in federal "and international" to include us in any work that includes Canada
- IDEA - Municipalities have well-coordinated, sustainably funded drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and services, with an eye toward municipal service sharing.
- Shared data repositories, viewers, and open-use land, water, property assessment, utility infrastructure information.
- The difficulty is municipal governments using proprietary data systems that are not allowed to be shared.

- Regional planning commissions are great resources and potential hosts for this activity. Crawford does this very well.
- The impact of financial incentives should be measurable too - we might see improved cooperation
- Great Lakes Commission passed resolutions at our October Annual meeting. Of note - resolutions on infrastructure and one on climate resilience that had all 8 states and 2 provinces agree: <https://www.glc.org/work/advocacy/resolutions/>
- "A resilient Great Lakes basin is one in which communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, and the economy can withstand, adapt to, and recover from climate-related stressors and changing conditions to ensure equitable and inclusive social, economic, and environmental well-being across the basin."

### **Next Steps**

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

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

- Great Lakes Regional Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022
  - January 26
  - April 27
  - October 26 -
  - A July meeting is not scheduled at this time
- Mark will send a survey to Committee members to obtain feedback on having in-person or virtual meetings in 2022 and scheduling a July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 by Chair Palmer.

## State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

**Goal:** Protect water quality and quantity in the basin.

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP – State Water Plan Section</li> <li>• Great Lakes Regional Committee Members</li> <li>• Penn VEST – grants investment etc.</li> <li>• EPA – policy assistance with infrastructure, asset management etc.</li> <li>• Interstate Compact Agencies – GLC – help craft policies</li> <li>• Federal Infrastructure Bill, specific funds for Great Lakes</li> <li>• Infrastructure Needs Survey &amp; Assessment</li> <li>• Clean Water Academy</li> <li>• USACE</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating with municipal officials and others about the benefits of developing infrastructure and multi-municipal planning</li> <li>• Actively searching for and obtaining funding (at federal as well as state level) for planning and infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Proactively advocate with state decision makers to request money be directed toward municipal Great Lakes infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Continuing education and outreach efforts to local communities</li> <li>• Assess resources with regard to climate change Petition EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, to create more stringent standards within the Great Lakes</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislature and Governor provide funding for previously established and currently underfunded mechanisms for development of multi-municipal plans?</li> <li>• Tool to assist municipalities with finding funding for asset management and infrastructure projects across multiple levels</li> <li>• Roles of state, local and regional authorities clearly defined</li> <li>• Common terminology and language established to explain climate impacts</li> <li>• Utilizing available climate change resources within the region</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminants analyzed in full</li> <li>• Impacts of storm water management full evaluated</li> <li>• Agricultural best management practices utilized throughout the region</li> <li>• Encourage multi-municipal communication about long term needs and potential cooperative ventures.</li> <li>• Complete infrastructure inventories and asset management plans.</li> <li>• Municipal planning supported from programmatic standpoint as well as financially.</li> <li>• Planning for climate change impacts is completed at multiple strata (regionally as well as locally)</li> <li>• Pennsylvania has a larger voice in federal and international legislation.</li> <li>• Commonwealth takes an active role in rulemaking regarding ballast water and invasive species</li> <li>• Streamlined and more comprehensive obstruction and encroachment permitting process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality is protected throughout the basin</li> <li>• More people are participating in beneficial activities for the climate.</li> <li>• Local municipalities are more resilient with regard to a changing climate.</li> <li>• More comprehensive understanding of the policy implications for the Great Lakes in State governance/policy making</li> <li>• Municipalities have well-coordinated, sustainably funded drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and services, with an eye toward municipal service sharing</li> <li>• Prevent introduction of new and expansion of existing aquatic invasive species from neighboring lakes or more broadly.</li> <li>• Shoreline is protected from bluff erosion.</li> <li>• Protect fish for tourism and consumptive use</li> </ul>

### State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

**Goal:** Coordinate with partners

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP – State Water Plan Section</li> <li>• Great Lakes Regional Committee Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify data sources</li> <li>• Identify useable systems</li> <li>• Establish a system that can be universally used. Different levels of data could be established between publicly accessible or paid proprietary products.</li> <li>• Develop system for data management at <i>all</i> levels of government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Party who houses and manages universal data system is identified.</li> <li>• Party (is) who maintain and create/input data to system are identified.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation incentivized through grant funding</li> <li>• Clear understanding of land use impacts between partners</li> <li>• Best management practices</li> <li>• Financial incentives to encourage regional cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication continual and open</li> <li>• Coordinated regional data system with broad access (municipal governments, county governments, state)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>