



State Water Plan Update Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

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

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrea Blosser	Joe McNally
Felicia Dell	Craig Robertson
Tyler Erb	Mark Snyder
Andrew Gavin	Justin Spangler
Sean Kenny	Warren Weaver

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Andrea Danucalov	George Pomeroy
Jennifer Fetter	Byron Ross
Lincoln Kauffman	Thomas Wilson
Mike Kyle	Jenni Woodworth

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	
Brian Chalfant - DEP	

Visitors:

John Seitz

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.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2021, meeting was approved on a Warren Weaver / Andy Gavin motion.

Public Comment

Mark Matlock opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment. Mark added there was no one attending from the public at the DEP meeting room in Harrisburg.

DEP 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. The Story Map includes the following sections:

- 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
 - Susquehanna River
 - Home of the fastest growing populations in Pennsylvania
 - Highest concentration of agricultural land uses

- Experiencing growth and development resulting in abundance of logistic center and need to preserve open space and agricultural land
- Hosts a large concentration of manufacturing which consume more water than logistics and warehousing
- Three large hydropower dams
- Long list of historical impact to the region, legacy sediments, mill dams, and other water resource impairments
- Stormwater and flood management
 - Working toward a long-term strategic approach on a regional and watershed scale
 - Need for regional authorities to assess aging and inventory infrastructure for high frequency storm events
 - More floodplain restoration and removal of legacy sediment would be beneficial to the region
 - Enhanced water quality monitoring network could drive strategic investments
 - Storm water compliance could be improved at the local level by education and outreach
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Flooding is the top hazard municipalities are mitigating for
 - Region municipal development of a floodplain management ordinance would be beneficial
 - With the potential for increase storm frequency and intensity developing strategies to reduce environmental impacts of these storms is needed
 - Develop a map of areas most likely to be affect by climate change
 - Drought management for reservoir systems should be enhanced to account for climate change
 - Promote economic incentives, coordination amongst state, federal, local, and non-government organizations
- Notable projects with an interactive map
 - Conowingo Creek initiative
 - Big Spring Run restoration project
 - County Conservation District water mine monitoring network
 - IWRP

A discussion followed on the Story Map content.

- Consensus of the committee the uniqueness section is good
- Climate change section – The committee provided additional comments to be added to this section
- Management of stormwater is a quantity issues, not quality
- Funding for stormwater is a challenge to municipalities
- Stormwater and flood management – The committee added strategies and revised several statements to the section
- Climate change – list the side benefits of flood mitigation in light of historical impacts; obstructions and encroachments, undersized bridges and culverts,

impairments such as legacy sediment, massive land clearing creating thick layers of sediment within the floodplain, hydroelectric dams and the sentiment behind them

- Notable projects – Committee suggested adding IWRP projects and SRBC’s role in the region. Also suggested adding a link to the Governor’s Award for Environmental Projects to each region of the state.
- Committee members appreciate the overview and feel the Story Map is engaging.
- Question was asked how we will get the general public to use the DEP website and view the Story Map.

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

Regional Priorities

The Committee made revisions and edits to the previous priority statements by combining the two statements and developing a second priority.

Identify and Target Solutions for Potential Protection Priority Water Resources to Reduce or Prevent Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution with a Focus on Currently Impaired Water Resources

Improved water quality sustains drinking water supplies, a healthy ecosystem that supports recreational use, and enables a viable economy. Identify protection priority water resources that may be trending towards impairment for any use, through the collection and analysis of data. Priorities may be determined by looking specifically at emerging contaminants, declining water quality and/or quantity, evolving land use impacts, and flooding issues. Improve the Region’s protection priority water resources through identified targeted solutions that may include education and outreach, asset management, resource improvement, and others.

Reduce existing point and nonpoint source pollution in the region’s significant number of impaired water resources. Focus added attention on currently impaired water resources. Prevent new water pollution throughout the region from all sources. Implement active solutions to reduce pollution by forming public-private partnerships (P3), engaging willing landowners, targeting funding, and others. Broaden support and advocacy for our water resources through enlisting stakeholders, enhancing partnerships, and coordinating efforts.

Definition of "Protection Priority" - water resources prioritized for protection based on potential threats to water quality, for the purpose of setting long-term priorities for where focused efforts towards restoration, best management practices, and protection would provide the most benefit to the watershed.

Enable Continued Responsible Economic Growth by Ensuring Adequate Water Resources

The Challenges associated with this region are water availability, droughts, stormwater infrastructure, water quality, and flooding. Prioritized resiliency solutions to address increased stormwater and flooding that include restoration and expansion of green infrastructure to capture runoff. Strategies may also include proactively managing land development and land management by expanding programmatic and policy flexibility to watershed boundaries to maximize effectiveness of multi-benefit BMPs. Broad support can be provided to local governments and municipalities through training and model ordinances to manage stormwater and flooding and enlisting the cooperation of non-government organizations, watershed groups, and river keepers.

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 drafts logic models developed during the discussion are attached at the end of the minutes. The Committee will receive a copy of the ideas developed and will review the logic model template at the next meeting. Comments provided during the discussion included:

- Long term outcome is to decrease the number of impaired water resources, so the outcome is to delist impaired streams
- Provide funding to incentivize projects
- Site planning for economic development is more sustainable or resilient
- Reduced costs and damages associated with flooding and storms

Resources in the Chat

- DEP's site Floodplain Restoration:
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/RPCO/Pages/Floodplain-Restoration.aspx>
- 2021 Governors Award for Environmental Excellence:
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Awards/EnvironmentalExcellence/Pages/2021-Winners.aspx>
- Expand programmatic and policy flexibility to a watershed scale to maximize effectiveness of multi-benefit BMPs

Next Steps

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

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

- Lower Susquehanna Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022
 - January 12
 - April 13
 - October 12
 - 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 12:00 by the Chair.

Goal: Identify and target solutions for potential protection priority water resources to reduce or prevent point and nonpoint source pollution with a focus on currently impaired water resources

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP, SWP • Committee Members • Watershed Mapping (HUCs) • SRBC • USGS • List of impaired streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess who is already developing tools in water quality fields • Identify funding sources • Identify host organizations (county agencies etc.) • Develop reporting mechanism • Define HUC level • Leverage list of currently impaired streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin a phased approach to water monitoring/stream gages and sensors. • Reporting mechanism • Clear current list of impaired streams (ensure accuracy of current DEP listings) based on more complete water quality monitoring/data • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streams/Watersheds de-listed from impaired status • Clean water available to meet regional uses/needs

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional)

Goal: Enable continued responsible economic development by ensuring adequate water resources.

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP, SWP • Committee Members • Townships/municipalities • DCED • Townships and Boroughs • State Associations (i.e., PSATS) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming session to come up with list of viable projects • Successful pilots to show proof of concept • Develop needs/opportunities assessment on a broad scale, identify where flooding issues, stormwater, local countywide action plans that might help give clarity to the process • Collect/develop model ordinance recommendations • Provide training on ordinances • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic and policy flexibility is expanded to watershed boundaries • List of projects to implement • Revision of ordinance recommendations at a local to accommodate projects, incorporate PPP, and other funding sources • Local communities and municipalities are supported through training and model ordinances to manage stormwater and flooding and enlisting the cooperation of non-government organizations, watershed groups and river keepers. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of projects on a watershed/regional/intermunicipal basis that address high priority needs by effectively using/deploying resources • • Additional floodplains are being restored and green infrastructure is utilized throughout the basin to reduce stormwater impact • Reduced costs/damages associated with flood and stormwater impacts. • Sustainable/resilient site development. •

Draft)

Lower Susquehanna

