



State Water Plan Update Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

October 14, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via SKYPE

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrea Blosser	Sean Kenny
Felicia Dell	Mike Kyle
Tyler Erb	Joe McNally
Jennifer Fetter	Craig Robertson
Andrew Gavin	Justin Spangler
Jeff Hines	Warren Weaver

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Sillas Chamberlin	George Pomeroy
Andrea Danucalov	Byron Ross
Lincoln Kauffman	Thomas Wilson
Ruth Hocker	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 Chalfont - DEP	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	

Visitors:

John Seitz - York County Planning
Wade Gobrecht - York County Planning
David Jostenski
Curtis Schreffler
Sim Sutter

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. Felicia Dell, Chair of the Committee, welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

The minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on a Mike Kyle / Joe McNally motion.

DEP Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities. The USGS Water Use Data and Research Grants data sharing projects are still progressing. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is about 80% complete. The project involving data sharing between agencies has been initiated and the IT architecture and data sharing protocols are being finalized.

Staff within the Department are gathering noteworthy activities and projects achieved over the past ten years that coincide with the State Water Plan. This information will be spotlighted in the State Water Plan update.

The stormwater program is in the process of developing an updated stormwater best practices manual to incorporate green infrastructure. The Energy Programs Office, who is responsible for updating the Governor's Climate Action Plan, is currently in the revision process for the 2021 iteration of the plan. Valuable input provided by Committee members will be passed along to these DEP programs.

DEP staff are continuing to work on better data sharing tools. One of those tools is Power BI, which will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

Presentation on POWER BI

Michael Hill, DEP Geologist, provided a visual presentation and overview of Power BI. Power BI is a data sharing tool designed to expand the number of existing online water use report viewers by eliminating the need to crunch a large dataset for a summary report. It is a Microsoft application. The data presents visually the amount of surface and ground water used within the state. It does not assess water availability.

Maps, tables, and charts are available to show water withdrawals, water usage types and a breakdown of water users. The data can be viewed for each Pennsylvania County, state water planning regions, subbasins, and watersheds. The information can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet or csv format.

The current map, charts, and tables show data for 2018. Eventually data will be available for multiple years and show trends in water usage. 2019 data should be available early 2021 when it is confirmed all suppliers have provided their data. Power BI will be available to the public on the DEP website soon. The system is currently completing internal review by IT and Communications staff prior to approval for public use.

Presentation by York County Planning Commission on Integrated Water Resources Planning

A presentation to the Committee was provided by York County Planning Commission staff on the Integrated Water Resources Planning guide developed for York County. The presentation was provided by Felicia Dell, John Seitz, and Wade Gobrecht.

York County has developed an Integrated Water Resource Planning process. The IWRP is a joint effort between York County Planning Commission, PA DEP, and county stakeholders (engineering firms, municipal representatives, York County Conservation District.) The goals of the program are to provide a broad spectrum of water resource management information, integrate water resources into planning, comply with federal and state programs, determine needs and gaps in the management of water resources, and educate and engage stakeholders.

The IWRP is accomplished through a flowchart tool. The flowchart tool integrates all water issues, is simple to use, does not repeat existing efforts in planning and data collection and gives more detail to each process step. A simulated project was demonstrated using the flowchart tool. The link for the flowchart tool is: www.paiwrp.com. The presentation materials provided by York County Planning are available from DEP.

Regional Committee Survey Data

A DEP online survey was available for Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee members to complete prior to the meeting. The survey asked participants to provide open ended responses to two questions on stormwater management and climate change. The survey feedback was reviewed, and Committee members were given an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.

The first survey question on stormwater management and summarized survey responses included:

The last State Water Plan update included stormwater management with a focus on flood management. The goal for updating the stormwater management portion is to include a stronger focus on stormwater BMPs, which address both quantity and quality. What other areas of stormwater management do you think should be considered for this update?

- Provide funding for counties to complete Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans which would most likely go a long way in helping to curb flooding due to over development.
- Regional planning or watershed scale planning of water resources possibly lead by a county, 'watershed authority', or partnership of municipalities.
- Consideration of changing storm event frequencies, duration and return frequencies as they relate to BMP design standards. Consider quantity and quality with cost/benefit analysis.
- More complete Water Quality Monitoring network to drive strategic investment in BMPs. If more accurate water quality monitoring data were available, the specific

pollutant loads, and the source of pollutants could be better identified (groundwater vs surface water runoff) thereby directing smarter BMP selection and construction.

- Assess aging infrastructure for high frequency storm events.
- Restoration of floodplains (and floodplain function) by removing legacy sediment impairments to reduce flood elevations, attenuate peak flows and improve water quality.

Committee members comments:

- The bullet points cover the breadth and depth of the issue; would like to see a more strategic approach
- What are the underlying causes we can fix simply and then the more costly solutions
- Interaction with legacy sediment, important factor that is not recognized; removal of legacy sediment is a priority; should DEP consider legacy sediment as a core impact?
- Continue focus on development and redevelopment; current BMPs are outdated and not providing the improvements needed; failing BMPs exist
- Mill dam removal of legacy sediments studies from F&M College indicate this is an especially important issue
- Water quality management achieved through better data
- Water quality monitoring: York County partnering with USGS to identify nitrates, phosphates, turbidity; useful in identifying sources of problems
- Regionally gathering and compiling data may help identify priorities; ranking and developing priorities should guide strategies
- Manufacturing in south central PA impacts water availability and water use; if manufacturing increases is the water available; what are the impacts to homeowners and residents
- PA WIP and MS4 based on urbanized areas defined by the census; 70% of development is occurring outside the MS4 areas; who should be required to do an MS4, should not be based on population because a lot of population and sediment outside of MS4 areas

The second survey question on climate change and summarized survey responses included:

Now that we have briefly discussed climate change at our July meeting, which aspects of climate change do you think we should focus on in our discussion at the next meeting for consideration in the State Water Plan update?

- The potential/likelihood for increased storm frequency and intensity. How these storms events can and should be handled to reduce risks to safety and environmental impacts.
- Preparing to be resilient in terms of both flash flooding and potential decreased groundwater recharge. Discuss the implications of such events.
- Prepare a map of those areas that are most likely to be affected by climate change based on pre-selected categories such as topography, infrastructure, population/housing density, ecological setting (e.g. wetlands), etc.

- Planning for resilience to an amplified drought of record for protection and conservation.
- Drought management and basin scale management of reservoir systems and flow management policies should be included.

Committee members comments:

- Climate change relates to the hazard mitigation planning; flooding is one of the top 2 or 3 hazards municipalities are trying to mitigate
- PA is trending wetter and warmer; more frequent intense, short duration events, increase flooding
- Droughts: ground water recharge is being reduced; put an emphasis on the reservoirs; ensure we have water supply in the event of drought
- Look holistically at climate change impacts through a watershed
- Ellicott City MD (case study) on flooding; intense rainfall events in smaller water sheds needs to be looked at holistically
- Smaller systems not preparing for water quantity needs; lots of shallow wells not prepared for droughts
- Emergency management preparedness is critical
- Disconnect / misunderstanding between the rain increase and ground water management; water is not infiltrating into the ground
- Create visuals so variety of stakeholders can see what is going on; identify critical areas to proactively protect resources

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.

- Summary notes from today's discussion will be provided to Committee members.
- A virtual public hearing is planned for the first week of January, tentatively January 6. There will be two public hearings sessions held in one day and each regional committee's public hearing will last one hour. The am public hearing session will be an opportunity for public input on the Delaware, Potomac, and Lower Susquehanna regions. The afternoon public hearing session will be an opportunity for public input on the Ohio, Great Lakes, and Upper/Middle Susquehanna regions.
- At the January regional committee meeting the Committee members will discuss and vote on part or all the regional water planning priorities, stormwater management priorities, and climate change priorities.
- At the April 2021 regional committee meeting Committee members will finalize the priorities they wish to move forward to the State Committee.
- The State Committee will finalize the updated state water plan at the scheduled meeting in May 2021.

The next meeting of the Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee will be held on January 13, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting. The April Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am by Chair Dell.

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