



**State Water Plan Update
Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting**

July 28, 2020
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Skype

Committee Members in Attendance:

Daniel Dahlkemper	Ronald Musser
Terry Dayton	Mary Ellen Ramage
Sam Dinkins	Ron Rohall
Chuck Durista	Deb Simko
Matthew Genchur	Robert Softcheck
Duane Goodsell	John St. Clair
Kevin Halloran	Jasun Stanton
Sheryl Kelly	John Walliser
Deb Lange (<i>Heather Mango on behalf of Deb</i>)	
Jason McCabe	Donna Lynn Zofcin
Annie Quinn	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Erin Kepple Adams

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	
Raksha Varanasi - Dep	

Visitors:

Al Guiseppa - CARP Presentation
John St. Clair
Jonathan Burgess
Lyn Rodino

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

Public Comment

Chair Rohall 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 January 28, 2020 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on a Mary Ellen Ramage / Chuck Durista motion. The vote was completed by a voice vote.

State Water Plan Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities achieved over the past 10 years that coincide with the State Water Plan Update. DEP has continued to work on better data sharing tools such as Power BI which will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

The Department is improving data sharing through USGS Water Use Data and Research Grants (WUDR 3 and WUDR 4) data sharing projects. WUDR 3 will improve the end user experience of inputting their Chapter 110 water reporting data. WUDR 4 will share data between agencies (SRBC & DRBC). The Department also continues to work on digitizing the Water Atlas into a Story map. This will create an online user-friendly tool that presents the State Water Plan achievements and incorporates cross references to other applicable programs and initiatives.

CARP Presentation:

An update on the draft CARP for Back Creek and Laurel Hill Creek watersheds was presented by Al Guiseppe of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy Engineering firm. The CARPs were initiated in 2012 but not completed.

The Back Creek CARP draft in 2012 identified water quality supply, demand, and source water protection issues. Back Creek is in Fayette County and is adjacent to the Seven Springs Resort. Updated withdrawal and discharge information has been collected through the annual monitoring of stream flow since 2010. There is no daily stream flow data to assess the withdrawal flow from the stream. There has not been much change in stream flows over the past 10 years, but the stream is exporting more water that is available. Back Creek is a stressed water shed and it is important to continuously monitor the stream flows.

Recommendations for the Back Creek CARP include:

- Water demand
 - Participate in the AWWA Partnership for Safe Water

- Conduct an AWWA Water Audit
- Develop and update a leak modeling, detection, and repair program
- Conduct a snow making audit
- Adopt water conservation goals and measures
- Update drought contingency plans
- Water supply
 - Reuse treated wastewater for landscaping and snow making
 - Reuse treated wastewater for commercial applications
 - Reuse grey water for irrigation and toilet flushing
 - Evaluate the potential of ICVWA increasing use of the Mill Run Reservoir
 - Develop new sources of supply outside the Back Creek Basin
- Source water protection
 - Implementation of existing source water protection plans
 - Develop a dialogue with local oil and gas well drilling companies
 - Coordinated effort to monitor water quality
 - Conduct seasonal stream gaging of Back Creek and headwater streams
 - Landscape with native plants
 - Establish a riparian buffer and streambank protection program
 - Enact water resource ordinances

A draft plan was developed for Laurel Hill Creek in 2015 that addressed concerns about the export of water from the watershed. An initial water budget analysis identified a .58 million gallons per day deficit. After a review of the data the following Laurel Hill Creek CARP conclusions have been developed:

- A .17 million gallons per day water availability surplus for the entire watershed area
- Water deficits have been identified in headwater sub-basins
- The watershed no longer exhibits the potential water use conflicts identified in the original CWPA assessment
- Headwater areas still exhibit potentially stressed conditions due to water withdrawal
- Conflicts can best be resolved at the local level through permitting and allocation renewals
- It is not recommended to go forward with the Laurel Hill Creek CARP

Next steps - Hold a public hearing for the Back Creek CARP.

Data Provided through the Regional Committee Survey

An online survey was previously provided to Ohio Regional Committee members and 17 members completed the survey. The survey asked members to rank regional priorities, comment on Integrated Water Resources Planning, comment on climate change, and comment on the uniqueness of the region compared to the rest of the commonwealth.

Priority Issues

Priority rankings of issues identified in the survey is provided in the following chart.

Priority	Ranking
Inter-agency water resource planning	11.53
Storm water management	11.18
Water quality and water supply	9.41
Reclaim water resources impaired by abandoned mines	9.12
Forest lands - buffers and water quality	8.82
Creating watershed districts	8.76
Identify water resources needed to promote and facilitate economic development	8.65
Climate change and impact on storm water	8.41
Marcellus shale impact on water quality	8.12
Emerging contaminants in water systems	8.06
Data collection on usage and sharing of information	7.65
Communication and coordination of water planning	7.12
Abandoned mines	6.41
Inter-basin transfer of water	5.71

Committee members discussed the priorities identified. Consensus of the members is that priorities can be grouped together to reduce the total number of priorities.

1. Priority 1 is Inter-agency water resource planning

- a. Interagency planning can address many of the key issues and priorities
- b. Identify water resources needed to promote and facilitate economic development while maintaining watershed integrity and recreation benefits
- c. Federal, state, local municipalities, conservation district, nonprofits, Army Corp Engineers are all involved
- d. Study how we can use and reuse water for fracking
- e. Communication and coordination of water planning
- f. Data collection and data sharing will facilitate better planning; use local educational resources to conduct research and collect data
- g. Act 167 plan is a county water planning requirement; Allegheny County just adopted its first one

2. Stormwater management

- a. Climate change impact on storm water
- b. MS4
- c. Stormwater infrastructure is lacking funding
- d. Forest buffers help reduce flooding
- e. Can we use a regional authority or watershed district to support stormwater management efforts
- f. Easements on farms create open space for storm water to flow

3. Holistic approach to water quality and water quantity

- a. Water quality is the goal that everyone is working for
- b. 50% to 60% of land is forests; healthy forests can do a lot to protect both water quality and quantity.
- c. Forests help to address impacts of climate change
- d. Creating watershed districts can help with both water quality and water quantity

- e. Water Quality
 - i. Abandoned mines lack funding, impacting streams
 - ii. Emerging contaminants in water systems
 - iii. Emerging sources, new large-scale industries coming into the region
 - iv. Role of sediment as contaminant
- f. Water Quantity
 - i. Inter-basin transfer of water
 - ii. Public water supplies
 - iii. Climate change impacts

The following individual comments were offered during the discussion:

- This survey aligns with survey information that was collected and reviewed several years ago.
- We will not make progress if we do not work together - state agencies, federal agencies, municipalities, watershed districts, conservation districts
- Municipalities have so many concerns and regulatory requirements to address
- Need inter-department planning within DEP; challenge getting different departments working together; everyone is planning within a silo
- Next 10 years interbasin transfer is going to become an important issue
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is planning to plant 10,000 trees to help with climate change (The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership is a collaborative effort of national, regional, state, and local agencies, conservation organizations, outdoors enthusiasts, businesses, and citizens committed to improving Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and ecology. The Partnership aims to facilitate the planting of 10 million new trees in priority landscapes in Pennsylvania by the end of 2025)
- Stormwater management is critical in Forest County
- Stormwater management is the top priority for most municipalities
- Abandoned mines are a huge concern; combine abandoned mines with reclaiming water resources
- Abandoned mines passive treatment are starting to fail; requires a lot of maintenance and continuous funding; AMD funds are dwindling and will need more funding in the future; abandoned mine water can be used for fracking
- Combine interbasin transfers with quality of water
- Resource planning; not enough data sharing between agencies; need everyone using the same data sources
- Climate change should be higher in the priorities
- Forest buffers are important; healthy forests protect water quality and water quantity; trees and buffers are a quick solution
- Contaminants are important; connected to water quality

Resource:

- https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/drinking_water/PFAS/Pages/default.aspx
- <http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/emappa/>

- <https://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/programs-initiatives/keystone-ten-million-trees-partnership.html>

Questions 2, 3, and 4 of survey - Integrated Water Resources Planning

Q2 What comes to mind when you hear the term Integrated Water Resources Planning (IWRP)?

future partnerships holistic agencies IWRP planning efforts quality flooding
 planning including water project approach identified
 water resources see needs funding watershed

Q3 How could IWRP help your region?

needed water resources individual stormwater plan issues watershed
 coordinated water headwaters management problems within page
 working focused many

Q4 How do you see the state helping to facilitate your region's IWRP efforts?

stormwater needed group water IWRP Land use state planning agency efforts
 regional Provide keep

Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- Mark Matlock, DEP, stated that IWRP is a key priority for the State Committee
- Watershed districts are part of the IWRP planning
- Watershed associations are important but have no authority, enforcement power or regulatory power
- Municipalities are starting to work together because of flooding issues
- IWRP is a tool for greater agency collaboration
- Anne Quinn provided the U.S. Water Alliance has created One Water Council which is a similar collaborative initiative
- Westmoreland County has completed an IWRP plan and it integrates with Act 167 plan
- York and West Chester have also completed IWRP plans

Resources:

- www.paiwrp.com - IWRP flowchart tool
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/page.asp?id=1> - IWRP flowchart
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/uploads/pdf/York-IWRP-Flowchart.pdf> - York County IWRP flowchart
- <https://www.ycpc.org/319/Water-Resources-Planning>
- <http://uswateralliance.org/one-water>

Questions 5 & 6 - Climate Change Survey Feedback

Q5 How has climate change affected your region? For example, increased heavy rain events and flooding, water availability, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), etc.

region water year seen climate change variability streams
storm events flooding higher increase stormwater events intense Will
within storms

Q6 Climate Change: How do you think your region could/should adapt to or mitigate these climate change effects?

flooding watershed storms planning water standards need increased
stormwater Give management will rain issues

Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- At the next Regional Committee meeting there will be a presentation on climate change

Resource

- OBRA - Ohio River Basin Alliance
- University of Pennsylvania listening tours to establish an Ohio River Network, funded by Heinz Foundation
- <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/default.aspx> - link to DEP's webpage on climate change
- <https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx> - climate action plan for Sacramento County, California

Bylaws Change

A proposed change to Article XII of the Bylaws was reviewed with the Committee. The proposed change to the Article follows:

“The Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Committee by two-thirds vote of the full Regional Committee membership (15 voting members) providing that written notice of such change has been sent via email with a read receipt to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting.”

A Chuck Durista / Duane Goodsell motion to accept the bylaws change was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Next Steps

Chair Rohall thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas. DEP would like to document achievements in the Ohio Region that have occurred since the last plan was developed. Please provide ideas and stories to Mark Matlock at the DEP office.

To complete the work for the updated plan, each meeting will focus on one or two topics for discussion. DEP will provide the identified topic(s) for discussion in advance of the next meeting, and possible homework reading, so committee members have time to prepare background information and solutions.

The State Committee will be meeting August 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting. Mark Matlock stated that DEP requires the meeting to be held via SKYPE and this is the platform that will be used for future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm on a Dan Dahlkemper / Terry Dayton motion.