



**State Water Plan Update
Upper Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee
Meeting**

October 28, 2021
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
In-Person Rachael Carson Building

Committee Members in Attendance:

Patrick Burke	Robert Shannon
Andrew Gavin	Jerry Walls
Todd Giddings	Jim Weaver
Kurt Hausammann	Jennifer Whisner
Shannon Rossman	Cathy Yeakel

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Steven Barondeau	Russell James
Jared Dressler	Rhonda Manning
Beth Kern	Tony Maury
Andrew Gutshall	Wendy Walter
Dennis Hameister	

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	

Visitors:

Corey Rilk
Josey Gaskey

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. Shannon Rossman, Committee Chair, welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance; no committee members attended in person.

Public Comment

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

Chair Rossman shared the State Senate is considering a bill that would update the Clean Streams Law (Senate Bill 545). She will continue to track the progress of the bill.

A question was asked if standards for private well drilling is being discussed by the statewide committee and will be included in the plan. Mark indicated a recommendation for well drilling standards should be in the updated state water plan.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 29, 2021, meeting was approved on a Todd Giddings / Andy Gavin motion.

Jerry Walls asked if Pennsylvania has established a policy on renewable energy. The question was based on the solar farm information provided by committee members. Mark Matlock said the state has a renewable energy office but does not know what policies they have established.

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. The Story Map will include 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
 - Stormwater and flood management
 - Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Notable projects with an interactive map

A discussion followed on the Story Map content:

- Stormwater management – suggestion to modify the language on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4). Assessing infrastructure should be forward-looking with consideration of climate projections and changes to the regions climate
- Notable projects – possibly add:
 - Silverdale Project for preservation of river wetlands; a joint project with three municipalities, DCNR, and DEP

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

Logic Model

James Horton, DEP, 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, 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 in the Chat

- http://cedatareporting.pa.gov/reports/powerbi/Public/DEP/WUDS/PBI/PA_Water_Use_Annual_Summary_Report - Report Server Web Portal
- Turtle Creek restoration, PA DEP has info in the Clean Water Academy <https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=192>

Next Steps

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

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

- Upper / Middle Regional Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022:
 - January 27
 - April 28
 - October 27
 - A July meeting is not scheduled at this time; may be listed as a workshop meeting and can be held if there are actions to be completed.
- 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 on a Todd Giddings / Jen Whisner motion at 11:51 a.m.

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Protect important headwater habitats, enhance recharge areas, and minimize stormwater runoff of the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Basin

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP – SWP Section • Upper/Middle Susquehanna committee members • DCED – for model language/standards zoning ordinances • DCNR • PennDOT <p>Integrated Report for stream impairment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide central location for source water protection plans • Catalogue zoning overlays that might serve as examples • Draft language for zoning overlays • Obtain copies of model ordinances • Identify organizations that certify sustainable forestry practices • Using DEP integrated materials to assess creek health • Review integrated report to understand how it assesses stream health regarding AMD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to protection zones delineated by providers • Generic overlay language and models available to interested municipalities • Committee members advocate with state and federal government to restore funding to AMD mitigation grant programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of water suppliers that have source water protection plans; every provider should have a plan which identifies zones in need of protection. • Language in standalone ordinances reflect stormwater management best practices where broader zoning ordinances are not as practical • PennDOT measures/reduces impact of salt and road treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headwater resources and groundwater recharge areas are protected throughout the region • Stream designation improvements as a result of improved water quality throughout the region • Improved source water quality throughout region and reduced costs in water treatment from public water suppliers • Coordinated public land management • Fewer AMD impacted streams

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Multi-municipal planning and coordination

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP – SWP Section • Upper/Middle Susquehanna committee members • Spring Creek Watershed Commission • York IWRP – as an example • Westmoreland IWRP – example • Source Water protection coalitions • Tioga and Potter County • Columbia/Montour Coalition • Yearly meeting for source water protection coalitions • DCED – provide resources to municipalities seeking to develop multi-municipal water resource plans • SRBC – to support development and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify organizations in the region that are currently developing IWRPs (or IWRP adjacent policies) and determine how they can coordinate with various strata of public or private entities • Identify successful IWRPs that could be used as models • Identify potential funding sources/incentives and technical assets for IWRP • Promote cooperation through yearly meeting • Identify hurdles in permitting process to developing IWRPs • Committee members to educate DCED on quality/quantity water resources issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful IWRP pilot program(s) for others to emulate and further develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined permitting/regulatory process (single point of contact, clearing house, single set of guidelines) to encourage implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated water resources management throughout the region • Improved water quality and quantity • Public support for IWRM