



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

March 16, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Kevin Moore
Len Bradley	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Carol Collier	Michael Roth
Andrew Dehoff	Trish Salvia
Sean Donnelly	Deb Simko
Jennifer Fetter	Simeon Suter
Kate Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison	Matthew Wolford
Heidi Moltz, Ph.D	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Theresa Eberly	Jeff Jumper
Brian Eckert	Gary Merritt
Patty Elkis	Shannon Rossman
Matthew Genchur	Heather Smiles
Daniel Gold	Steve Tambini
Andrew Gutshall	Jessica Trimble

Others in Attendance:

James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill – DEP	
Dave Jostenski – DEP	
Abdolhossain Liaghat – DEP	

Visitors:

Steve Cavanaugh	Susan Myerov
Sheryl Kelly	Tree Layton Zuzzio
George Kunkel	

Welcome

James Horton, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting was being recorded and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology. Chair Tim Weston welcomed everyone attending the meeting. Attendance was recorded in the Microsoft Teams participant's log.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of the January 19, 2022, meeting was reviewed. Kate Harper commented the bullet item on the top of page three of the summary should be amended to be "Many small systems in existence are experiencing financial and management challenges." The meeting summary with the correction was approved on a Kate Harper / Drew Dehoff motion.

Public Comment

Chair Weston opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was offered.

DEP Summary of Activities

James Horton provided a summary of DEP activities in regard to the State Water Plan Update.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing project involving data sharing between agencies is now operational for Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and USGS. Data sharing is still pending with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) continue to be under development and the drafts are progressing. Two of those CARPs are in the Ohio region and one is for the Potomac region. The Back Creek CARP may be available for the Ohio regional committee meeting in April.

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

Public hearings to solicit public input on the drafted regional components of the State Water Plan took place on March 11, 2022. Regional committees met in January and plan to meet again in April, at which point they will review public input from the hearings and vote on their proposed regional components.

One person in the Ohio region offered testimony during the public hearings. No other regional committee had public testimony. It is anticipated that additional individuals or organizations will offer written testimony.

Deb Simko commented that the Seven Springs Resort has been sold to the Vail Group and the CARP planning committee is waiting for a contact person to be identified to participate in the CARP meetings.

Workgroup Updates

A. Sustainable Infrastructure – Report provided by Tim Weston

The workgroup has not met but members are working on the wording of the recommendations. The recommendations are being reviewed by DEP staff and the workgroup is waiting for comments from DEP before they meet again.

B. Water Supply – Report provided by Drew Dehoff

The workgroup's final draft report is being prepared.

C. Floodplain and Stormwater Management – Report provided by Len Bradley

The introductory narrative is being updated and then the report will be given to the workgroup to review.

D. Contaminants of Emerging Concern – Report provided by Trisha Salvia

Workgroup has not met. Members are currently reviewing the report and recommendations.

E. Legacy Issues – Report provided by James Horton

Workgroup is working on the report and recommendations.

F. Integrated Water Resource Management and Coordination Across State Agencies – Report provided by Carol Collier and Kate Harper.

The two workgroups are being integrated into one. The workgroup will be meeting with DEP on Monday to discuss DEP's ideas on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The key issues are the integration of state agencies and local management of land use.

Review of Legislative Priorities

Legislative priorities have been taken from the workgroup recommendations that specifically call for legislative outcomes. The task of the statewide committee is to determine the priority order in which the legislative priorities will appear in the final update report. The statewide committee feels that prioritization is important for identifying funding resources.

Trisha Salvia and Jen Fetter commented that agriculture impact as the top impairment source is missing from the legislative priorities. Trisha, Jen, and Kelly Anderson agreed to serve on a subcommittee to identify possible legislative priorities addressing agriculture. Additional comments on the legislative priorities provided by members included:

- IWRM is important to facilitate planning from a watershed perspective.
- Greater influence on federal legislation is missing to address inter-state impacts on water resources, invasive species, and agriculture.
- The legislative priorities should identify both statewide and regional priorities.
- The Chesapeake Bay legislative priorities should be included.
- Adequate funding and staff for DEP needs to be included.

Statewide committee members agreed it may be important to identify all identified priorities in the report but the top one to five priorities should be clearly articulated.

Review of Draft Documents Components

Three draft documents prepared by DEP were reviewed with the statewide committee.

1. **Assessment of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies** – DEP has developed a document that summarizes statewide and regional recommendations to tackle climate change adaptation. This component is new and dovetails with other DEP efforts, particularly the Climate Action Plan 2018 and 2021.
2. **Data Access and Collaboration** – Reviewed by Mike Hill, DEP staff. This report details the ongoing work of DEP to improve data access surrounding water usage and withdrawals as well as sharing that information with stakeholders.

A comment was made that consumptive use still needs to be measured and possibly included as a recommendation.

3. **Water Withdrawal and Use** – Reviewed by Mike Hill, DEP staff. The statewide committee was shown this document in the last meeting on January 19. DEP has since added a paragraph discussing water use and the reports produced by the Susquehanna River basin Commission and Delaware River Basin Commission.

Regional Committee Updates

James Horton reviewed the public hearing update. Only one public comment was offered. An effort must be made for more public input for the hearing on the final plan review and adoption. The next round of regional meetings will be held in April.

Next Steps

In May the statewide committee will review the regional components and in July will approve the proposed report.

Future Meetings

The statewide committee is on a bi-monthly schedule. The remaining meeting dates for the statewide committee in 2022 are:

- May 11
- July 20
- September 21
- November 9

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. on a Len Bradley / Kate Harper motion.