



State Water Plan Update
Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
January 28, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Westmoreland County Conservation District
218 Donahoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Committee Members in Attendance:

Erin Kepple Adams	Ronald Musser
Sam Dinkins	Mary Ellen Ramage (phone)
Chuck Durista	Ron Rohall
Matthew Genchur	Deb Simko
Duane Goodsell	Robert Softcheck
Kevin Halloran (phone)	John St. Clair
Sheryl Kelly (phone)	Jason Staton
Deb Lange	John Walliser (phone)
Jason McCabe	Donna Lynn Zofcin (phone)

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Daniel Dahlkemper
Terry Dayton

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	
Dave Jostenski - DEP	

Dave Jostenski opened the meeting welcomed everyone. The DEP staff and Strategic Consulting Partners (SCP) facilitators introduced themselves. All committee members and visitors in attendance introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of the interest in the work of the committee. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed by Monica Gould.

State Water Plan Update

Dave Jostenski provided an overview of what the State Water Plan update will include and what will not be included and how this plan update will be different than the plan developed between 2003 and 2012. This plan update has a shorter timeframe and it is

anticipated it will be completed in two years. Quarterly regional planning committee meetings will be held in 2020. In the first two quarters of 2021 the Regional Committees will be drafting recommendations to present to the State Committee. During the second half of 2021 the State Committee will review the Regional Committees recommendations and develop a finalized plan to be presented to the Secretary of DEP.

The current plan update's primary objectives include:

- A review and update to the state water plan
- Review of the policies and requirements of Act 220
- Review and revisions to the goals of each planning region
- Development of strategies for implementation of the 2018 Climate Action Plan
- Development of strategies and a model for long term planning and funding of the planning process
- Recommendations for legislative, regulatory, policy and programmatic changes to Act 220.
- Review, complete, approve and adopt the Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) in the Potomac and Ohio Regions.
- Complete additional web-based applications and tools to convey water resources information to the public.

Election of Regional Committee Officers and Statewide Committee Nominees

Ron Rohall volunteered to fill the Chair position for the Ohio Regional Committee. A Robert Softcheck/Deb Simko motion to nominate Ron Rohall for the Chair position was unanimously approved. A Robert Softcheck/Sam Dinkins motion was made to nominate Chuck Durista for the Vice Chair position and the motion was unanimously approved

Deb Simko, Duane Goodsell, and Matt Genchur volunteered for nomination to be appointed to the Statewide Committee. Only one individual can be selected to represent the Ohio Regional Committee, but other individuals can be appointed by the Governor who represent the interests of a cross section of water users. A motion was made to nominate Deb Simko, Duane Goodsell, and Matt Genchur for the Statewide Committee. The motion was unanimously approved, and the names will be submitted for Statewide committee membership.

Ohio Regional Planning Committee Bylaws

Bob Whitmore reviewed the Delaware Region committee bylaws which were approved in 2004. A comparison of all regional committee bylaws was provided and variances in different committee articles related to meetings, voting, and executive sessions were reviewed. Article XII: Amendment of By-Laws provides that "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) provided that written notice of such change has been sent via certified mail with a return receipt to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting."

A Deb Simko/Mary Ellen Ramage motion was unanimously approved to recommend changing this article to eliminate the certified mail requirement and change this section to

include written notice be sent via email with a read receipt requirement. The motion included maintaining the two weeks notification prior to the meeting. This article will be revised by the Chair and the written notification by certified mail will be provided to all committee member prior to the next meeting. If committee members have additional suggestions for bylaws changes, they should be sent to the Chair prior to the next meeting.

Regional Priorities

Mark Matlock, DEP staff member, reviewed the regional priorities that have been identified in the current state water plan. A future document will be provided to Regional Committee members on accomplishments since the State Water Plan was last adopted.

This includes:

- DEP regulation changes, new programs, and studies that have been completed;
- Accomplishments and changes at the federal, state and local levels;
- Actions that have been proposed.

Committee members were provided a list of the regional priorities developed in 2003. Members were asked to identify which priorities are still relevant, which ones have changed, and what should be added as a new priority. Committee members were divided into small workgroups to identify initial priorities they believe the Ohio Regional Committee should consider. Priorities identified by the workgroups include:

- Stormwater management - requirements and legislation
- Creating watershed districts
- Forest lands - buffers and water quality
- Interagency water resource planning
- Marcellus shale impact on water quality
- Data collection on usage and sharing of information
- Climate change impact on stormwater
- Abandoned mines
- Emerging contaminants in water systems
- Interbasin transfers of water
- Water quality
- Communication and coordination of water planning

Critical Area Resource Planning (CARP)

Mike Hill, DEP staff member, provided an overview of the three CARPs initiated since the State Water Plan was adopted. Neither of the CARPs have been approved and it is a priority to finish the CARPs. The Back-Creek watershed and Laurel Hill watershed CARPs in the Ohio Region were both initiated in the last State Water Plan. For the Back-Creek and Laurel Hill Creek watersheds an Advisory Committee was established, data was collected, and the writing of the plan was begun. But the circumstances around the Laurel Hill Creek plan have changed. The goal is to provide a draft of the both CARPs to the Ohio Regional Committee at the April meeting for review and the Committee can decide how they want to move forward.

A question was asked if there are additional areas that should be considered as Critical Water Resource Planning Areas. These areas, if identified, will not be part of this Statewide Water Plan Update but will be considered in the next update.

Climate Change

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP staff member, provided a high-level review of the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. The Plan identifies 19 overall strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change. Water resource strategies identified in the Plan include:

- Strategy 14 - Use stormwater best management practices, and
- Strategy 15 - Promote integrated water resources management and water conservation.

Future Meetings

A tentative schedule of the quarterly meetings for 2020 and the first half of 2021 was provided to Committee members. The tentative schedule was accepted. The present meeting location is good, and it was also suggested to hold meetings in the Cranberry area because it is more centrally located in the region. It was agreed the April meeting will be held at the current meeting location, Westmoreland County Conservation District.

Action Items

- Home addresses for mailings will be updated by DEP staff
- An email list of Committee members will be provided to the Committee
- Ideas for changes to the bylaws should be sent to the Chair
- Notification of the one agreed upon bylaws change, Article XII, Amendment of Bylaws, will be sent to Committee members prior to the next meeting

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.