



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

September 15, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rachel Carson State Office Building
Room 105
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

In-Person Option and Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.
Len Bradley	Kevin Moore
Carol Collier	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Andrew Dehoff	Trish Salvia
Sean Donnelly	Deb Simko
Jennifer Fetter	Heather Smiles
Matthew Genchur	Simeon Suter
Kate Harper	Steve Tambini
Richard Harrison	Tim Weston
Jeff Jumper	Matthew Wolford
Gary Merritt	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Theresa Eberly	Andrew Gutshall
Brian Eckert	Shannon Rossman
Patty Elkis	Michael Roth
Daniel Gold	Jessica Trimble

Others in Attendance:

Mark Matlock – DEP	Monica Gould – Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill – DEP	Bob Whitmore – Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton – DEP	Brian Chalfant – DEP
Dave Jostenski – DEP	Lisa Daniels – DEP

Visitors:

Andrea Blosser	Matthew Fritch	Sheryl Kelly
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Pat Bowling
Becky Bradley
Tim Bruno
Joe Buczynski
Marla Stuckey
Brandon Fleming
Anthony Foyle
Anne Quinn
Jane Rowan

Josie Gaskey
Andy Gavin
Kevin Halloran
Jason McCabe
Kurt Hausamman
Abdolhossain Liaghat
Lincoln Kauffman
Donald Swartz

Erin Kepple-Adams
George Kunkel
Rhonda Manning
Peter Rykard
Joe McNally
Susan Myerov
Deb Phillips
Mark Snyder

Welcome

Mark Matlock, 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. The only attendees present at the in-person meeting room were DEP staff.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 21, 2021, meeting was approved on an Andrew Dehoff / Matt Wolford motion. A typo to be corrected was noted in the minutes regarding misspelling of Great Lakes.

Election of Officers

The bylaws stipulate the chair and vice-chair positions are to be voted on each year. Chair Weston opened the meeting for nominations for the chair position. A Matt Wolford / Drew Dehoff motion to retain Tim Weston in the chair position was unanimously approved.

Chair Weston opened the meeting for nominations for the vice-chair position. A Matt Wolford / Drew Dehoff motion to retain Kate Harper as the vice-chair of the committee was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

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

DEP Summary of Activities

Mark Matlock provided the committee an update of what DEP is working on regarding the State Water Plan Update.

- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Water Use Data and Research grant data sharing projects are moving forward
- Data sharing is operational and in the testing phase
- Three Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) are in review by DEP staff
- The Atlas from the 2009 State Water Plan is being developed into a StoryMap Atlas for the 2022 Plan

- Power BI water data system is in place and DEP is researching if the system can be expanded to show all consumptive use of water
- The seventh round of regional meetings will occur in October
- Dave Jostenski has rejoined the DEP team to support the State Water Plan update

Information Presentations

1. An informational presentation was provided by Lisa Daniels, Director of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water. The presentation was an update on drinking water in Pennsylvania.
 - According to the 2020 census, Pennsylvania has 13 million residents and 11.4 million (88%) of the population are served by 8,347 public water systems
 - 12% of the population are served by private wells
 - 1,939 community water systems, 83% are small systems serving less than 3,300 individuals
 - Creating safe drinking water has these challenges
 - Threats to source water protection
 - Contaminants of emerging concern
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Balancing simultaneous compliance
 - Strengthening resiliency and sustainability
 - New regulations
 - Federal lead and copper rule revisions
 - Microbial/disinfection byproducts rules
 - Emerging/unregulated contaminants
 - Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5)
 - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
 - PFAS
 - PFAS are a class of synthetic chemicals used to make products resistant to water, heat and stains and are found in industrial and consumer products
 - PFAS readily dissolve in water and are highly persistent in the environment
 - In March 2021 EPA published a final regulatory determination to propose drinking water regulations for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
 - Governor Wolf established a PFAS Action Team by Executive Order in September 2018 to develop a comprehensive response to sources of contamination, ensure drinking water is safe, manage environmental contamination, and review gaps in data and oversight
 - DEP is taking corrective action with public water systems with PFOS/PFOA levels above EPA's Health Advisory Limit (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).
 - The Bureau of Safe Drinking Water conducted sampling of drinking water within PA from 2019 through March 2021

- DEP is proposing maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) and maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS
 - Proposed PFOA MCL of 14 ppt.; cost of \$85 million over 20 years; provides a 90% improvement in health protection compared to current EPA HAL of 70 ppt
 - Proposed PFOS MCL of 18 ppt; cost of \$74 million over 20 years; provides a 93% improvement in health protection compared to current EPA HAL of 70 ppt
2. An informational presentation was provided by Brandon Fleming, Ground Water Specialist with the USGS. The presentation was focused on integrated water science activities in the Delaware River Basin.

USGS is increasing observations through new stream gages and water temperature sites. They are also completing fresh saltwater mapping, eco mapping, stable isotope sampling, and studying ion/chloride surrogates.

Workgroup Updates

1. Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation – Update provided by Len Bradley
Flood Control Draft Recommendations:

- The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) review and update elements of Pennsylvania Enhanced All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, invest in enhanced flood forecasting and warning systems, support the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) updating of flood insurance rate maps
- Appoint a Commonwealth Flood Coordinator
- Increase efforts to protect floodplains and enhance community recovery assistance following flood events
- Require all municipalities to enact floodplain ordinances

Stormwater Management Draft Recommendations:

- DEP provide an information center (Clean Water Academy) to provide education and training
- Fund, promote and encourage water resource restoration projects
- Regular updates to PA Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual

2. Water Withdrawal and Use – Update provided by Drew Dehoff

Draft Recommendations:

- DEP work with the river basin commissions, USGS and other partners to improve reported water use data and projecting future demand trends
- Statewide Water Resources Committee, DEP and General Assembly evaluate current water rights and water withdrawal arrangements
- Establish statewide private water well construction standards

- Improve drought monitoring practices and encourage proactive monitoring among public water suppliers
- All public water supply systems should evaluate vulnerabilities of water sources to the impacts of increases in frequency and intensity of flooding and droughts

3. Water Efficiency – Update provided by Drew Dehoff

Draft Recommendations:

- Information on water efficiency technologies and practices should be developed and incorporated into the Clean Water Academy
- Expected need for increased irrigation in the face of climate change should be assessed
- System Asset Management training and requirements should be developed

4. Legacy Issues Impact – Update provided by Gary Merritt

Draft Recommendations:

- Water well construction standards
- PFAS
- Stormwater management
- Non-coal mining
- Water and sewer infrastructure
- Abandoned oil and gas wells
- Abandoned dumps
- Brownfield sites

5. Emerging Contaminants – Update provided by Trisha Salvia

Draft Recommendations:

- Establish a statewide Contaminants of Emerging Concern program
- Private drinking water well construction standards
- Support for DEP labs to test expanding list of analytes and have an in-house toxicologist for risk assessment

6. Integrated Water Resources Management – Update provided by Drew Dehoff and Kate Harper

Draft Recommendations:

- Recommended the American Water Works Association Manual of Practice methods be considered as a baseline for water supply needs
- DEP with assistance from other state agencies should develop a framework that links water resources planning and other water management programs
- General Assembly should consider financial incentives that encourage water resources management
- DEP and PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) should work together to provide services to assist counties efforts to prepare and implement integrated water resources management plans

- Pennsylvania should review current policies to correct obstacles to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
- Evaluate successful IWRM plans and use these plans for education and outreach

7. Coordination Among State Agencies – Update provided by Carol Collier

Draft Recommendations:

- Internal PA State Agency Coordination – single point of contact
- Intra basin coordination
- State and federal coordination
- State and local government coordination
- New legislation – IWRM platform

Regional Committee Updates

The DEP StoryMap will be shown at the regional meetings in October.

Delaware Region – Update provided at last meeting.

Lower Susquehanna Region – Update provided at last meeting.

Potomac Region – Update provided at last meeting.

Ohio Region – Update provided by Mark Matlock – The committee made slight changes to their priorities and will share the revisions at a future meeting.

Great Lakes Region – Update provided by Matt Wolford – The committee feels the DEP office in the region needs more resources. The committee is also reviewing statutes on diversion of water that are in place to ensure the protection of water in Lake Erie.

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Region – Update provided by Mark Matlock – The committee reviewed the priorities and are developing clarifying language in the priority statements. The committee has expressed a concern with solar farms being proposed in the region and wrote a position paper for the Statewide Committee to consider.

Next Steps

The next steps in the planning process developed by Chair Weston follow:

1. Over the next three weeks committee members should review draft recommendations developed by the work groups and provide their comments to Mark.
2. At the next meeting on November 17 the committee will review the work committees' recommendations.
3. The final documents should include an explanation of the current conditions and problems and recommendations to address the issues.

Future Meetings

The committee has moved to a bi-monthly schedule. The next meeting date for the Statewide Committee is November 17, 2021. Mark noted that since the state has released the restriction on in-person meetings, the next meeting will have an in-person option for individuals to attend at the DEP building in Harrisburg. The meeting will also be held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am on a Carol Collier / Kate Harper motion.