



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

January 23, 2020
1:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Ferguson Township Building
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801

Committee Members in Attendance:

Steven Barondeau	Beth Kern
Jared Dressler	Robert Shannon
Andrew Gavin	Jerry Walls
Todd Giddings	Wendy Walter
Andrew Gutshall (proxy Josie Gaskey)	Jim Weaver
Dennis Hameister	Jennifer Whisner
Kurt Hausammann	Cathy Yeakel
Paul Heasley	Tim Horner
Shannon Rossman (phone)	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Patrick Burke
Stephanie Stoughton
John Yamona

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	

Visitors:

Corey Rilk - Visitor
David Thomas Roberts - Visitor
Prasenjit Mitra - Visitor

Dave Jostenski opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The DEP staff and 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 primary objectives will 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 Nominations

Jerry Walls was nominated to be Chair of the Upper-Middle Susquehanna Regional Committee on a Kurt Hausammann/Jennifer Whisner motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Kurt Hausammann was nominated to be Vice Chair on a Dennis Hameister/Paul Heasley motion and the nomination was unanimously approved.

Shannon Rossman and Andrew Gutshall (via proxy Josie Gaskey) volunteered to serve on the State Committee. Only one individual can be selected to represent the Regional Committee, but other individuals can be appointed who represent the interests of a cross section of water users. A Paul Heasley/Jennifer Whisner motion was approved to submit both names as recommendations for Statewide committee membership.

Upper-Middle Susquehanna Regional Planning Committee Bylaws

Bob Whitmore reviewed the Great Lakes 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.”

If committee members have 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 Committee members on accomplishments since the State Water Plan was adopted. This includes:

- DEP regulation changes, new program, and studies;
- 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 Great Lakes Regional Committee should consider. Priorities identified by the workgroups include:

- Education and outreach
- Flooding - ties to climate change; impact of development
- Infrastructure - collection and distribution; replacement of existing
- Invasive species
- Impacts - industrial use
- Marketing
- Malls and box stores abandonment and impact on stormwater
- Standards for water well construction
- Integrated water resources management - how far have we come?
- 537 plan updates and requirements
- Municipalities addressing environmental issues and integrating policies between municipalities
- MS4
- Updating hydrographic mapping
- Headwaters to the Susquehanna
- Wetlands mitigation and banking of wetlands credits

Critical Area Resource Planning (CARPs)

Mike Hill, DEP staff member, provided an overview of the three CARPs initiated since the State Water Plan was adopted. There are no current CARPs in progress in the Upper/Middle Susquehanna Region. There is no plan to add new CARPs in this planning process of the State Water Plan Update. There are two watersheds the Committee may want to consider for future Water Plan Updates: Sugar Creek Watershed and Spring Creek Watershed. The process for considering future Critical Water Planning Areas will

remain the same but the data will need to be updated. The advantage of creating a CARP is approval could provide additional technical resources to the planning area.

Climate Change

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP staff member, provided a high-level review of the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan identifies 19 overall strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change in Pennsylvania. 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 of meeting dates for the year was accepted. It was agreed meetings will be held at the current meeting location, Ferguson Township Municipal Building and if this building is not available the Centre County COG building may be available.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.