



State Water Plan Update Ohio Regional Committee Meeting

October 22, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Sam Dinkins
- Duane Goodsell
- Kevin Halloran
- Sheryl Kelly
- Heather Manzo
- Ronald Musser
- Ron Rohall
- Deb Simko
- Robert Softcheck
- Jasun Stanton
- John St. Clair
- Anne Quinn
- Catherine Tulley

Others in Attendance:

James Horton – DEP Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Susan Weaver – DEP Jenny Gallagher Blom – Strategic Consulting Partners

Visitors:

Welcome

James Horton, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting was being recorded, and provided helpful hints on the use of technology.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

Nominations were accepted for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee. Bob Softcheck nominated Anne Quinn to be Chair. Deb Simko seconded the motion for Anne as Chair and asked for nominations to be closed. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee to elect Anne Quinn as Chair of the Ohio Regional Committee.

Bob Softcheck nominated Deb Simko for the position of Vice-Chair, and Deb accepted the nomination. The election of Deb as Vice-Chair for the Committee was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Meeting Summary

The summary of April 23, 2024, was reviewed by the committee members. The meeting summary was approved as presented on a Ron Rohall / Duane Goodsell motion.

Public Comment

Chair Anne Quinn opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment.

By-Laws

James (DEP staff) reviewed Article XII of the Ohio Committee By-Laws. The current by-laws state the following about amending the by-laws: “the By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Committee by two-thirds vote of the full Regional Committee membership (15 voting members).” James said internal review of the by-laws by legal counsel is asking this article to be corrected to state:

“The By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Committee by a simple majority vote of the full Regional Committee membership provided that written notice of such change has been sent via either certified mail with a return receipt or an email with a read receipt to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting.”

This change will align the by-laws with Act 220. The legal opinion is this is a change to comply with the Act and does not need to be voted on by the committee as a by-law change.

A Deb Simko / Sam Dinkins motion was offered for consensus of committee members to confirm acceptance of the proposed correction to the by-laws.

DEP Update

James Horton, DEP, provided an overview presentation of the state water planning process and the direction forward.

DEP Team

- Sue Weaver - Environmental Program Manager, Interstate Water Resources Management
- James Horton – Environmental Group Manager Water Use and Planning Section
- David Jostenski – Water Program Specialist

Regional Committee Objectives

2025 – Draft regional content

2026 Q1 – Combined Public Hearing and Meeting

2026 Q3 – Send to Statewide Committee for Approval

Five Year Plan

2023 – Outreach/Recruitment/Review

2024 – Implementation and Analysis
2025 – Workgroups and drafting content
2026 – Editing/Compiling public content

Outreach

Upcoming tools:

Webpage with key plan details, partner links, and examples of IWRM projects.

Analysis

- IWRM work group planning.

CARPS

- Back Creek, Ohio Region – In review phase with DEP.
- Laurel Hill Creek CARP, Ohio Region – In review phase with DEP.
- Marsh and Rock Creeks' CARP, Potomac Region - In review phase with DEP.

Deb Simko requested DEP attempt to resolve the Back Creek CARP and then Laurel Hill CARP. Deb notes Laurel Hill was dry again this year. Deb requested that the two CARPs be addressed before next year. James stated he and Sue have not had time to complete the reviews.

Committee Health

Eleven proposed committee members for regional committees are currently in the review and approval process, and applications have been sent to the Governor's office for appointment with the committees.

Roles to Fill in Ohio Regional Committee

- County Conservation District Director
- County Planner
- Horticulture
- Industrial, Commercial, Energy Development and Production – 2 positions
- Local Government

New Members Added to the Committee

- Catherine Tulley – Water Resources Management
- Heather Manzo – County Conservation District Director
- Tom Goughenour – Environment and Conservation

Recruiting New Members Process



Presentation by Sam Dinkins, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)

The presentation by Sam Dinkins on East Palestine Train Derailment is attached as a separate presentation document.

IWRM Workgroup Discussion

A workgroup to discuss IWRM was created with volunteers from the regional committees and the statewide committee.

- The workgroup held three meetings – May, June, July
 - May agenda – What are issues to be addressed with IWRM?
 - June agenda – Who is already implementing IWRM?
 - July agenda – What roles do different stakeholders play in IWRM?
- The workgroup decided that IWRM is a collection of principles.

The IWRM definition used by the workgroup was:

IWRM Definition

"[IWRM is] an approach to managing water that looks holistically at the planning and management of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater systems. IWRM focuses on the water cycle as a single connected system and promotes coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize the economic and social benefits while minimizing impacts on the environment."

American Planning Association

<https://www.planning.org/knowledgebase/watermanagement/>



Findings

- A holistic approach is best to achieve results.
- Collaboration between stakeholders is important.
- Framework for IWRM work – IWRM Principles and IWRM Outcomes
 - Implementors – people working on the ground and implementing ideas.
 - Resources – to provide background information and data for decision making.
 - Decision makers – planning and coordination

Suggested Actions

- Pre-application meetings with developers.
- Connect local stakeholders with resources and tools.
- Catalogue existing efforts and compile a body of knowledge that others can replicate.

Discussion

- York County has an IWRM plan.
- Regulations and laws change, and it is difficult to keep an IWRM plan updated.
- Pennsylvania is fragmented with local government efforts and hard to coordinate on a county basis.

Items in the chat

None

Next Steps

Next meeting – The next Ohio Regional Committee meeting will be held in October 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. on a Catherine Tulley / Sam Dinkins motion.