



**State Water Plan Update
Statewide Committee Meeting**

August 19, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via SKYPE

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrew Dehoff	Kevin Moore
Andrew Gutshall	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Brian Eckert	Len Bradley
Daniel Gold	Matthew Genchur
Deb Simko	Matthew Wolford
Gary Merritt	Patty Elkis
Heather Smiles	Richard Harrison
Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.	Sean Donnelly
Jan Bowers	Shannon Rossman
Jeff Jumper	Simeon Suter
Jennifer Fetter	Steven Tambini
Jessica Trimble	Theresa Eberly
Kate Harper	Tim Westin
Kelly Anderson	Trish Salvia

Others in Attendance:

Mark Matlock - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton - DEP	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	
Summer Kunkle - DEP	
Sean Donnelly - PUC	

Visitors:

Ben Lorson - PA Fish & Boat Commission
Alex Riyard - SAGE Services
Thomas Mccaffrey -
John Seitz - York County Planning
Susan Myerov
Curtis Schreffler - U.S. Geological Survey
Carol Collier

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. Monica Gould completed a roll call for attendance and each member of the committee and visitors present introduced themselves and the agency or professional discipline they are representing.

State Water Plan Update

James Horton, DEP, provided an overview of what the State Water Plan update will include, 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 is anticipated to be completed in two years. Quarterly Regional Committee meetings and Statewide 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 and first two quarters of 2022 the State Committee will review the Regional Committees recommendations and develop a finalized plan to be presented to the Secretary of DEP.

The current state water plan update primary objectives include:

- A review and update to the state water plan
- Review, approve, and adopt the Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) in the Potomac and Ohio planning areas
- Development of strategies for implementation of the 2018 Governor's Climate Action Plan
- Complete additional web-based applications and tools to convey water resources information to the public

Secondary objectives and deliverables for the update include:

- 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

Topics that will not be worked on during this update to the State Water Plan include:

- Conducting inventories of water sources
- Performing water availability assessments
- Water availability projects
- Water availability screening
- Evaluating watersheds for Critical Water Planning Areas status
- Establishing subcommittees

Election of State Committee Officers

The responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions as stated in the Statewide Committee Bylaws was reviewed by Bob Whitmore. Tim Westin previously served on the Statewide Committee and served as Chair of the Committee. A Matthew Wolford motion to nominate Tim to serve as Chair of this Statewide Committee was seconded by Jan

Bowers. The nomination was unanimously approved for Tim Westin to serve as Chair of the Statewide Committee

Kate Harper, who also previously served on the Statewide Committee, agreed to be nominated for the Vice-Chair position. A Matthew Wolford / Jan Bowers motion to nominate Kate for the Vice-Chair position was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Statewide Committee Bylaws:

Bob Whitmore briefly reviewed the Statewide Committee bylaws. Kate Harper recommended Article XI be revised. Article XI states “The By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Statewide Committee by two-thirds vote of the full voting Statewide Committee membership (16 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.” Kate’s recommendation is this Article be changed from certified mail to email with a read receipt. Motion by Matthew Wolford/ Kate Harper to begin the process of revision.

Chair Westin asked all Committee members to review the current bylaws and provide any suggestions for changes, in addition to the recommended change proposed by Kate, to the Chair and Vice-Chair within the next two weeks. All recommendation for changes to the bylaws will be provided to Committee members at least two weeks prior to the next meeting by certified mail in compliance with the current bylaws.

Public Comment:

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

Recommendations for Action

The previous Statewide Water Resources Committee developed recommendations to improve water resources management in the Commonwealth. Committee members were asked if the previous recommendations for action are still relevant to the current discussions and what changes or new priorities they would recommend. The previous recommendations were grouped into three topic areas:

1. Integrated Water Resources Management
2. Navigation Needs and Improving Water Transportation
3. Stormwater Management and Flood Control

Feedback provided by Committee members on the three recommendations include:

1. Integrated Water Resources Management

- State has made some progress on IWRM but still has a lot to do
- Should consider linking land use decisions with water resources management
- IWRM planning needs to be driven by data and the best available science, founded on comprehensive watershed planning
- Planning needs to be implemented using innovative approaches including adaptive management, policy changes and partnerships
- Climate change impact should be at the top of the list

- Look to extend resources and plans like the Chesapeake Bay WIP plan across the state
- Look at county plans - What teeth do they have in implementation? What are the incentives for property owners and municipalities to follow county plans?
- Recreational use of water is increasing
- Come up with a funding source to fund initiatives, current funding systems are over-used
- Integrate land use and water resources management
- IWRM term is very general, what does it mean?
- Need infrastructure to address water concerns, funding for infrastructure
- Water resources for all, equity, and environmental justice
- Engage the public more
- We are not moving the needle on water quality, too much focus on administrative and legal issues
- Air quality and pollution can cause water pollution issues
- EPA regions not connected with PA regions

2. Navigation Needs and Improving Water Transportation

- Not as significant issue
- May have been influenced by dredging in the Delaware River

3. Stormwater Management and Flood Control

- Climate change and resiliency and impact on flood control and management is a higher priority
- Impaired streams report shows issues are getting worse
- Agricultural run-off and storm water run-off concerns
- Stormwater management and flood control are a higher priority than before
- Many issues still need to be addressed, extremely high in cost to address
- Climate change reports, part of the decision-making process
- Challenge to handle more intense storms
- Look at current regulations and other states regulations to see how this is being handled, Pennsylvania is 5 to 10 years behind other states
- Take a regional approach and use developer funds more holistically
- Infrastructure (culverts/roads), local governments need to support upgrades to infrastructure
- Urban stormwater management
- Agriculture practices and conservation practices
- High heat follows big storms and creates issues for algae blooms
- Privately owned utilities would like to join the solution efforts, how do they play a role?
- Landslides due to increased rain events and less snow
- Emerging contaminants impacting water quality, recreation, fish, and wildlife
- Need to change definitions of a 50- and 100-year storms
- Storms of high intensity and low duration are having a significant impact

Legislative Priorities

In 2008 nine legislative priorities were recommended to implement the State Water Plan. Committee members provided feedback on these nine legislative priorities.

- Pennsylvania has not passed private water well construction standards; legislation passed one chamber but not both
- Well drillers are licensed but there are no statewide standards
- Well standards remain a priority to protect consumer and public health

Resources and Links Provided During the Meeting

- DCNR & PA Geological Survey - Legislative priority on well construction standards
- Pennsylvania Climate Change Impacts Assessment Update April 2020
<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Energy/Office%20of%20Energy%20and%20Technology/OETDPortalFiles/ClimateChange/2020ClimateChangeImpactsAssessmentUpdate.pdf>
- http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Energy/Office%20of%20Energy%20and%20Technology/OETDPortalFiles/Climate%20Change%20Advisory%20Committee/2020/8-25-20/Presentation_ICF_2021%20IA%20and%20CAP_2020-08-25.pdf
- <https://dced.pa.gov/download/state-land-use-growth-management-report-2015/?wpdmdl=65493> - State land use and growth management report - for additional information email Jessica Trimble - jtrimble@pa.gov
- <https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2019/05/new-laurel-highlands-study-documents-37.html>
- https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NRMRL&dirEntryId=339719 - Ohio River Basin climate change study from USACE 2017
- <https://dvrpc.org/> - DVRPC - Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- <http://www.adamscounty.us/Munic/HamiltonbanTownship/Documents/Ordinances/Ordinances/2014/Ordinance%202014-01%20Standards.pdf> - Adams County well construction standards
- https://www.depgis.state.pa.us/2018_integrated_report/index.html

Critical Area Resource Plan (CARP)

Mike Hill, DEP staff member, provided an overview of the three CARPs initiated from the previous State Water Plan. Laurel Hill Creek and Back Creek CARP's were initiated in the last plan, but draft plans were not completed. Updated data to support the CARPs is being collected, and updated drafts of the CARPs will be presented to the Regional Committee in October 2020.

A public hearing was held for the Marsh Creek CARP in 2012. New data is now being collected by the engineer and an update for the draft CARP is in progress and will be available for the Regional Committee in October 2020.

Climate Change

The Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan developed in 2018 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.

Climate action plan activities and ideas for the Statewide Committee to consider include:

- Review of activities in progress at the federal, state, regional, local levels, and private organizations
- Consideration of variations between regional and statewide levels
- Identify climate adaptation strategies and tasks to be explored
- Identify multisector collaboration towards implementation of strategies
- Consider tracking progress through key performance indicators

Regional Committee Updates

An update of Regional Committee activities was provided by a representative from each Regional Committee.

1. **Delaware Regional Committee** - Update provided by Kate Harper - Committee members in the Delaware Region provide a broad range of perspectives. The Committee feels IWRP needs to be integrated into all activities. Overarching concerns identified by the Delaware Committee include climate change, equity, environmental justice, land use decision and funding. Key priority issues identified are stormwater management, water quality, water availability, recharging, recreation needs and water withdrawal and diversion. Solutions envisioned by the Committee include regional planning, education and outreach, policy decision making, land use linked to regional planning, and funding.
2. **Great Lakes Regional Committee** - Update provided by Matthew Wolford. Great Lakes Committee members have expressed a frustration with different states and Canada handling water issues differently than Pennsylvania. The top priorities identified by the Committee are:
 - Supporting legislation and other measures that will protect the quantity and quality of water in Lake Erie.
 - Collaboration, coordination, and communications with partner jurisdictions, other states, and Canada.
 - Water quality - analysis of contaminants, storm water management, climate change impact, and agricultural best practices.
3. **Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee** - Update provided by Jennifer Fetter. Lower Susquehanna Committee supports data collection and the use of data to identify priorities and the use of resources. The region is one of the fastest growing in population within Pennsylvania and has an abundance of impaired streams. Adams County's Phase 3 WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) developed for the

Chesapeake Bay watershed is a good model that could be used throughout Pennsylvania. The regional Committee also reviewed the York County IWRP flow chart and find the flow chart to be useful.

The committee's top priorities are:

- Climate resiliency
- Protecting "at risk" water resources and reducing or preventing point and non-point source pollution with a focus on impaired streams
- Identifying at risk water resources and when they are at risk

4. **Ohio Regional Committee** - Update provided by Deb Simko. The regional Committee is finding colleges and municipalities working together to address water issues. The region also has legacy issues from acid mine drainage. The Committee's priorities are:

- Interagency water resource planning
- Stormwater management
- Holistic approach to water quality and quantity

5. **Potomac Regional Committee** - Updated provided by Kevin Moore. Regional Committee has experienced members. Adams County has developed a model well standards ordinance that may be helpful to other regions. Growth is an important issue for the region. Committee priorities are:

- Develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity and preserves ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water
- Integrated regional planning for land use and managing growth
- Climate change resiliency

• **Upper / Middle Susquehanna Regional Committee** - Update provided by Andrew Gutshall. The committee has veteran leadership. The region has the highest percentage of state forest lands, has a diversity of land use, and is experiencing economic challenges. Regional Committee members feel the state water plan needs to be comprehensive and flexible. Committee priorities are:

- Protecting important head water habitats and recharge areas
- Multi-municipal planning and coordination

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Statewide Committee will be on November 12 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and will be a virtual meeting. Future meetings will be held in February, May, and August of 2021. It is anticipated the meetings will be held the second week of the month on a Wednesday or Thursday. Meetings will be scheduled so they do not conflict with other DEP advisory committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. on a Matthew Wolford / Theresa Eberly motion.