



State Water Plan Update Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

July 14, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Skype

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	James McCarthy
Ed Boscola	Susan Myerov
Mark Bowen	Mark Nemitz
Becky Bradley	Christopher Norris
Joseph Buczynski	Chad Pindar
Carol Collier	Bill Royer
Patrice Dume	Jane Rowan
Andrew Frankenfield	Peter Rykard
Kate Harper	Eliza Walbridge
Irvil Kear	Nathan Walker
Gary Kribbs	Christopher Uhland

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Elaine Paul Schaefer

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	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	
Brian Chalfont - DEP	

Visitors:

Alex Ridyard
Paul Racette

Welcome

Mark Matlock, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting was being recorded, and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology. Chad Pindar, Committee Chair, also welcomed all committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call using both verbal and chat activities.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

The minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a Kate Harper / Irvil Kear motion.

State Water Plan Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities achieved over the past 10 years that coincide with the State Water Plan Update. DEP has continued to work on better data sharing tools such as Power BI which will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

The Department is improving data sharing through USGS Water Use Data and Research Grants (WUDR 3 and WUDR 4) data sharing projects. WUDR 3 will improve the end user experience of inputting their Chapter 110 water reporting data. WUDR 4 will share data between agencies (SRBC & DRBC). The Department also continues to work on digitizing the Water Atlas into a Story map. This will create an online user-friendly tool that presents the State Water Plan achievements and incorporates cross references to other applicable programs and initiatives.

Data Provided through the Regional Committee Survey

An online survey was previously provided to Delaware Regional committee members and 15 members completed the survey. The survey asked members to rank regional priorities, comment on Integrated Water Resources Planning, comment on climate change and comment on the uniqueness of the region compared to the rest of the commonwealth.

Priority Issues

Priority rankings of issues identified in the survey is provided in the following chart.

Priority	Ranking
Regional planning / land use collaboration	11.20
Stormwater management	11.07
Climate change	11.00
Link land use decisions and water resources management	10.87
Water quality	9.93
Public education / outreach	9.27
Improve management of water resources and waterway corridors to reduce damages from extreme conditions	8.47
Policy issues	8.33
Funding	8.27
Collaboration to solve water issues	8.20
Water availability	7.47
Water use and conservation	6.6

Water diversion	4.67
Examine watershed boundaries	3.60

Committee members discussed if regional planning and lands use collaboration is the same priority as linking land use decisions and water resources management. Consensus determined the two issues are different because of the decision-making levels, but both are important priorities to the region. Additional discussion comments included:

- Public education and outreach are important for informing the communities about the state water plan.
- Water availability is important issues in case of a drought.
- Climate change and improving management of water resources and waterway corridors to reduce damages from extreme conditions are connected and could be tied together.
- Climate change should be an overarching theme, it impacts everything else.
- Extreme events impact water supply.
- Stormwater management is critical because systems are not set-up to handle intense water events.
- Water quality and water availability are separate issues, and both are critical issues to be addressed.
- Link land use decisions and water resource management with local collaboration to solve water issues.
- Think regionally and act locally is a key solution approach.

After a lengthy and vibrant discussion, a framework was created for integrating all the priorities. The framework has three levels and all the priorities are contained in one of the three levels

Overarching Themes (lens) (concerns)	Issues	Solutions	Who is Responsible
Climate change	Stormwater management	Regional planning	
Equity	Water quality	Education / outreach	
Environmental justice	Water availability	Policy decision making	
Funding for implementation	Recharging	Funding	
Land use decisions	Recreation needs	Land use linked to regional planning	
	Water withdrawal / diversion	Regional planning coordination	
	Maritime / navigation	Land use planning	
	Protecting/restoring fish and wildlife habitat	Coordination	

	Drought planning	Flood stage water capture	
		Climate change adaptation	

Resource:

- https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/drinking_water/PFAS/Pages/default.aspx
- <http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/emappa/>

Question 2, 3, and 4 of survey - Integrated Water Resources Planning

Q2 What comes to mind when you hear the term Integrated Water Resources Planning (IWRP)?



Committee discussion identified planning as a key word in the word cloud developed. Committee members feel implementation is a challenge and should be included as part of the state plan. The plan should identify an agency or group of individuals who are responsible for implementation of each part of the plan goals.

Q3 How could IWRP help your region?



There was no committee discussion on this survey response.

Q4 How do you see the state helping to facilitate your region's IWRP efforts?



The committee discussed responsibility for implementing IWRP. Consensus of the members is the state (DEP) is responsible for the development of the IWRP plan framework for implementation. Implementation and management of the plan is the responsibility of entities at the local level. This includes municipalities, watershed districts and authorities.

Resources:

- www.paiwrp.com - IWRP flowchart tool
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/page.asp?id=1> - IWRP flowchart
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/uploads/pdf/York-IWRP-Flowchart.pdf> - York County IWRP flowchart
- <https://www.ycpc.org/319/Water-Resources-Planning>
- http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Documents/CAJCP/1CAJCP_DRAFT_Dec18.pdf

Questions 5 and 6 of the survey - Climate change

Q5 How has climate change affected your region? For example, increased heavy rain events and flooding, water availability, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), etc.

A word cloud of terms related to climate change impacts. The most prominent words are 'increased', 'impacts', 'flooding', 'changes', and 'warmer'. Other visible words include 'streams', 'water', 'quality', 'rising', 'river', 'creates', 'storms', 'climate', 'change', 'cause', 'water', 'supply', and 'drought'.

Impacts of climate change identified by committee members include:

- Drought is not identified as an important element in climate change and should be.
- Salinity is not identified, and the rising sea level is impacted by climate change.
- The warming of streams and rivers is impacting the trout population.
- Flooding is an important issue.
- Flood plains are changing.

Q6 Climate Change: How do you think your region could/should adapt to or mitigate these climate change effects?

A word cloud of terms related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The most prominent words are 'planning', 'adaptation', 'mitigation', 'water', and 'land'. Other visible words include 'efforts', 'land', 'use', 'local', 'development', 'climate', 'change', 'use', 'need', 'communities', and 'changes'.

We cannot solve the climate change ourselves. Solutions must focus on adaptation. Solutions also need to be practical and include funding. A variety of solutions should be

developed regarding mitigating the impact of climate change and solutions offered at all levels - state, local municipalities, and the individual.

Resources

- <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/default.aspx> - link to DEP's webpage on climate change
- <https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx> - climate action plan for Sacramento County, California

Comments for Future Discussions

- Define Integrated Water Resource Management. It means different things to different agencies and planning organizations.
- Act 22 requires inventory of water use. Who is doing the inventory? DEP provides the information and review at a future meeting?
- Regional committee assembles information for the state water plan and best practice implementation solutions.
- State water plan must be understandable and usable by local entities and communities implementing the plan (local officials).
- State water plan should be broken into smaller components and info graphs developed explaining an issue and solutions. Information must be interesting, accessible, and easy to understand
- Write the plan so decision makers can implement the plan and not let it sit on a shelf
- Terms used in the plan should be defined. Possibly include a glossary of terms.
- Let the public know what we find out about water in Pennsylvania.

Delaware Regional Planning Committee Bylaws

Mark Matlock reviewed the revised bylaws change recommendations that were mailed through certified mail as provided in the current bylaws. Some members may not have received the certified mail letter because offices were closed during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Pindar reviewed the proposed change to the bylaws. The word certified mail would be changed to email and the phrase return receipt would be changed to read receipt. A Bill Royer / Jane Rowan motion to accept the bylaws change was unanimously approved. Members voted through an electronic vote or voice vote.

Next Steps

DEP would like to document achievements in the Delaware Region that have occurred since the last plan was developed. Please provide ideas and stories to Mark Matlock at the DEP office.

To complete the work for the updated plan, each meeting should focus on one or two topics for discussion. DEP will provide the identified topic(s) for discussion in advance of the next meeting, so committee members have time to prepare background information and solutions.

The next meeting will be held on October 13, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting. The State Committee will be meeting August 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am on an Eliza Walbridge / Jane Rowan motion.