



State Water Plan Update Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

July 15, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via SKYPE

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrea Blosser	George Pomeroy
Andrea Danucalov	Craig Robertson
Jennifer Fetter	Byron Ross
Andrew Gavin	Justin Spangler
Lincoln Kauffman	Warren Weaver
Mike Kyle	Jenni Woodworth
Joe McNally	Tyler Erb

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Silias Chamberlin	Jeff Hines
Sean Kenny	Ruth Hocker
Felicia Dell	Thomas Wilson

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	
Brian Chalfont - DEP	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	

Visitors:

John Seitz - York County Planning

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. Mark Kyle, Vice Chair of the Committee, welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance.

Public Comment

Vice-Chair Kyle 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 February 6, 2020 meeting were reviewed, and a typo correction was noted on page 3. The region was incorrectly identified as Delaware instead of Lower Susquehanna. The minutes were approved with the correction on a Craig Robertson / Warren Weaver 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 Lower Susquehanna 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
Protect "at risk" water resources and reduce or prevent point and non-point source pollution with a focus on impaired streams	10.93
Flooding issues	10.43
Water quantity - supply and demand	10.36
Water quality	10.14
Storm water management	8.21
Leveraging resources	7.00
Climate resiliency	6.79
Integrated current initiatives - federal, state, local levels	6.14
Data collection and use	5.79
Emerging contaminants	5.57
Integration of programs focusing on water demand	4.71

Use of innovative tools and techniques	3.93
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Committee members discussed the priorities identified. The following comments were offered:

- Protecting water resources through prevention is easier than trying to correct impairments.
- Data collection is important to making decisions in the development of the new plan. Data currently being used is from 10 years ago and was used for creating models at that time. Updating this data is a high priority so we understand current conditions.
- We have lots of data collected and current data numbers may be available. We should identify the problem or issue to be explored and then search for current available data.
- Climate resiliency is a cross cutting issue across all the priorities.
- Where does back-up supply for water sources enter the priorities?
- Water quality is more of a priority issues than water quantify in the Lower Susquehanna region
- Flooding should be included in the top priorities. With more severe storms in recent years there is more flash flooding.
- The first four or five priorities are interrelated and should be looked at from a singular perspective. We should look at systems and system processes from a holistic view.
- Stormwater and flooding are important issues, especially runoff from impervious surfaces.
- Emerging contaminants is also an important issues. PFAS contaminants are a growing concern.

Key points from the committee members discussion include:

1. Cross cutting themes impacting all water issues and priorities
 - a. Climate resiliency
 - b. Data collection, current and accessible information
2. The top four priorities are interrelated and can be woven into one collective priority
 - a. Protect “at risk” water resources and reduce or prevent point and non-point source pollution with a focus on impaired streams
 - i. Flooding issues
 - ii. Water quantity
 - iii. Water quality
3. Identify the “at risk” water resources and why they are at risk
 - a. Use data to identify priorities, USGS data and additional data as needed
 - b. Identify emerging contaminants
 - c. Assess the water quality and to differentiate between ground and surface water
 - d. Assess the water quantity supply and demand
 - e. Convene regional committees if needed to examine the “at risk” resources

- f. Encourage integration of programs / agencies that can be involved to develop solutions

Resource:

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

Questions 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)?

water resources quality water instead plans resource uses level

Q3 How could IWRP help your region?

help IWRP resources provide water benefits

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

goals Identify implement planning requirements funding

Committee members inquired what Integrated Water Resources Planning looks like conceptually in the state of Pennsylvania. Does IWRP look at counties, regions, or the state. Mark Matlock commented that developing a framework for Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management was identified in the 2009 State Water Plan. Some municipalities and watersheds currently use the Integrated Water Resources planning as a management tool. Craig Robertson noted that DEP created Comprehensive Water Plans in the 1970's. He asked how those plans were used, how accurate are the projections that were made, and is this plan still relevant today?

Jennifer Fetter commented that watersheds use the IWRP planning process to get partners to the table and leverage the limited resources of people and finances that can be shared. The process prevents the duplication of effort and resources.

York County has an IWRP flowchart and the flowchart was displayed in the presentation. The use of the tool was discussed by John Seitz from the York County Planning Office. In York, the IWRP tool includes all agencies and is used to enhance and even require communications and integration between agencies. The links to the DEP Resources Planning website and York County IWRP flowchart tool are below:

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 & 6 - Climate Change Survey Feedback

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

less infrastructure **storms** intense **flooding** region
increased leading **events** damage **water** higher temperatures

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

Flood management **improved** planning **water** storm
use Need

Impacts of climate change identified by committee members included:

- Climate change is significant since the state water plan was adopted in 2009
- Climate change is not being addressed at the federal level and adaptation changes must occur at the state and local levels
- The state is going to be warmer and wetter
- Storms are more intense
- Streams are warming
- Run off from impervious surfaces is impacting stormwater systems
- There are more sustained flash drought periods

- More volatility in weather patterns
- Heavy rains create more run-off of water and less infiltration (recharge) into the ground
- Flash flooding is occurring in new areas where flooding has not been an issue, creating public safety concerns
- Increased land and mud slides
- Increase in flooding of homes outside of FEMA flood plains

Resource

- <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

Next Steps

Vice-Chair Kyle thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas. DEP would like to document achievements in the Lower Susquehanna 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 will focus on one or two topics for discussion. DEP will provide the identified topic(s) for discussion in advance of the next meeting, and possible homework reading, so committee members have time to prepare background information and solutions.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 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 a Jennifer Fetter / George Pomeroy motion.