pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

State Water Plan Update
Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

January 12, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrea Blosser	Mike Kyle
Tyler Erb	George Pomeroy
Jennifer Fetter	Craig Robertson
Andrew Gavin	Mark Snyder
Sean Kenny	Justin Spangler

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Andrea Danucalov	Byron Ross
Felicia Dell	Warren Weaver
Lincoln Kaufman	Thomas Wilson
Joe McNally	Jenni Woodworth

Others in Attendance:

Mark Matlock – DEP	Monica Gould – Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore – Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill – DEP	
Brian Chalfant – DEP	

Visitors:
Alexandra Chiaruttini
John Seitz

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. Vice-Chair Mike Kyle also welcomed all members to the meeting.

Minutes
The meeting summary of the October 13, 2021, meeting was approved on a Mike Kyle / George Pomeroy motion.

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.

DEP Update
Mark Matlock provided an update of what DEP is working on regarding the State Water Plan Update. The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing project involving data sharing between agencies is now operational for SRBC and USGS. Data sharing is still pending with DRBC.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) continue to be under development and the drafts are progressing. Two of those CARPs are for the Ohio Regional Committee and one is for the Potomac Regional Committee.

The State Water Plan Atlas from 2009 is being developed into a Story Map as a Digital Atlas. The Digital Atlas should be ready in the first half of 2022.

The eighth Statewide Committee meeting was held on November 17, 2021. The ninth meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022.

Regional Materials
Mark Matlock shared a cumulative summary of the Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee's work for the past two years. The committee reviewed the document and made slight revisions to the materials. The revised regional committee materials follow.

Specific Regional Priorities
The Lower Susquehanna basin is the hydrological gateway to Maryland where the mouth of the river system connects to the Chesapeake Bay. Rapid expansion of logistics centers and a quickly growing population in the region leads to increased risk to waterways. There is a need for the most critical areas to be identified and prioritized to minimize the potential for impact to these resources.

Identify and Target Solutions for Potential Protection Priority Water Resources to Reduce or Prevent Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution with a Focus on Currently Impaired Water Resources
Identify "protection priority" water resources that may be trending towards impairment for any use, through the collection and analysis of data. Priorities may be determined by looking specifically at emerging contaminants, declining water quality and/or quantity, evolving land use impacts, and flooding issues. Improve the region's protection priority water resources through identified targeted solutions that may include education and outreach, asset management, resource improvement, and others.

Reduce existing point and nonpoint source pollution in the region's significant number of impaired water resources. Focus added attention on currently impaired water resources. Prevent new water pollution throughout the region from all sources. Implement active solutions to reduce pollution by forming public-private partnerships (P3), engaging willing landowners, targeting funding, and others. Broaden support and advocacy for our water resources through enlisting stakeholders, enhancing partnerships, and coordinating

efforts. Improved water quality sustains drinking water supplies, preserves a healthy ecosystem that supports recreational use, and enables a viable economy.

Definition of "Protection Priority" - water resources prioritized for protection based on potential threats to water quality, for the purpose of setting long-term priorities for where focused efforts towards restoration, best management practices, and protection would provide the most benefit to the watershed.

Enable Continued Responsible Economic Growth by Ensuring Adequate Water Resources

The challenges associated with this region are water availability, flooding, aging stormwater infrastructure, water quality, and drought. Prioritized resiliency solutions to address increased stormwater and flooding that include restoration and expansion of green infrastructure to capture runoff would be beneficial to the region. Strategies may also include proactively managing land development and land management by expanding programmatic and policy flexibility to watershed boundaries to maximize effectiveness of multi-benefit best management practices. Broad support can be provided to local governments and municipalities through training and model ordinances to manage stormwater and flooding and enlisting the cooperation of non-governmental organizations, watershed groups, and riverkeepers.

Region's Uniqueness

What are the Lower Susquehanna region's unique characteristics that are important considerations in the state's water planning?

- The Susquehanna River is a unique feature of the region, which is shared with the Upper/Middle Susquehanna region.
- The basin is home to one of the [fastest growing populations](#) in Pennsylvania.
- This region has the highest concentration of agricultural land uses in the state, particularly in York and Lancaster Counties. The plain sect communities in Lancaster and York Counties require unique communication strategies.
- Due to the intersection of highways running through the basin and additional cargo shipping coming by land from the recently dredged Delaware ports, the region has experienced much growth and development, resulting in an abundance of logistics centers. This growth and development have facilitated the need to preserve more open space and agricultural land.
- This region hosts a large concentration of manufacturing in Pennsylvania. Manufacturing industries tend to consume more water than logistics and warehousing industries.
- Three large run-of-river hydropower dams exist within the region, as the region is a center for power production. Listed from north to south along the Lower Susquehanna River are the Safe Harbor Dam (1931), Holtwood Dam (1910), and Conowingo Dam (1928).
- There are many historical impacts to the region such as legacy sediments, [mill dams](#), and other water resource impairments linked to past land uses as well as

collected sediment from more contemporary dam structures that impact water quality.

- There are [National Heritage Areas](#) in lower York and Lancaster Counties.
- The Susquehanna River contributes one-half of the freshwater flow to the Chesapeake Bay. Being a hydrological gateway into Maryland, the region faces the challenge of coordinating with multiple state entities, stakeholders, legal frameworks, and working to accommodate their differing objectives.

Stormwater and Flood Management

What are the region's concerns and recommendations for stormwater and flood management to preserve water quality?

- Improvements to stormwater management on a watershed scale could, via groundwater recharge and appropriate direction to surface water sources, increase access to fresh water in higher quantities throughout the region.
- Develop regional or watershed-scale planning of water resources, ensure management of stormwater at the source, enhance groundwater recharge, and work toward a more long-term strategic approach.
- There is a need for regional authorities to assess aging infrastructure for high-frequency storm events through monitoring and inspection. The first step would be to create an inventory of stormwater infrastructure including location and ownership.
- More floodplain restoration and removal of legacy sediment would be beneficial to the region.
- An enhanced water quality monitoring network could drive strategic investment in best management practices. Data sharing coordination could facilitate an enhanced water quality monitoring network throughout the watershed, targeting strategic locations for the most critical metrics.
- Stormwater compliance could be improved at the local level by providing education and outreach and increased financial resources.

Climate Change Adaptation for Water Resources

How are water resources within the region being impacted by climate change and what could we do to adapt?

- Flooding is the top hazard that municipalities are mitigating in the region. Municipal development of floodplain management ordinances along with providing education and outreach would be beneficial.
- With the potential for increased storm frequency and intensity, encourage enhancement of structural and non-structural strategies to reduce environmental impacts of these storm events.
- Engage stakeholders on the implications of intense rain events, degrading soil health, and increased temperatures and how these conditions not only cause flooding, but can also lead to micro-droughts.

- Develop a map of areas most likely to be affected by climate change showing the nature and potential of those impacts.
- Stakeholders should develop a more effective approach to [floodplain restoration](#) projects by emphasizing the benefits of flood mitigation. Some of these strategies may include the removal of obstructions and encroachments such as buildings, legacy sediment or undersized bridges and culverts.
- Drought management for reservoir systems should be enhanced to account for a changing climate and plan for resiliency with an amplified drought of record to facilitate protection and conservation of water resources.
- Encourage continued coordination amongst agencies (state, federal, and local) and non-government organizations to help leverage resources to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Continue to promote economic incentives to be more proactive than reactive, creating long term resiliency. Climate change can cause increased surface water temperatures that can impact the ecosystem (e.g., harmful algal blooms) and destroy habitats, leading to treatment challenges for public water suppliers.

Logic Model

James Horton, DEP, shared a template of the previous logic model work completed by the committee. The logic model can be used to make the region's priorities actionable and measurable. A logic model is a picture that links the long term and short-term outcomes, or changes and results you hope to achieve, with the program activities and resources available to move the priorities forward.

The logic model template has the following components.
- Resources
- Activities
- Outputs
- Intermediate outcomes
- Long term outcomes

Committee members provided additional comments and ideas to the draft logic model previously developed.

Resources in the Chat
- US Green Building Council Pennsylvania Chapter is a resource for LEED standards being developed to apply to a wider context beyond a structure itself.

Next Steps

Mark Matlock, DEP, provided an overview of the committee's future work.
- Edits to the committee's developed materials will be updated.

- Within the next week, a public hearing will be scheduled for March 2022. The public hearing will be a full day hearing with each regional committee having one hour to receive public comment. Comments from the public hearing will be available for the Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee to review at the April meeting.
- A committee vote on approval of the committee's priorities and Story Map materials will be held at the April meeting.
- The approved regional committee documents will be provided to the Statewide Committee.
- Next Statewide Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 19.
- Lower Susquehanna Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022.
  - April 13
  - A July meeting is not scheduled at this time.
  - October 12

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 by Vice-Chair Kyle.