



State Water Plan Update Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

April 14, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andrea Blosser	Joe McNally
Felicia Dell	Craig Robertson
Tyler Erb	Byron Ross
Jennifer Fetter	Justin Spangler
Lincoln Kauffman	Warren Weaver
Sean Kenny	Thomas Wilson
Mike Kyle	Jenni Woodworth
Andrew Gavin	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Silis Chamberlin	Ruth Hocker
Andrea Danucalov	George Pomeroy
Jeff Hines	

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	
Summer Kunkel - DEP	

Visitors:

David Jostenski
John Seitz
Alexandra Chiaruttini
Jack Turner

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. Felicia Dell, Chair of

the Committee, welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2021 Committee meeting were unanimously approved on a Byron Ross / Mike Kyle motion.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Bylaws of the Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee require an annual election of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Chair Dell opened the meeting for discussion and asked for nominations for both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Both Chair Dell and Vice-Chair Kyle indicated they are willing to serve in these roles for an additional year or other members could step forward to be nominated.

A Craig Robertson / Sean Kenny motion was unanimously approved to re-elect Felicia Dell to the Chair position for the Committee.

A Craig Robertson / Sean Kenny motion was unanimously approved to re-elect Mike Kyle to the Vice-Chair position for the Committee.

Public Comment

Chair Dell 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

Kristina Peacock-Jones gave the Committee 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 projects are progressing well. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is complete and will be deployed soon. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) has been initiated with the IT architecture and data sharing protocols in place. Testing of the data sharing has begun, and the project should be fully operational during the second quarter of 2021.

The fifth Statewide Committee meeting is May 19, 2021.

Public Hearing Summary

Mark Matlock informed the Committee that a public hearing on the statewide water plan was held on January 6, 2021. The January 6, 2021 hearing was advertised in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 26, 2020 and all sunshine requirements were met. Each Committee's hearing was held for one hour via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to preparation of the regional component of the State Water Plan. Written comments were accepted by the Committees on or before January 20, 2021. The following public comments were offered:

- Delaware Water Resources Committee – 9:00am – no participants
- Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Committee – 10:00am – one participant
- Potomac Water Resources Committee – 11:00am – no participants
- Ohio Water Resources Committee – 1:00pm – nine participants
- Great Lakes Water Resources Committee – 2:00pm – no participants
- Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Committee – 3:00pm – one participant

Mark reviewed who the individuals or organizations were that presented comments and provided a brief synopsis of the comments. The Committee members have received a complete written transcript of the comments provided through the public hearing. Mark noted the comments provided during the Lower Susquehanna Region hearing were offered by the Coalition for Affordable Bay Solutions and there were no comments that the Regional Committee needs to discuss or address.

Regional Priorities

Mark Matlock, DEP staff, presented draft statements of the Lower Susquehanna Regions priorities to be included in the update State Water Plan. The draft priorities were created from previous ideas, discussions, and prioritization by the Committee. The draft priorities presented were:

Identify and protect potential "at-risk" water resources

To identify “at-risk” water resources, the first step is to collect and interpret data on the associated watersheds. Priorities can be determined by looking specifically at emerging contaminants, water quality, water quantity, and flooding issues. Providing education and outreach to the public is key in describing and identifying factors to protect water resources. The Committee sees an asset management approach as potentially playing a role in addressing these challenges to identify and protect potential “at-risk” water resources.

Reduce or prevent point and nonpoint source pollution with a focus on impaired streams

The Lower Susquehanna region has a significant number of impaired streams caused by various point and nonpoint pollution sources. The Committee seeks to reduce or prevent this pollution and to focus added attention on “at-risk” or impaired water resources. The Committee recognizes that stakeholder engagement is vital in accomplishing these goals, who will seek to support and advocate for water resources.

The draft priorities were discussed in depth by Committee members and revisions were made to the draft statements and new ideas added to clarify the statements. The revised priorities for the Lower Susquehanna Region follow:

Reduce or prevent point and nonpoint source pollution with a focus on currently impaired water resources

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 for 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.

Identify and target solutions for potential "at-risk" water resources

(At-risk - DEP can define and share the definition with the Committee)

Identify "at-risk" 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 potential "at-risk" water resources through identified targeted solutions that may include education and outreach, asset management, resource improvement, and others.

A Justin Spangler / Sean Kenny motion to approve the revised "Identify and target solutions for potential "at-risk water resources" priority statement was unanimously approved.

A Justin Spangler / Andy Gavin motion to approve the revised "Reduce or prevent point and nonpoint source pollution with a focus on currently impaired water resources" priority statement was unanimously approved.

A Justin Spangler / Warren Weaver motion to reverse the original order of the priorities was unanimously approved. The order of the priorities should be:

1. Reduce or prevent point and nonpoint source pollution with a focus on currently impaired water resources.
2. Identify and target solutions for potential "at-risk" water resources.

Mark Matlock added the adopted priorities will be reviewed by DEP staff for alignment and consistency with existing policies and to define the term "at-risk." Following DEP review the priorities will be reviewed by the Statewide Committee.

Next Steps

Chair Dell thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas.

Mark Matlock, DEP staff, provided an overview of the Committee's future work.

- Summary notes from today's discussion will be provided to Committee members.
- Statewide Committee will be meeting on May 19, 2021

- The next Lower Susquehanna Regional meeting will be held on July 14, 2021. At the next meeting it is anticipated the agenda will include a discussion of education and outreach efforts to support the statewide water plan and a review of a draft story map of the project.

The next meeting of the Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee will be held on July 14, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am by Chair Dell.