



State Water Plan Update Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

October 26, 2021

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

In-Person Rachael Carson Building

Committee Members in Attendance:

Erin Kepple Adams	Annie Quinn
Lori Dayton	Mary Ellen Ramage
Chuck Durista	Ron Rohall
Matthew Genchur	Deb Simko
Duane Goodsell	John St. Clair
Sheryl Kelly	Jasun Stanton
Jason McCabe	John Walliser
Ronald Musser	Donna Lynn Zofcin

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Daniel Dahkemper	Deb Lange
Sam Dinkins	Robert Softcheck
Kevin Halloran	

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	

Visitors:

None

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. Ron Rohall, Committee Chair, welcomed committee members to the meeting. Attendance was recorded through the online participants' log; no committee members attended in person.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 27, 2021, meeting was reviewed and approved on a Chuck Duritsa / Erin Kepple Adams motion. The vote was completed by a voice vote with one abstention by John Walliser.

Public Comment

Chair Rohall opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment. Mark Matlock added there was no one attending from the public at the DEP meeting room in Harrisburg.

DEP State Water Plan Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones provided an update of what DEP is working on in regard to the State Water Plan Update.

The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing projects are progressing well. The project involving Chapter 110 data for moving water use registration forms from paper to online is complete and has been deployed. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) is in the testing phase. The project should be fully operational during the fourth quarter of this year.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) continue to be under development and the drafts are progressing nicely. 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 Power BI report summarizing water use data is public and on the DEP website. The link to the Power BI report was distributed to committee members by email.

The eighth Statewide Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021.

CARP Update

Mark Matlock stated the CARPs are still undergoing internal DEP review.

Story Map

Mark Matlock shared a draft of the Story Map of the state water plan that is in development. DEP is still developing content for the Story Map and will be adding additional sections. The Story Map will be interactive and is not available for public view at this point. Mark can provide a text version for committee members to review. The Story Map will include the following sections:

- Overview of the state water plan
- Tab for the Statewide Committee
- Tab for legislative priorities
- Tab for each regional committee

- Each regional committee will have the following sections and content relative to the region. Content for the Ohio Region includes:
 - Introduction to the region
 - Length of the River basin is 981 miles and 62,850 square feet
 - The headwaters of the Allegheny River discharge into the Mississippi River
 - Review of the specific regional priorities
 - Interagency water resource planning
 - Improve water quality and water quantity in the region
 - Region's uniqueness and characteristics
 - Headwaters of the Ohio River having an impact on 1000 miles of river downstream through multiple states
 - Water drains north from West Virginia and south through Ohio and New York before contributing to the larger Ohio River basin.
 - Ohio River Basin Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)
 - Universities, colleges, municipalities, and local foundations within the basin work together for solutions to water resources issues
 - The region contains the tribal lands of the Seneca Nation of Native Americans
 - Allegheny National Forest is located in the basin and the protected land provides conservation and recreation for the region
 - There are 16 multipurpose flood control dams and 13 navigable locks and dams
 - The Port of Pittsburgh is the fourth largest inland port in the United States
 - Region is geographically distinct from the rest of the state due to the Appalachian Mountains
 - Hydraulic fracking and coal fired power plants in the region create additional water demands
 - Stormwater and flood management
 - Stormwater management infrastructure often lacks proper maintenance
 - Education outreach is needed to connect stormwater management to flooding
 - Contaminants from large impervious areas can be transported by storm water which contributes to water quality issues
 - Planning should be completed on a watershed basis and priority given to planning upstream or at the headwaters
 - Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Flooding due to large amounts of impervious surfaces will continue to cause problems as precipitation intensity increases
 - Stakeholders should investigate climate change implications on water supply availability and reliability
 - Climate change will increase the intensity of storms in Pennsylvania but can also extend dry periods and stakeholders should investigate

the implications of flash flooding and potential decreased groundwater recharge

- Capturing water during high intensity storm events and groundwater recharge will help reduce drought events
- Notable projects with an interactive map
 - Acid mine mitigation project in Slippery Rock watershed
 - Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resource Plan

A discussion followed on the Story Map content:

- Committee members had no suggested revisions to the region's uniqueness, and climate change adaptation, and notable projects sections
- A comment was provided that municipalities must adopt an ordinance for flood management
- Communities within the region were developed specifically around and on waterways
- Importance of municipalities working together

Mark will revise the draft based on the comments provided and share the revised text with committee members prior to the January committee meeting.

Logic Model

James Horton, DEP, shared a template for a logic model that 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, 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 developed comments and ideas to be included in a logic model for each of their two priorities. The committee will receive a copy of the ideas developed and a draft of the logic model from the discussion is included at the end of the minutes.

Additional comments provided during the discussion:

- Planning from a holistic perspective with everyone involved in the discussion
- Funding is important
- Assistance with enforcement of Act 167 plans by municipalities is needed
- Hazard mitigation planning
- Conservation Districts are very important and need a watershed coordinator funded through the state
- Revitalize a river basin commission for the headwaters of the Ohio

- Global impact of climate change on streams. Have any streams been delisted on the 303d list or have a viable fishery?

Resources in the Chat

- DEP Stormwater Management Presentation from Statewide Committee meeting on May 19, 2021 - https://files.dep.state.pa.us/PublicParticipation/Advisory%20Committees/AdvCommPortalFiles/SWP/Docs%20All%20Regions/Stormwater_Management_Updates_5-19-2021.pdf
- Ohio River Basin Alliance does not have enforcement powers
- River basin commissions have enforcement powers
- DEP has authority under Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 through the Conservation Districts who manage the programs for them

Next Steps

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

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

- Ohio Regional Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022:
 - January 25
 - April 26
 - October 25
 - A July meeting is not scheduled at this time
- Mark will send a survey to committee members to obtain feedback on having in-person or virtual meetings in 2022 and scheduling a July meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm on a Mary Ellen Ramage / Annie Quinn motion.

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Inter-agency Water Resource Planning

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Agencies • State Agencies • Army Corps of Engineers • Local Municipalities • Conservation Districts • Watershed districts • Watershed Authorities • Non-profit environmental organizations • DCNR • DEP • DCED • PEMA • FEMA • EMA • County Conservation Districts • County Governments • Planning Commissions • Statewide Association of Conservation Districts PACD • CCAP (County Commissioners Association of PA) • Ohio River Basin Association (ORBA) • ORSANCO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key water resources that are needed to promote watershed integrity and recreation benefits • DEP holds presentations on water resources planning at SPC county planning director meetings • Watershed Coordinator (currently funded through state) to work with county planning officials, municipalities, and county conservation districts • Reach out to CCAP to communicate importance of enforcement of ordinances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example language for enforcement of municipal ordinances • Checklist developed for development of local municipality Act 167 plans tied to standard ordinance language • Encourage pre-construction planning meetings • Blueprint for interagency coordination model that can be given to townships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Act 167 Plans • County level assistance for ordinance enforcement • Complete Phase II for partially completed Act 167 plans • Develop a resource for municipalities that have yet to complete Phase II of their Act 167 plans • Framework/guidance for what an Act 167 update would look like for municipalities • Interagency collaboration events/meetings occurring regularly (i.e. field scoping (PennDOT) meetings for water resources prior to a project) • Promote awareness of skillsets among different parties involved in different aspects of water resources • Counties host workshops to make these skillsets actionable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 167 Stormwater Planning enacted on a county level and updated • Holistic process/template developed and implemented on a watershed basis for major highway infrastructure or railroad projects to bring stakeholders to the table (water resources associations, conservation districts etc.) • Interagency grant evaluation committee/clearinghouse/point person composed of state/federal agencies (DCNR, DCED, DEP, PEMA, FEMA etc.) that provide funding for various water projects

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Improve Water Quality and Quantity in the region

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Mid-Term Outcomes	Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Rivers Wet Weather • State Water Plan • Committee members • County Planning • County Conservation Districts • DEP • DEP Labs • Trout Unlimited • Watershed Associations • Watershed Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water quality and quantity data collection efforts that meet DEP standards • Review Integrated Report for streams that have degraded since they were last assessed • Review DEP methodology/guidance for categorizing and testing of water resources impacted by acid mine drainage • Clarity on DEP suite of tests available • Review BMP manual update when available - to be complete in 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities engaged in multi-municipal planning • Funding mechanism and guidance as to what DEP would need from IWRP • Funding source established for expanding DEP certified lab resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee developed to shepherd the IWRM process throughout the state • Public understanding of definition of drinkable water quality proliferated throughout region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated BMP manual in 2022 with new permitting and design criteria/regulatory practice to manage for climate change projections • More streams delisted (# delisted, and how many have viable fisheries) • Watershed level planning applied throughout the region