



**State Water Plan Update
Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting**

October 27, 2020
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Skype

Committee Members in Attendance:

Erin Kepple Adams	Ronald Musser
Sam Dinkins	Mary Ellen Ramage
Chuck Durista	Ron Rohall
Matthew Genchur	Deb Simko
Duane Goodsell	Robert Softcheck
Kevin Halloran	Jasun Stanton
Sheryl Kelly	Donna Lynn Zofcin
Deb Lange	
Jason McCabe	
Annie Quinn	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Daniel Dahlkemper	John St. Clair
Terry Dayton	John Walliser

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 Chalfant - DEP	
William Brogan - DEP	
Rhonda Manning - DEP	
Summer Kunkel - DEP	

Visitors:

Jonathan Burgess
Sim Suter
Randy Weinberg

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 and completed a roll call for attendance.

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.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on a Bob Softcheck / Chuck Durista motion. The vote was completed by a voice vote.

DEP State Water Plan Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities. The USGS Water Use Data and Research Grants data sharing projects are still progressing. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is about 80% complete. The project involving data sharing between agencies has been initiated and the IT architecture and data sharing protocols are being finalized.

Staff within the Department are gathering noteworthy activities and projects achieved over the past ten years that coincide with the State Water Plan. This information will be spotlighted in the State Water Plan update.

The stormwater program is in the process of developing an updated stormwater best practices manual to incorporate green infrastructure. The Energy Programs Office, who is responsible for updating the Governor's Climate Action Plan, is currently in the revision process for the 2021 iteration of the plan. Valuable input provided by Committee members will be passed along to these DEP programs.

DEP staff are continuing to work on better data sharing tools. One of those tools is Power BI, which will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

Presentation on POWER BI

Michael Hill, DEP Geologist, provided a visual presentation and overview of Power BI. Power BI is a data sharing tool designed to expand the number of existing online water use report viewers by eliminating the need to crunch a large dataset for a summary report. It is a Microsoft application. The data presents visually the amount of surface and ground water used within the state. It does not assess water availability.

Maps, tables, and charts are available to show water withdrawals, water usage types and a breakdown of water users. The data can be viewed for each Pennsylvania County, state water planning regions, subbasins, and watersheds. The information can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet or csv format.

The current map, charts, and tables show data for 2018. Eventually data will be available for multiple years and show trends in water usage. 2019 data should be available early 2021 when it is confirmed all suppliers have provided their data. Power BI will be available to the public on the DEP website soon. The system is currently completing internal review by IT and Communications staff prior to approval for public use.

Back Creek and Laurel Hill CARPs and the Critical Area Advisory Committee

A Critical Area Advisory Committee was previously appointed to make recommendations on the two CARPs for the region. The Critical Area Advisory Committee is a sub-committee of the Regional Committee. Deb Simko has contacted members of the previous Advisory Committee to see if they are willing to continue to serve on this committee. There were 26 members on the previous committee and 18 are willing to continue. The remaining members have retired or died and will not continue. A Mary Ellen Ramage / Erin Kepple Adams motion to accept the 18 members to continue their work with the Critical Area Advisory Committee was approved by all Committee members.

Mark Matlock added that DEP staff are finalizing the internal reviews of the two CARPs within the region. The Back-Creek CARP will be released first and sent to Committee members to review. The Laurel Hill CARP will be released second and sent to Committee members.

Ohio River Basin Climate Change Adaptation

A presentation on the Ohio River Basin Climate Change Adaptation study was provided by Deb Lange and Randy Weinberg. The Ohio River Basin covers 204,000 square miles encompassing parts of 15 states. It is home to over 25 million people equaling 8% of the population of the U.S. and provides drinking water to three million people. It is 981 miles long and runs from the confluence at the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and ends in Cairo, Illinois. The Ohio River and its tributaries run through diverse landscapes including forests, agricultural, and urban lands and is home to 160 species of fish and 50 species of mussels, including a number of endangered species.

The Ohio River Basin Climate Change Pilot Report provides downscaled climate modeling information for the entire basin with forecasts of future precipitation and temperature changes as well as forecasts of future streamflow at numerous gaging points throughout the basin. These forecasts are presented through three 30-year time periods between 2011 and 2099. The report includes the results of preliminary investigations into the various impacts that forecasted climate changes may have on both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and operating water resources infrastructure. In addition, the report presents a menu of potential mitigation and adaptation strategies that could be instituted by Federal, state, regional, municipal, and county jurisdictions as well as individual and corporate landowners to attenuate the anticipated impacts of a changing climate.

The models forecast that monthly mean temperatures will rise $\frac{1}{2}$ ° per decade between 2011 and 2040 and 1° a decade between 2040 and 2099. The increase in temperature will significantly impact stream flows with the high stream flows getting higher and the low

stream flows getting lower. Further data collection is needed going forward to measure the complete impact of these temperature changes.

The full report can be obtained through this link: [USACE 2017 Report](#).

Regional Committee Survey Data

A DEP online survey was available for Ohio Regional Committee members to complete prior to the meeting. The survey asked participants to provide open ended responses to two questions on stormwater management and climate change. The survey feedback was reviewed, and Committee members were given an opportunity to respond to provide feedback and suggestions.

The first survey question on stormwater management and summarized survey responses included:

The last State Water Plan update included stormwater management with a focus on flood management. The goal for updating the stormwater management portion is to include a stronger focus on stormwater BMPs, which address both quantity and quality. What other areas of stormwater management do you think should be considered for this update?

- Provide funding for counties to complete Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans, Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance regulations, zoning, and hazard mitigation plans.
- Consideration of changing storm event frequencies, duration and return frequencies as they relate to BMP design standards.
- Consider quantity and quality with cost/benefit analysis.
- Assess aging infrastructure for high frequency storm events.
- Stormwater BMPs do not function the same in all areas and some areas need assistance in creating unique BMPs. Variations in manmade solutions vs. natural system solutions.
- Large amounts of impervious area, huge parking lots from vacant shopping malls, and retrofitting existing aging BMP's.

Committee members comments:

- Contaminants are flowing into storm water
- All bullets are important but first two bullets are critical
- Funding is critical; it is a challenge for small counties to fund initiatives on their own
- Change permitting regulations to create higher standards for storm water BMPs
- Act 167 funding is a priority
- Possibility of funding for WIPs
- Assess aging infrastructure for high frequency storm events; should be assessing now and not waiting for high frequency storm events to occur
- Storm event frequency needs to be reevaluated
- Planning should be done on a watershed basis
- Smaller counties and some municipalities do not have storm water plans in place and do not have funding

- Funding support and guidance needs to come from the state
- BMP updates are being prepared by DEP; staff will provide information to the committee on when this will occur and if there are significant changes
- The BMPs remains the heart of what municipalities use for their work
- One size BMP strategy does not work; urban, suburban, and rural areas are all quite different
- Need model ordinance wording for municipalities zoning ordinances
- Need operations and maintenance funding

The second survey question on climate change and summarized survey responses included:

Now that we have briefly discussed climate change at our July meeting, which aspects of climate change do you think we should focus on in our discussion at the next meeting for consideration in the State Water Plan update?

- The potential/likelihood for increased storm frequency and intensity. How these storms events can and should be handled to reduce risks to safety and environmental impacts. Amount of rain vs. snow.
- Preparing to be resilient in terms of both flash flooding and potential decreased groundwater recharge. Discuss the implications of such events and changes in waterway flow.
- Planning for resilience to an amplified drought of record for protection and conservation. Would help to address increased droughts.
- Consider the future risk of deeper droughts brought on by climate change and the measures needed to promote groundwater infiltration to maintain aquifers.
- Climate change implications on water supply vulnerability, availability, and reliability should be considered (i.e. increased temperatures and the implications on source water quality and aquatic/ ecological health of waterways).

Committee members comments:

- The 1st and 5th bullets are a priority
- Resiliency is critical to communities
- Elevate climate change implications - #5
- We are seeing the impact of climate change now, seeing more droughts
- What BMPs should we be using?
- How does climate change impact water supply?
- Need increased data collection
- What tools are available to model climate change, especially in smaller watersheds
- Global weirding (*Thomas Friedman term*) (*The term 'global weirding,' coined by Hunter Lovins, co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, because the rise in average global temperature is going to lead to all sorts of crazy things — from hotter heat spells and droughts in some places, to colder cold spells and more violent storms, more intense flooding, forest fires and species loss in other places.*)
- Parking lots should be mandated to have ground water recharge areas tied to the development

- Store water during high intensity storms and save for drought times
- All bullets are important and interconnected
- Ground water pollution potential mapping - DRASTIC - shows where the sensitive area are and identifies what recharge can be done (https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?Lab=ORD&dirEntryID=35474) Can DEP resurrect this process?
- Ground water infiltration to maintain aquifers

Resources Provided in the Chat

- [USACE 2017 Report](#)
- [2020-2025 ORB Plan](#)
- <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/PA-Climate-Action-Plan.aspx>
- https://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Portals/38/docs/orba/USACE%20Ohio%20River%20Basin%20CC%20Report_MAY%202017.pdf
- <https://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Portals/64/ORSANCODRAFT28FEB20.pdf>
- http://courses.washington.edu/cejordan/SbCcMa_Presentation.pdf
- <https://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/ORBA/ORBA2/>

Region's Priorities, IWRP, and Uniqueness

The following summary information was prepared for the Statewide Committee meeting in August.

Ohio Region

Committee's Top Priorities

1. Interagency water resource planning - can address many of the key issues and priorities, identify water resources needed to promote and facilitate economic development, watershed integrity and recreation benefits
2. Stormwater management - climate change impact, MS4, funding needed for infrastructure, and forest buffers to reduce flooding
3. Holistic approach to water quality and quantity - 50% to 60% of land is forests, healthy forests can help protect water quality and quantity, abandoned mines drainage, new large-scale industries coming into the region, inter-basin transfer of water

CARP

- Back Creek CARP data has been updated and can be scheduled for a public hearing
- Laurel Hill Creek CARP - watershed no longer exhibits the potential water use conflicts identified in the original CWPA assessment, issues can be resolved at the local level through permitting and allocation renewals. It is not recommended to move forward.

Integrated Water Resources Planning

- Watershed districts are part of IWRP planning
- Watershed associations are important but have no authority, enforcement, or regulatory power
- Municipalities are starting to work together because of flooding issues

Region's Uniqueness

- Colleges and municipalities working together to address stormwater
- Rivers are used for transportation and recreation, inland port for sand, gravel, coal, and other commodities
- Headwaters of the Ohio River and have an impact on 1000 miles of river downstream
- Large river issues
- Legacy issues such as acid mine drainage
- Only receive 25% of state funding for the watershed - attention goes to Delaware River and Chesapeake Bay
- So many municipalities

Committee Members' Comments on Priorities, IWRP and Uniqueness

- The three priorities capture the priorities the Committee has been discussing
- Wording of #3 in priorities needs changed
- Ohio River Alliance is unique to the region
<https://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/ORBA/ORBA2/>
- Need more funding for the Ohio River Basin, the federal budget does not have a line item for the Ohio River Basin

Next Steps

Chair Rohall thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas and Deb Lange and Randy Weinberg for the presentation.

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.
- A virtual public hearing is planned for the first week of January, tentatively January 6. There will be two public hearing sessions held in one day and each regional committee's public hearing will last one hour. The am public hearing session will be an opportunity for public input on the Delaware, Potomac, and Lower Susquehanna regions. The afternoon public hearing session will be an opportunity for public input on the Ohio, Great Lakes, and Upper/Middle Susquehanna regions.
- At the January regional committee meeting the Committee members will discuss and vote on part or all the regional water planning priorities, stormwater management priorities, and climate change priorities.
- At the April 2021 regional committee meeting Committee members will finalize the priorities they wish to move forward to the State Committee.
- The State Committee will finalize the updated state water plan at the scheduled meeting in May 2021.

The next meeting of the Ohio Regional Committee will be held on January 26, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting. The April Committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm on a Mary Ellen Ramage / Sam Dinkins motion.