



State Water Plan Update Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

October 13, 2022
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Charles Bennett	Adam McClain
Pat Bowling	Heidi Moltz
Tom Hart	Sarah Principato

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Barry Best	Kevin Moore
Andrea Blosser	Pat Naugle
Mark Guise	Brent Ramsey
Russell McLucas	Coleen Reamer

Others in Attendance:

James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill – DEP	
Susan Weaver - DEP	

Visitors:

None

Welcome

James Horton, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting was being recorded, and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology.

Committee Vice-Chair Adam McClain welcomed committee members to the meeting and completed a roll call for attendance.

Public Comment

Vice-Chair McClain opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of the April 14, 2022, meeting was approved on a Pat Bowling / Heidi Moltz motion.

DEP Update

Susan Weaver provided an update of what DEP is working on regarding the State Water Plan Update.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) are progressing. The draft Back Creek CARP is complete and has been shared with the Ohio regional committee; it was approved by the committee to enter public comment and the 45-day agency review phase followed by a hearing to receive testimony from the public. This review time has ended, DEP staff and the Critical Area Advisory Committee have addressed the comments and suggested edits and anticipate sharing this CARP along with a comment/response document with the Ohio regional committee later this month. The draft Laurel Hill CARP will be shared at a later date. The Marsh and Rock Creek CARP is still under review, but we anticipate it will be released shortly. Once the draft CARPs have been reviewed by their respective committee and approved by DEP with any additional edits, they will be sent to a list of stakeholders and planning officials within their watershed for review and comment. Additionally, DEP will host public hearings specifically to consider each CARP and solicit comments from the public prior to the vote for recommendation. Once the CARPs have been edited in accordance with public and planning agency feedback, the CARPs will return to their regional committees to vote on their recommendation to the statewide committee.

The final State Water Plan Update report has been drafted and was shared with the public in accordance with Act 220 requirements. This document was concurrently reviewed by members of the statewide committee's Final Report Workgroup who submitted edits of their own. Both a comment/response document and the final report are currently being internally reviewed by DEP staff and will be shared with the statewide committee at their November 16 meeting. The final report includes regional components, work group products, an assessment of progress since the last plan update, and a strategic plan going forward. You have received a link to the draft document shortly after the public comment period went active on August 20. We will be discussing this document with you today.

The draft Marsh and Rock Creek CARP has been updated and is being reviewed by DEP staff. The CARP should be available for the committee to review in spring of 2023.

The State Water Plan Atlas from 2009 has been developed into a StoryMap as a Digital Atlas. We plan to share this with you today.

The thirteenth statewide committee meeting will be held on October 19th. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16.

Debrief on the State Water Plan Process

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the two-year process to develop the current draft state water plan and the Potomac regional priorities. Committee members provided the following comments:

- The committee did what they needed to do.
- Process worked well.
- Hopefully we can get back to in-person meetings in the future.
- Helpful if the process moved faster and we could see outcomes quicker.
- The process between regional committees and statewide committee worked well and there is synergy developed by bringing regional committee members to statewide committee meetings.
- It is frustrating we can't get a quorum of members to attend.

Story Map – Water Atlas

Mike Hill, DEP Geologist presented the DEP Story Map and Water Atlas for the updated state water plan. The previous state water plan had a coffee table book highlighting the work of the update which was very well received and requested. The current water atlas has been shifted to a digital story map and water atlas and contains updated data and GIS maps. The digital water atlas will be maintained by DEP staff and updated with new information. The link for the digital water atlas follows:

[The Digital Water Atlas \(arcgis.com\)](#)

The digital water atlas has the following topical tabs for the visitor's use:

- Introduction
- Regional committees and planning regions
- Map tour
- Watershed and subbasins, how watershed is delineated
- Water resources – ground water, and drinking water
- Climate – climate change data, average annual precipitation
- Drought data
- Water use and planning
- Recreation and managed lands
- Population changes
- Geology of the regions
- Stormwater and flooding
- Land cover

Final Report Overview

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the draft state water plan report they have received. Several sections of the draft have been enhanced since the draft committee members reviewed. These sections are the executive summary and path forward. Committee members feedback on the current draft included:

- Comfortable with the draft plan

- Make sure the state water plan is integrated with other DEP plans.

Path Forward

The committee discussed the path forward for the state water planning committees and the proposed ideas in the draft state water plan. James Horton, DEP, provided the following ideas for committee activities in the path forward.

- Carry on meetings of the regional committees on a regular basis, perhaps twice each year in April and October.
- Phase 1 of the path forward activities will include clarifying and organizing the information contained in the state water plan, public outreach, and providing information in the Clean Water Academy.
- Phase 2 of the path forward activities will identify metrics for measuring progress on the initiatives identified in the state water plan.
- Phase 3 of the path forward activities will include measuring progress on initiatives.
- It is planned to begin working on the next update to the state water plan within three years with the fifth year being the integration of all regional committees and the statewide committee.

Committee members offered the following suggestions for a path forward.

- The CARP approval process needs to be quicker.
- More participation from the western part of the watershed basin is important.

Recruitment for Committee Members

The Potomac regional committee currently has nine openings.

- County Conservation District Director
- CCD Director or Planning Commission Director
- Agriculture – horticulture
- Agriculture – ag production
- Public wastewater
- Environment (2 positions)
- Local government (2 positions)

Items in the chat

- [The Digital Water Atlas \(arcgis.com\)](#)
The Digital Water Atlas
of Pennsylvania's State Water Plan, 2022 - DRAFT
storymaps.arcgis.com
- [eComment \(pa.gov\)](#)
- jahorton@pa.gov

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. on a Sarah Principato / Tom Hart motion.