



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

July 16, 2020
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Virtual SKPE Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Charles Bennett	Kevin Moore
Barry Best	Pat Naugle
Andrea Blosser	Sarah Principato
Phyllis Chant	Brent Ramsey
Mark Guise	Donald Schwartz
Adam McClain	Ronald Stanley
Heidi Moltz	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Russell McLucas
Coleen Reamer

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 Chalfont - DEP	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	

Visitors:

Christina Davis - ICPRB

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

Public Comment

Chair Bennett 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 January 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved on a Phyllis Chant / Adam McCain motion. The vote was via both voice and chat voting.

State Water Plan Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities achieved over the past 10 years that coincide with the State Water Plan Update. DEP has continued to work on better data sharing tools such as Power BI which will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

The Department is improving data sharing through USGS Water Use Data and Research Grants (WUDR 3 and WUDR 4) data sharing projects. WUDR 3 will improve the end user experience of inputting their Chapter 110 water reporting data. WUDR 4 will share data between agencies (SRBC & DRBC). The Department also continues to work on digitizing the Water Atlas into a Story map. This will create an online user-friendly tool that presents the State Water Plan achievements and incorporates cross references to other applicable programs and initiatives.

Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) Update

An update on the Marsh Creek / Rock Creek Critical Water Planning Areas (CARP) was provided by Heidi Moltz of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). The purpose of the CARP is to identify and quantify, where possible, water resources issues that affect water availability and develop practical, implementable solutions. The initial CARP plan was initiated in 2010 and the planning included:

- Participation - A county WRAC committee was formed with an advisory committee of more than 50 diverse members from a range of water sectors.
- Data collection - Data was collected from 4 staff gages, 13 well monitoring sites, and 8 precipitation stations.
- Technical analyses - Analysis of current and future water uses, water availability, water quality, stormwater and floodplains, and additional technical data.
- Identifying water issues - Analysis of water withdrawal use in 2007 showed 52% domestic and public supply use, 18% agriculture use, 13% industrial use, 10% mining use, 4% commercial use, and 3% golf course use. Water resources issues identified included: water quality impairments in all sub-watersheds, stormwater causing localized flooding, a lack of coordinated management of CWPA water resources, and limited long-term water level and quality data.
- Identifying management alternatives - The CAAC brainstormed 59 alternatives to address identified water resources issues and developed 42 alternatives which were prioritized into two tiers for action.
- Evaluating and prioritizing alternatives - Management alternatives include: annual water audits of community water supply systems, creating a well construction ordinance, installation of stream gages, implement beneficial reuses of wastewater, enhance education in the CWPA, prepare a joint comprehensive plan for the CWPA, and create a Marsh/Rock creeks water management council

- Preparing the CARP document - To finalize the CARP document the following information needs to be updated with the anticipated timelines:
 - Current and future withdrawal uses (June - Sept. 2020)
 - Demographics of the area (June - Sept. 2020)
 - Evaluation of groundwater level data (July - Dec. 2020)
 - Climate change impact (July - Dec. 2020)
 - Stormwater (July - Sept. 2020)
 - Review of the recommendations (Oct. - Dec. 2020)
 - Prepare the final document Oct. 2020 - March 2021)

Data Provided through the Regional Committee Survey

An online survey was previously provided to Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee members and 9 members completed the survey. The survey asked members to rank regional priorities, comment on Integrated Water Resources Planning, comment on climate change, and comment on the uniqueness of the region compared to the rest of the commonwealth.

Priority Issues

Priority rankings of issues identified in the survey is provided in the following chart.

Priority	Ranking
Develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity and preserve ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water	10.56
Water quality	9.68
Address land use planning and growth	9.11
Inventory and balancing supply and demand	8.22
Climate change resiliency	7.67
Phase three Water Improvement Plan	7.56
Storm water impact and flooding	5.56
Regional comprehensive planning	5.11
Local development and improvement policies	4.78
Geographic areas experiencing growth vs areas in decline	4.67
MS4	4.11

Committee members discussed the priorities identified. The following comments were offered:

- Water quality is important, it is one of the reasons for developing the State Water Plan. Quantity is also a critical element.
- Consensus of the committee the top priority should be, “develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity and preserve ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water.” Many of the other priorities can be integrate into this top priority.
- Integrated planning incorporates several of the identified priorities; WIP Phase 3 and regional comprehensive planning aligns with ICPRB development of a regional plan.

- PFASs contaminants are increasing and not addressed in the priorities; do not know of any concerns in the region but could impact water quality; some testing has been done on PFASs and there is minimal detection found, but no threshold has been established on what is a risk. Some contaminants in the soil are natural contaminants, arsenic, sulfate, and nitrates and no one looks at these as problems. Nitrates in some areas are above normal levels for drinking water
- Adams and Franklin Counties are developing County wide Phase 3 Watershed Improvement Plans. The plans are primarily an analysis of nitrogen, phosphate, and sediment. The pilot programs will document best management practices to protect water quality. The Water Improvement Plan is being integrated with MS4 policies.
- Climate change resiliency impacts both stormwater and flooding issues and both are connected.
- Only two states in the U.S. do not have well construction standards and Pennsylvania is one of the two. This issue has been discussed before at the State Committee level and the Regional Committee asked Kevin Moore, State Committee representative to raise the question at the next State Committee meeting. Well construction standards protect the homeowner and water resources for everyone.
- A source water protection plan has been developed by Gettysburg and Biglerville boroughs. It is not a public document but may be able to provide information and recommendations that can be used as a best practice.
- Impact of development on water usage
- Water resources are limited in the region - must collaborate instead of competing for quality water

Resource:

- https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/drinking_water/PFAS/Pages/default.aspx
- <http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/emappa/>

Questions 2, 3, and 4 of survey - Integrated Water Resources Planning

Q2 What comes to mind when you hear the term Integrated Water Resources Planning (IWRP)?



Q3 How could IWRP help your region?

planning_{future} regionwater
water resources_{local} better

Q4 How do you see the state helping to facilitate your region's IWRP efforts?

well IWRP providing guidance efforts plan state

Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- Like the IWRP flow chart and could develop an IWRP for the Potomac basin, everyone working together. No need to reinvent the process, look at the York County IWRP.
- Important to work together and not work independently.
- If we develop an IWRP flow chart the committee may be able to identify gaps.
- There is a joint comprehensive plan involving several municipalities in Adams County. It is in draft form be may be an initial building framework that can be used.

Resources:

- www.paiwrp.com - IWRP flowchart tool
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/page.asp?id=1> - IWRP flowchart
- <http://www.paiwrp.com/uploads/pdf/York-IWRP-Flowchart.pdf> - York County IWRP flowchart
- <https://www.ycpc.org/319/Water-Resources-Planning>
- http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Documents/CAJCP/1CAJCP_DRAFT_Dec18.pdf

Questions 5 & 6 - Climate Change Survey Feedback

Q5 How has climate change affected your region? For example, increased heavy rain events and flooding, water availability, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), etc.

storm years increased severe flooding_{water rain}

Q6 Climate Change: How do you think your region could/should adapt to or mitigate these climate change effects?

**Adapt
Planning
Science based practices
Mitigate the impact
Reduce GHG emissions
Stormwater management**

Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- DEP emphasis for the State Water Plan is to focus on adaptation and not mitigation.
- What can we do about reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Green house emissions may be outside the scope of the regional committee.
- Climate change impacts include:
 - Large rain events and storms
 - Increased run off from heavy storms that causes erosion
 - Flash flooding creates potential emergency management dangers
 - Farmers are required to have larger retention ponds to keep stormwater from flooding and this reduces tillable acres; farmers need funding to offset the loss
 - Droughts
 - Short falls and water deficits; water availability may be erratic
 - Examine the Act 167 processes. Statewide infiltration standards are not applicable in the poor soils of Adams County. There is new research on the effect of storm water in poor soils.
 - Concern for dam safety

Resource

- <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/default.aspx> - link to DEP's webpage on climate change
- <https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx> - climate action plan for Sacramento County, California

Next Steps

Chair Bennett thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas. DEP would like to document achievements in the Potomac Region that have occurred since the last plan was developed. Please provide ideas and stories to Mark Matlock at the DEP office.

To complete the work for the updated plan, each meeting will focus on one or two topics for discussion. DEP will provide the identified topic(s) for discussion in advance of the next meeting, and possible homework reading, so committee members have time to prepare background information and solutions.

The State Committee will be meeting August 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Chair Bennett asked Kevin Moore, the Potomac Committee representative to the State Committee to provide summary feedback of the State Committee meeting to the Regional Committee members after the State meeting is held.

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting. Mark Matlock stated that DEP requires the meeting to be held via SKYPE and this is the platform that will be used for future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm Phyllis Chant / Charles Bennett motion.