



State Water Plan Update Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

January 14, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

Charles Bennett	Pat Naugle
Andre Blosser	Sarah Principato
Adam McClain	Brent Ramsey
Heidi Moltz	Donald Schwartz
Kevin Moore	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Barry Best	Russell McLucas
Phyllis Chant	Coleen Reamer
Mark Guise	Ronald Stanley

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:

Christina Davis
Patrick Bowling
Josie Gaskey

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. Committee Chair Charlie Bennett 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 July and October committee meetings could not be approved because of a lack of quorum of committee members.

DEP Update

Kristina Peacock-Jones, DEP, provided an update on DEP activities. The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) Grants data sharing projects are progressing well. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is complete and should go live during the first quarter of 2021. 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 first quarter of 2021.

Another one of our data sharing tools, Power BI, has been completed. This data sharing tool will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

A virtual public hearing was conducted on January 6, 2021 to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to the preparation of the regional component of the State water plan. Testimony is being accepted until January 20, 2021 at RA-StateWaterPlan@pa.gov. DEP staff will be summarizing the comments provided at the public hearing and will provide this information to committee members as soon as completed.

CARP Update

An update on the Critical Area Resource Planning (CARP) for Marsh and Rock Creek Watersheds was provided by Christina Davis of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. The purpose of the CARP is to identify and quantify, where possible, water resources issues that affect water availability and develop practical, implementable solutions.

In developing the CARP action plan the following challenges have been identified:

- Average conditions are becoming wetter
- Extreme conditions are becoming more severe
- The impact of climate change and effect on drought conditions

The following CARP recommendations have been developed for the Potomac Regional Committee to review:

1. Impart water into the CWPA (Critical Water Planning Area) – under this management alternative, a water user would bring in water from the Susquehanna River basin, non-CWPA portions of the Potomac River basin, or another river basin. Regional committee members will review the language of this management alternative as written on page 136-137 of the 2012 draft CARP to determine current applicability.
2. Establish groundwater protection ordinances for well construction and geothermal wells (management alternative #31a). Proposed action is updating the wording of

these recommendations to acknowledge the model construction standards and material specifications that were developed

3. All municipalities in the CARP area should adopt and enforce ordinances regarding private well construction standards, including geothermal systems (management alternatives #33c). Proposed action is updating the wording of these recommendations to acknowledge the model construction standards and material specifications that were developed.
4. Establish groundwater protection guidance for yield analysis (for large wells); need common methodology for municipalities to determine sustainable groundwater yields (management alternative #31b). Proposed action is to revise language to acknowledge the report prepared by Pat Naugle et al. (Estimating Groundwater Availability in a Fractured-Rock Aquifer in the Potomac River Basin).
5. Establish groundwater protection ordinance for water quality protection; need inspections to ensure proper construction and testing of finished water to make sure treatment is adequate and well is functioning properly (management alternative #31c). Proposed action is to revise language to acknowledge the draft municipal ordinance that has been developed.
6. Prepare a Joint Comprehensive Plan for the CWPA that includes sound land use policies and a strong water supply and protection component. Follow up with compatible zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances (SALDOs) (management alternative #17). Proposed action is to revise language to acknowledge and promote implementation of the Central Adams Joint Comprehensive Plan (2019).
7. Installation of additional stream or staff gages and continued maintenance and operation of existing gages (management alternative #22). Proposed action is to add language highlighting the need for collaborative local funding.
8. The Adams County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is mentioned in several of the recommendations. Proposed action is to revise language as the Adams County WRAC is no longer actively meeting.

Next steps include estimating the commercial and industrial withdrawal uses and finalizing the report with an expected completion date in March of 2021.

Regional Components and Action Plans

The DEP staff presented summarized points from previous committee meetings on the region's priorities, uniqueness, stormwater management, climate change, and regional projects showcase. The committee discussed the summarized points and provided feedback, recommended changes, and additional ideas. The discussion produced the following key points for the committee's future discussions.

Specific Regional Priorities

1. Develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity and preserves or improves ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water - groundwater management, source water protection, and well standards.
2. Integrated planning - regional comprehensive planning for land use and managing growth; Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans.
3. Climate change resiliency - storm water, drought, and flooding impacts.

Region's Uniqueness - What are the Potomac region's unique characteristics that are important considerations in the state water planning?

- This region borders the Susquehanna watershed and forms the headwaters to the Potomac River; each county is split between at least two watersheds.
- Water does not infiltrate into the soil well; this may cause groundwater recharge and water quality concerns. Flooding can lead to erosion concerns.
- Localized geology limits groundwater storage and recharge.
- The geography is unique in that it is predominantly fertile farmland that is densely populated but also has rugged mountains that are more sparsely populated.
- Because of its location along the I-81 corridor there is a lot of development, particularly warehouse expansion. There has been increased residential growth throughout the basin with urban sprawl from the Washington DC area. Decline seen in younger populations.
- Water availability can vary to an extreme degree.
- As the population continues to grow, the dynamics of water needs will change.
- Coordination with Maryland – reservoirs in the Potomac basin supply areas of Maryland.
- Potential of solar implementation growth. Solar systems can change the land use designation for a period.

Stormwater and Flood Management - What are the region's priorities for stormwater and flood management and preserving water quality?

- Funding for counties to complete Act 167 plans.
- Promote countywide action plans, beneficial in coordination and addressing stormwater.
- Change in storm event frequencies, duration, and return frequencies for Best Management Practices (BMP) (storm water control measures are new terms) design standards.
- Consider quantity and quality with cost/benefit analysis.
- Assess aging infrastructure for high-intensity storm events.
- Stormwater BMPs do not function the same in all areas; need to create unique BMPs that are site and regional specific for different geographic regions.

- Geology is important; watershed characteristics should be accounted for when implementing BMPs; region has unique geology and soils and standard BMPs do not work.
- Easy to address new construction infrastructure but existing projects with aging infrastructure need to be addressed.
- Retrofit existing aging BMPs for large impervious areas (parking lots of vacant shopping malls).
- Designated MS4 areas will need funding to implement, in addition to stormwater fees.

Climate Change Adaptation - What are the impacts of climate the region is experiencing now and how do we manage these events in the future?

- Potential for increased storm frequency and intensity; find ways to reduce safety risks and environmental impact and to be more prepared. Integrated Water Resources Planning (IWRP) can help to coordinate.
- Efforts toward increasing resiliency for flash flooding events should be considered. Riparian buffers and conveyance structures can help reduce the effects.
- There ought to be greater resilience in amplified drought events for protection and conservation since there is increased risk of deeper droughts brought on by climate change. Methods should be applied to promote groundwater infiltration and maintain aquifers.
- Investigate climate change implications on water supply and water quality.
- There is a need to quantify climate change with data, both the high and low precipitation events.
- Extremes in availability of water may require regional authorities to plan for both floods and drought. Creates difficulty in planning.
- Explore ways to communicate climate change that will not alienate potential allies.
- With a focus on 'on the ground' data collection, science, and regional data not global data - more accurate forecasting can be done to draw in more stakeholders. Monitoring network data can help with localized decisions. Identify types of data and sources and find the best way to analyze and track. (COCORAHS network)

Regional Projects Showcase

- The Creek Cleanup Project is an ongoing project to clean up creeks in Franklin County. This project ultimately aims at organizing multiple satellite groups around the county to maintain sections of the creek they have cleaned up. This will make it possible for the streams they have cleaned up to remain clean going into the future.
- The Clean Water for Franklin County (CWFC) is a Franklin County Conservation District initiative to shift our Countywide Action Plan (CAP) into action, set forth by the PA DEP's [Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan](#). The CAP aims to result in cleaner water for Franklin County by reducing nearly 1.3 million pounds of nitrogen runoff from entering our local communities' waters.
- COCORAHS - <https://www.cocorahs.org/>
- Knouse Foods – Land Conservancy of Adams county for the preservation of 50 acres of property that included the Conewago Creek. Permanent access and stream easements. <https://www.preserveadams.org/>

- Countywide Action Planning - <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/GetInvolved/Pages/Countywide-Action-Plans.aspx>
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB).
 - Land prioritization mapping to protect drinking water quality. GIS – ranks land on a parcel scale for protection purposes.
 - Groundwater monitoring network.
- Adams County well standards.

Resources Provided in the Chat

- CoCoRaHS: <https://www.cocorahs.org/>
- Countywide Action Plans: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/GetInvolved/Pages/Countywide-Action-Plans.aspx>

Next Steps

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

Mark Matlock, DEP, 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 January 21, 2021.
- At the next regional committee meeting the committee must elect/re-elect the committee chair and Vice-Chair as required by the committee's bylaws and Act 220.
- The next Potomac Regional meeting will be held on April 15, 2021. At this meeting DEP staff are planning to share a story map of water projects completed or in operation since the last State Water Plan update.

The next meeting of the Potomac Regional Committee will be held on April 15, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm on an Adam McClain / Kevin Moore motion.