



State Water Plan Update Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

October 14, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting
In-Person Rachael Carson Building

Committee Members in Attendance:

Charles Bennett	Kevin Moore
Andre Blosser	Pat Naugle
Patrick Bowling	Dr. Sarah Principato
Phyllis Chant	Brent Ramsey
Adam McClain	Donald Schwartz
Heidi Moltz	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Barry Best	Coleen Reamer
Mark Guise	Dr. Ronald Stanley
Russell McLucas	

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:

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. Mark Matlock added there was no one attending from the public at the DEP meeting room in Harrisburg.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 15, 2021, committee meeting was approved on a Charlie Bennett / Kevin Moore motion.

Election of Officers

The annual election of officers was tabled because of a lack of quorum of committee members.

DEP 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.

Kevin Moore, representative to the Statewide Committee provided an update on the Statewide Committee's activities. Eight workgroups have been created to review progress on the previous plan and develop working drafts of recommendations to move the State Water Plan Update forward. The workgroups will have drafts prepared for the November meeting.

CARP Update

The three CARP's being developed are being reviewed internally by DEP staff. DEP is trying to reestablish another contract with ICPRB to update several sections of the CARP. The Potomac CARP is the most complete of the three. When the CARP has been reviewed internally by DEP staff it will be sent to committee members for their review.

Regional Priorities

The two regional priorities have remained the same as previously developed. The priorities cannot be voted on for approval with a lack of quorum of committee members.

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 includes the following sections:

- Overview of the state water plan
- Tab for the state committee
- Tab for legislative priorities
- Tab for each regional committee
- Each regional committee will have the following sections and content relative to the region. Highlights of the Potomac Region include:
 - Introduction to the region
 - Comparatively small region and each county in the region is split with at least one other watershed
 - Region is at risk from changing precipitation patterns due to climate change and groundwater recharge issues related to land use practices
 - Review of the specific regional priorities
 - The major priority of the regional committee is to develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity while preserving the ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water
 - Committee recommends an approach that encourages municipal programs to collaborate and plan regionally to address land use planning and growth
 - Completing countywide action plans to support Pennsylvania Phase 3 watershed implementation plans is also a high priority
 - The second priority is climate change resiliency, especially with regard to storm water management flooding and drought
 - Region's uniqueness and characteristics
 - Region forms the headwaters to the Potomac River
 - Local geology limits groundwater storage and recharged water does not infiltrate into the soil well and may lead to flooding
 - The geography is unique, predominantly farmland that is densely populated and rugged mountains that are more sparsely populated
 - There is an increase in residential growth throughout the basin as a result of urban sprawl which will change the dynamics of water needs
 - Stormwater and flood management
 - Regional authorities should assess aging stormwater infrastructure for high frequency and high intensity storm events

- Retrofitting aging best management practices and providing groundwater recharge areas for large impervious areas would be beneficial
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - There is a potential for increased storm frequency and storm intensity and stakeholders should find ways to reduce safety risks and environmental impacts
 - Extremes and water availability requires regional authorities to plan for both flooding and drought
 - Stakeholders should explore ways to communicate climate change that will not alienate potential allies and use regional ground water data as opposed to global datasets
- Notable projects with an interactive map
 - Franklin County Creek cleanup projects and Franklin County clean water for Franklin County

A discussion followed on the Story Map content.

- Some pictures in the Story Map may change before it is released if higher quality pictures can be identified
- Add adoption of well construction standards in Adams County
- Change the wording on poor soils to “Areas in the region have low infiltration rates leading to less groundwater recharge and increased flooding.”
- Promoting stormwater management with the use of riparian buffers, rain gardens, and stream restoration will reduce erosion and improve groundwater recharge
- The region touches the Susquehanna River basin and the Ohio, not Delaware
- Sprawl is occurring from Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Harrisburg
- Region has unique geology and topography
- To notable projects add land preservation project completed along the Conewago Creek in Adams County. Collaboration between the Land conservancy of Adams County, Trout Unlimited, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission

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 the draft ideas developed during the meeting are included at the end of the minutes. Comments provided by committee members during the creation of the logic model included:

- FEMA also has flood maps that could be a resource
- Well construction standards should be adopted throughout the region
- Pennsylvania achieves the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan targets as part of the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load (TMDL)
- Goal to delist some of the local streams for nutrient impairments

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.

- Potomac Regional Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates in 2022
 - January 13
 - April 14
 - October 13
 - 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 3:25 pm on a Phyllis Chant / Adam McClain motion.

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Promote programs and practices that protect water quality and quantity and preserve the ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Long-Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP (SWP Section) • Municipalities • Well owners • DCNR (PA Geological Survey) • House Bill 417 • House Bill 596 • ICPRB • Committee Members • Funding (Grants etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to public within Potomac and other regions that have yet to accept well ordinances • Approach well drillers already interested in creating a standard to even the playing field • Identify all potential constraints including funding sources for water resource projects (to farmers, counties etc.) within the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build community awareness in communities that are not currently implementing well construction ordinances • Lobbying effort toward well ordinances • Assessment of regional well quality and compliance with construction ordinances • Complete county wide action plans • Implement activities listed within countywide action plans • De-list local streams for nutrient impairment • List of needs as they apply to PA Phase III WIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In regions where well ordinances are not presently implemented. Public is now aware of and implementing well construction ordinances • Well construction ordinances mandated statewide • Competency and continuing education requirements for well drillers • PA achieves Phase III WIP status as part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL

State Water Plan Logic Model (Provisional Draft)

Goal: Climate change resiliency, especially with regard to stormwater management, flooding, and drought.

Resources	Activities	Outputs	Long Term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Members • DEP – State Water Plan Section • ICPRB • FEMA – Flood Maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create educational materials for public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several public meetings to educate on climate change featuring flooding, drought, stormwater etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General public is better educated on the connection between stormwater, flooding, drought, and climate change • Storm Water Practices that State recommends do not always apply well in this region, therefore, develop practices that work in unique regional systems