



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

October 19, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.
Len Bradley, P.E.	Kevin Moore, P.E.
Carol Collier	Deb Simko
Andrew Dehoff	Heather Smiles
Sean Donnelly	Simeon Suter, P.G.
Jennifer Fetter	Steve Tambini
Andrew Gutshall, P.G.	Susan Weaver, P.E.
Catherine Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison, P.E.	Matthew Wolford

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Theresa Eberly	Gary Merritt
Brian Eckert	Shannon Rossman
Patty Elkis	Michael Roth
Matthew Genchur	Trish Salvia, Esq
Daniel Gold	Jessica Trimble
Jeff Jumper	

Others in Attendance:

James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill, P.G. - DEP	
Brian Chalfant – DEP	

Visitors:

Andy Gavin
Eve Adrian

Welcome:

James Horton, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting was being recorded and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology. Chair Tim Weston welcomed everyone attending the meeting. Attendance was recorded in the Microsoft Teams participant's log. Chair Weston welcomed Susan Weaver as the new DEP representative on Statewide Committee.

Public Comment

Chair Weston opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was offered.

DEP Summary of Activities:

James Horton provided a summary of DEP activities regarding the State Water Plan Update.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) are progressing well. 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 CARP's are expected to be completed in early 2023, with the Back Creek CARP possibly being approved in 2022.

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.

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.

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 \(arcgis.com\)](https://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

Workgroups Updates

The state water committee workgroup has completed edits of the draft state water plan. The workgroup has reviewed all the public comments and included when appropriate and possible the comments in the plan editing. The legislative initiatives have been prioritized and additional points have been added to the path forward. No new sections have been added to the plan draft. Detailed action items have been added to make the plan more robust and an actionable document. The state water plan is now under internal DEP review.

The first activity when the new plan is approved will be to focus on public outreach with the goal of including everyone in the outreach effort.

Comments in the Chat

- Don't forget the idea of having the committees participate in the outreach
- [The Digital Water Atlas \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
The Digital Water Atlas
of Pennsylvania's State Water Plan, 2022 – DRAFT
storymaps.arcgis.com
- That is a wonderful resource!
- Wow!
- Pretty substantial amount of info. Well done!

- Great tool. Many watershed groups and water resource groups across the state would appreciate this
- Is the public water system map a living document, meaning will it continue to be updated over time?
- Outreach is so important. Can you speak about our suggestions and recommendations to do that?
- James, I have a calendar hold on Nov 16, but not for Dec. 14.

Next Steps

- November 1 – The revised statewide plan will be provided to Committee members for review.
- November 16 – Statewide Committee meeting to review the finalized report with the final edits.
- December 14 – Statewide Committee meeting to vote on approving the plan

The meeting was adjourned on a Len Bradley / Simeon Suter motion.