



## **State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting**

November 16, 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	Trish Salvia, Esq.
Andrew Dehoff	Deb Simko
Sean Donnelly	Heather Smiles
Patty Elkis	Simeon Suter, P.G.
Matthew Genchur	Steve Tambini
Catherine Harper	Susan Weaver, P.E.
Richard Harrison, P.E.	Tim Weston
Jeff Jumper	Matthew Wolford
Gary Merritt	

### **Committee Members Not in Attendance:**

Theresa Eberly	Daniel Gold
Brian Eckert	Shannon Rossman
Jennifer Fetter	Michael Roth
Andrew Gutshall, P.G.	Jessica Trimble

### **Others in Attendance:**

James Horton – DEP	Monica Gould – Strategic Consulting Partners
Brian Chalfant – DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners

### **Visitors:**

Susan Myerov

### **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.

### **Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary of the August 17, 2022, meeting of the Statewide Committee was approved on a Kate Harper / Len Bradley motion.

### **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. The draft Back Creek CARP is complete and was previously 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 come to a close, DEP staff and the Critical Area Advisory Committee have addressed the comments and suggested edits, this CARP along with a comment/response document was still being internally reviewed at the time of the last Ohio regional meeting. 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. We have both a comment/response document and the final report here to share with you today. This final report includes regional components, work group products, an assessment of progress since the last plan update, and a strategic plan going forward. You all received a link to this report when the internal DEP review had concluded. Today we anticipate discussing the report at depth as it nears completion with the intention of hearing suggestions on any final minor edits. The report will then be finalized and brought before the statewide committee for a formal vote during the December 14 meeting.

A discussion followed the DEP summary on the three CARPs being developed. Kate Harper suggested the CARPs should be shared with the Statewide Committee. She feels all regions can learn and use the information contained in the CARPs. James Horton will share the draft CARPs with the Statewide Committee members.

## **Final Report Discussion and Final Edits**

The most recent draft of the state water plan was reviewed with the statewide committee. The plan was reviewed section by section for comment and feedback. Steve Tambini suggested that environmental justice should be included in the plan priorities and should be about outreach and outcomes to be achieved. Ideas were offered to include environmental justice in the priorities and the narrative. It was suggested that environmental justice and climate change should be critical overlays to the plan.

Committee members were offered an opportunity to make a motion on adding comments or a section on environmental justice to the state water plan. No motions were received, and the discussion ended.

Kate Harper suggested the executive summary is backwards looking and needs to be more forward looking, a plan for the future to manage water resources. The purpose of the report is to help Pennsylvania plan for the future and manage water resources wisely. Tim Weston added the report is to provide information and recommendations to better manage our water resources. Susan Weaver offered it would not be difficult for DEP to consider revising the introduction to make it more forward looking. The revision will be prepared by Tim Weston and James Horton.

A discussion was held on the Sustainable Public and Private Stormwater Management Infrastructure section in the legislative priorities. It was suggested to clarify the language on which municipalities and authorities are permitted to assess stormwater fees. The language in Section 2.4 related to this same topic also may need to be adjusted to align with the priority statement.

A wording adjustment was also suggested to The Summary and Assessments and Recommendations section on flooding. The bullet point wording will be changed to “funding to enhance watershed-based flood forecasting and warning systems.”

A glossary is included in the state water plan at the end of the report. A discussion followed on moving the glossary to the beginning of the plan. It was agreed to retain the glossary at the end of the report and include in the introduction section that a glossary is included in the back.

A question was raised on how the public comments will be integrated into the plan. It was suggested to add free links for mapping resources be added to the Data Access and Collaboration section as suggested by a public comment.

## **Regional Components Discussion and Vote**

Chair Weston stated the regional components developed by the regional committees can only be disapproved if there is inconsistencies or conflicts with the state water plan, other regional components, or state and federal laws or policies. Five regional components for the state water plan, except for the Potomac Region, were unanimously approved on a Kate Harper / Kevin Moore motion.

The Potomac regional components could not formally be approved previously by the Potomac regional committee because of a lack of quorum to vote. Therefore, the Potomac regional components must be approved by the Statewide Committee. The Potomac regional components were reviewed by James Horton and Kevin Moore, regional representative. The Potomac regional components for the State Water plan were approved on a Kevin Moore / Sim Suter motion.

### **Comments in the Chat**

- Most federal monies being allocated to revolving funds have an environmental justice component it will continue to be a priority across multiple regions in Pennsylvania and especially for those communities looking to seek grants and loans from the state/ feds to address water resource challenges/ infrastructure needs
- Maybe: "Ensure funding and resources are dedicated to disadvantaged areas to address water issues"
- See section 5.2 and the reference back to 1.6.3
- Introduction needs to be forward looking and action-oriented, not passive.

### **Next Steps**

- Revisions made based on the edits provided at today's meeting
- December 14 – Statewide Committee meeting to vote on approving the plan

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 on a Kevin Moore / Matt Wolford motion.