



**State Water Plan Update
Upper Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee
Meeting**

July 30, 2020
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Skype

Committee Members in Attendance:

Steven Barondeau	Prasenjit Mitra
Patrick Burke	Robert Shannon
Jared Dressler	Jerry Walls
Andrew Gavin	Wendy Walter
Todd Giddings	Jennifer Whisner
Andrew Gutshall	John Yamona
Dennis Hameister	Cathy Yeakel
Beth Kern	Shannon Rossman

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Kurt Hausammann
Jim Weaver
Paul Heasley
Stephanie Stoughton
Tim Horner

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	
Raksha Varanasi - DEP	

Visitors:

None

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

Public Comment

Chair Walls 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 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented on a Dennis Hameister / Jennifer Whisner motion. The vote was completed by a voice vote.

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.

Data Provided through the Regional Committee Survey

An online survey was previously provided to Ohio Regional Committee members and 17 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
Protect important head water habitats and recharge areas of the Upper/Middle Susquehanna basin	16.47
Flooding	14.07
Infrastructure - collection, distribution, and replacement of existing systems	13.60
Standards for well water construction	12.20
Address the consequences of acidic drainage on receiving streams to improve and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems	12.13
Education and outreach	12.07
Water quantity and quality	11.67
Land use and development	10.80
Multi-municipal planning and coordination	10.27
Invasive species	10.17

Preservation of recreational areas, Greenways, and critical habitat areas	9.13
MS4 and storm water management	9.00
Assess progress of Integrated Water Resources Management	8.87
537 plan updates and requirements	8.73
Impact of industrial use of water	8.07
Updating hydrography mapping	7.80
Wetlands mitigation and banking of wetlands credits	6.93
Malls and box stores abandonment and impact on storm water	6.53

Committee members discussed the priorities identified. Consensus of the members is priorities can be grouped together to reduce the total number of priorities. Committee members also believe there is a difference between rural and urban/suburban approaches to the priorities. The committee identified several overarching concerns to be addressed:

- Water quality and quantity
- Acid mine drainage
- Protecting headwater habitats
- Invasive species

The two top priorities and supportive priorities for each are.

1. Protect important head water habitats and recharge areas of the Upper/Middle Susquehanna basin

Rural	Suburban/Urban
Water quality and quantity	Water quality and quantity
Education and outreach on all priorities	Education and outreach on all priorities
Preservation of recreational areas, Greenways, and critical habitat areas	Updating standards related to parking/paved areas to prevent storm run-off
Minimize and avoid large scale forest cutting, forests serve as a filter and mitigates flooding	Malls and box stores abandonment and impact on storm water
Habitat initiatives	Flooding - MS4 and stormwater management
Better agricultural practices	Impact of industrial use of water
Invasive species	Invasive species
Addressing land use and development	Addressing land use and development
Standards for well water construction and geothermal bore holes	Wetlands mitigation and banking of wetlands credits
Address the consequences of acidic mine drainage on receiving streams to improve	Address the consequences of acidic mine drainage on receiving streams to improve

and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems	and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems
	Encourage the use of existing infrastructure

2. Multi-municipal planning and coordination

Rural	Suburban/Urban
Education and outreach of the economic value of water quality and water quantity	Education and outreach of the economic value of water quality and water quantity
Assess progress of Integrated Water Resources Management	Assess progress of Integrated Water Resources Management
County wide action plans	County wide action plans
Sewage management systems; onsite septic systems; falling systems	Infrastructure needs to manage water in land use planning
Standards for well water and geothermal bore holes construction	MS4 and storm water management
Updating hydrography	Act 167 storm water adoption within each county
	537 plan updates and requirements
	Infrastructure - collection, distribution, and replacement of existing systems

Additional comments provided by Committee members:

- High number of vacant stores in malls is creating run off from the parking lots and there is no one left to manage the stormwater
- Invasive species throughout the region
- Protecting the headwater is tied together with land use planning and development
- Acid mine drainage is a higher priority in the Upper/Middle Susquehanna region and presents legacy issues with negative impacts on streams and the Chesapeake Bay; funding is decreasing

Question 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?



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



Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- Water planning needs to involve all players working together
- A lot of programs addressing water issues; programs and agencies working in silos; difficult to navigate between programs
- A planning checklist has been developed
- Need to take a holistic approach and develop a roadmap for all to follow
- Center region of state has a skeleton plan and will compete by 2021
- State can play an important role of bringing players together and reducing adversarial relationships
- Need input from agriculture community
- Need a strong county presence, fragmented efforts with so many municipalities
- Lancaster County working on Phase 3 WIP program; bringing variety of stakeholders together; model for others
- Pennsylvania has the most comprehensive strategic regulations for oil and gas
- State can provide data they are collecting on water withdrawal and uses
- IWRP can assist with grant opportunities
- Plans must be flexible; allow for residential and industrial use fluctuations

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 and 6 of the survey - Climate change

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

water appear **flooding** heavy rain events **Increased**
climate change **events** erosion changes

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

funding management **planning** changes **Better** storm water **need**
building **flood** help believe

Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- Stormwater management is a major priority
- More frequency and intensity of rain events and resulting frequency of flooding
- Proactively revisit ordinances to address land use
- Pay attention to shifts in critical habitat (brook trout)
- Data is not being collected from rain gauges because it is not funded; needs to be refurbished and updated
- Increase in temperatures of freshwater reservoirs
- Harmful algal blooms - other states are address HABs
- Need increasing sizing of retention basins
- Legacy development - plantings along stream corridors creates better recharge, better practice instead of bigger storm retention basins
- 2018 was the wettest year in 125 years
- Hotter temperatures impact water distribution; harder to meet regulatory standards
- Reduce carbon footprint in agriculture through no till planting and planting of cover crops

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

Questions 7 in the survey:

Q7 What makes your region unique in comparison to the rest of the Commonwealth?
Potential topics may include stakeholders, quantity or quality challenges, topography, geography, geology, industries or population centers



Comments provided in the Committee discussion:

- The topography of the region; steep slopes, mountain terrain, faster runoff of water, varied geology
- Legacy mining; water quality concerns from acid mine drainage
- Use of ground water for drinking supply
- Diversity of land use
- Unique and complex geology
- Amount of public forest land, both state forest and Game Lands
- Small municipalities that cross watersheds; hard to create consensus with so many stakeholders
- Smaller communities, many challenged economically
- Manganese may be a health threat in the future

Next Steps

Chair Walls thanked all committee members for their attendance, participation, and ideas. DEP would like to document achievements in the Upper/Middle Susquehanna 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. Andrew Gutshall and Shannon Rossman will be representing the Upper/Middle Region on the State Committee. For additional information on State Committee meeting, look on the DEP website.

The next Upper/Middle Susquehanna Regional meeting will be held on October 29, 2020. It will be a virtual meeting. Mark Matlock stated that DEP requires the meeting be held via SKYPE and this is the platform that will be used for future meetings at least through 2020.

Chair Walls adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.