



**State Water Plan Update
Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting**

October 11, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Mark Nemitz
Mark Bowen	Chad Pindar
Becky Bradley	Jane Rowan
Carol Collier	Bill Royer
Kate Harper	Peter Rykard
Irvil Kear	Elaine Paul Schaefer
Gary Kribbs	Eliza Walbridge
James McCarthy	Nathan Walker
Susan Myerov	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Ed Boscola	Christopher Norris
Patrice Dume	Dave Ritter
Andrew Frankenfield	Christopher Uhland

Others in Attendance:

James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	
Susan Weaver – DEP	

Visitors:

None

Welcome

James Horton, DEP, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting was being recorded, and provided helpful hints on the use of the technology. Chad Pindar, Committee Chair, welcomed all committee members to the meeting. Attendance was recorded through the online participants' log.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of the July 12, 2022, meeting was reviewed. Irvil Kear noted several misspellings in the meeting summary and the corrections were made by James

Horton. The revised meeting summary with the corrections made was approved on an Irvil Kear / Kate Harper motion.

Public Comment

Chair Pindar opened the meeting for public comment. An opportunity to express comments verbally or in the chat box was offered. There was no public comment.

DEP Update

Susan Weaver presented the DEP update.

The three draft Critical Area Resource Plans (CARPs) are progressing. 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 come to a close. 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 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. You have a received a link to the draft document shortly after the public comment period went active on August 20. We'll be discussing this document with you today.

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.

The twelfth statewide committee meeting was held on August 17. The thirteenth meeting is scheduled for October 19.

Debrief on the State Water Plan Process

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the two-year process to develop the current draft state water plan and the Delaware Regional priorities. Committee members provided the following comments:

- The plan developed is more focused on water resources planning and not just water sharing.
- Liked the virtual Teams meeting format. It is easier to schedule in advance and attend meetings.
- Not being face to face made the process more difficult.
- DEP internal process takes too long. Support needs to be more timely and faster.
- Committee has a good cross section of inter-disciplinary viewpoints.
- The committee meetings need to be promoted more to the public.
- Would like to have known in advance what the final plan format should look like.
- The final plan does not include users of water – power plants, waste water, maritime organizations.
- Would be good to engage the public more and how the committee can be used to obtain more public input.

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

Comments offered by committee members on the Digital Story Map

- Is it possible to make it easier to get to the regional priorities?

- Add tabs for policies, glossary of regulations, acts, and funding.

Final Report Overview and Discussion

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the draft state water plan report they have received. Several sections of the draft have been enhanced since the draft committee members reviewed. These sections are the executive summary and path forward. Committee members feedback on the current draft included:

- Agriculture needs to be developed in more detail
- More emphasis on integrated water resources management.
- The legislative initiatives and funding needs should be prioritized.
- Can't navigate by section in the pdf version. It would be nice if you could do so.

Path Forward

The committee discussed the path forward for the state water planning committees and the proposed ideas in the draft state water plan. James Horton, DEP, provided the following ideas for committee activities in the path forward.

- Carry on meetings of the regional committees on a regular basis, perhaps twice each year in April and October.
- Phase 1 of the path forward activities will include clarifying and organizing the information contained in the state water plan, public outreach, and providing information in the Clean Water Academy.
- Phase 2 of the path forward activities will identify metrics for measuring progress on the initiatives identified in the state water plan.
- Phase 3 of the path forward activities will include measuring progress on initiatives.
- It is planned to begin working on the next update to the state water plan within three years with the fifth year being the integration of all regional committees and the statewide committee.

Committee members offered the following suggestions for a path forward.

- Committee members offered suggestions for continuing engagement through education and outreach on the state water plan. Suggestions included the PSATS convention and Borough Association convention and county planners.

Recruitment for Committee Membership

Delaware committee has no current vacancies. Committee members are asked to provide names of potential committee membership for the future.

Comments in the Chat

- [The Digital Water Atlas \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
The Digital Water Atlas
of Pennsylvania's State Water Plan, 2022 - DRAFT
storymaps.arcgis.com

- [Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River & Bay - Home \(maritimedelriv.com\)](http://maritimedelriv.com)
- <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/supply/use-demand-projections2060.html>
- https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/sayed_GWAvailability_drbc.pdf
- PA just added three new state parks!
- The county conservation districts would be another outreach group to share this Plan and PACD.
- PA Water Environment Association
- James will be presenting to DRBC's WMAC this Thursday.
- Lots of opportunities to present this to regional and statewide groups: Pa Association of Environmental Professionals, Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers etc.
- American Planning Assoc.

Next Steps

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 on an Eliza Walbridge / Kelly Anderson motion.