



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

March 17, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Gary Merritt
Len Bradley	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.
Carol Collier	Kevin Moore
Andrew Dehoff	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Sean Donnelly	Michael Roth
Theresa Eberly	Trish Salvia
Jennifer Fetter	Deb Simko
Matthew Genchur	Heather Smiles
Andrew Gutshall	Steve Tambini
Kate Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison	Matthew Wolford
Jeff Jumper	

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Brian Eckert	Simeon Suter
Patty Elkis	Shannon Rossman
Daniel Gold	Jessica Trimble

Others in Attendance:

Mark Matlock - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton - DEP	
Brian Chalfant - DEP	

Visitors:

John Balay	Alex Ridyard
Susan Myerov	Keith Salador
Chad Pindar	Curtis Schreffler
Stuart Reese	Marla Stuckey

Welcome:

Mark Matlock, 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.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2021 Statewide Committee meeting were approved as presented on an Andrew Gutshall / Kate Harper motion.

Public Comment

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

DEP Summary of Activities:

Mark Matlock, DEP staff, provided an update on DEP activities. The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) Grant's data sharing projects are progressing well. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is complete and should go live during the second quarter of 2021. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) has been initiated with the IT architecture and data sharing protocols in place. Testing of the data sharing has begun and the project should be fully operational during the second quarter of 2021.

The fifth round of Regional Committee meetings will begin in April.

Work Plan for Review of Statewide Components

Chair Weston stated the workgroups are being organized and group leaders are being identified. The activities for the workgroups include the following:

- Convene the workgroups as soon as possible. Workgroups should identify the materials they currently have, what information is needed, and develop a problem statement.
- Review the information, analyses, and recommendations from the 2009 State Water Plan update. Should the recommendations remain the same or change and what progress has been made?
- Identify and review any supportive data or factual updates needed to understand the current situation.
- Consider any available input/recommendations from the Regional Committees.
- Frame the issues and challenges, identify what progress has been made since the last State Water Plan update and what challenges remain.
- Identify current gaps, roadblocks, and opportunities.
- Formulate specific action-oriented recommendations, which may include improvements to existing programs, adjustments to statutes, regulations, and policies, and other actions.
- The current plan is to have draft recommendations developed by September 2021 and the plan completed by November 2021.

The workgroups and group leaders are:

1. Stormwater Management and Flood mitigation issues – Len Bradley Group Leader
2. Water Supply – Drew Dehoff and Steve Tambini – Co-Group Leaders
3. Legacy Issue Impacts – Gary Merritt Group Leader
4. Water Management & Land Use Management – Kate Harper Group Leader
5. Drinking Water and Wastewater System Infrastructure Sustainability – Tim Weston Group Leader
6. Emerging Contaminants – Trisha Salvia Group Leader
7. Coordination among State Agencies – Carol Collier Group Leader
8. Funding DEP and regional projects – Kevin Moore Group Leader

Information Presentations

Five informational presentations were provided to the Committee members.

1. A presentation was provided by Drew Dehoff and John Balay of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). The presentation was a review of a study completed in 2016 by SRBC. The purpose of the study was to evaluate cumulative water use, determine water capacity, and assess water availability for basin watersheds to inform planning and regulatory decision making.

The water use assessment measured surface water withdrawals, groundwater withdrawals, and consumptive use. Data was collected from the SRBC Commission and state records. Findings from the study are that consumptive use is dominated by public water supply exports and electric power generation and reported consumptive use is significantly less than the approved amounts by approximately 35%. For 74% of the 170 watersheds, the approved consumptive use was less than 10 mgd.

Water availability is defined as water capacity minus water use (consumptive use). Findings from the study are that water availability for most basin watersheds is adequate to satisfy existing and projected consumptive use and avoid water availability conflicts. Most watersheds with the lowest water availability are in the Lower Susquehanna subbasin.

Observations from the study included:

- There is a decrease in permit applications for new power electric generation power plants, and a reduction in water use for existing power plants.
- Aging infrastructure has contributed to increased water losses in public water supply and there is often a reduction in requested water use during renewals of public water supply.
- Natural gas has seen a decrease in wells fracked but increases in water use per well and there is increased volatility in new and larger sources of natural gas wells.
- Agriculture has seen a slight increase in water use but is projecting future decreases in water use.
- Manufacturing is relatively stable with a slight increase in water use.

- Recreation has seen an increase in modifications by ski facilities to increase withdrawal rates to take advantage of short-term ideal weather conditions and golf courses are struggling to comply with low flow restrictions.

Study Website: <http://www.srbc.net/planning/cwuas.htm>

Interactive Web Map: <http://mdw.srbc.net/cwuasmap>

2. Delaware River Basin Commission – Chad Pindar

A presentation of water use trends in the Delaware River Basin (DRB) was provided by Chad Pindar. Key points of the presentation include:

- Three key sectors are included in the DRB water withdrawals: public water supply, thermoelectric, and industrial.
- Between 1990 and 2018, thermoelectric was the sector with the largest total water withdrawal and consumptive use (64%), followed by public water supply (14%) and then industrial and refining (9%).
- Population in the DRB from 1990 to 2018 has increased from 7.3 million individuals to 8.5 million, but water non-consumptive use and consumptive use have remained steady or slightly declined during this period.
- Water withdrawals by the public water supply sector is projected to remain stable or slightly decline through the year 2060.
- On an annual basis, all states in the DRB withdrawals for public water supply have peaked.
- Thermoelectric withdrawals are projected to continue to decline through 2060.

DRBC’s State of the Basin report can be found at:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/SOTBreport_july2019.pdf

Southeastern PA Groundwater Protected Area:

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/project/gwpa.html>

3. A demonstration of stream stats was provided by Marla Stuckey, Hydrologist with U.S.G.S. The link to the presentation and tool follows:

<https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/>

4. A presentation on the 15-year history of water use in Pennsylvania was provided by Mike Hill, DEP staff member.

- Three categories account for 98% of all reported water withdrawals in 2019: thermoelectric power (60%), public water supply (36%), and industrial (12%).
- Water withdrawal use differs by categories in different regions of Pennsylvania
 - Delaware region – public water supply (58%), thermoelectric power (21%), industrial (18%), all others (3%).
 - Ohio region – public water supply (40%), industrial (31%), thermoelectric power (27%) and all others (2%).

- Great Lakes region – public water supply (81%), industrial (11%), and all others (8%).
 - Potomac region – public water supply (70%), industrial (14%) and all others (16%).
 - Susquehanna region – thermoelectric power (85%), public water supply (10%), industrial (3%), and all others (2%).
- Full conversion to online reporting has improved data collection.
 - Since 2010 thermoelectric annual daily average declined by 41% for withdrawals and 33% for consumptive use.
 - The Delaware region has seen thermoelectric withdrawals decline and public water supply use has been steady over the past 15 years.
 - The Susquehanna region has seen a steady decline in thermoelectric water used since 2011 and public water supply use has been steady over the past 15 years.
 - The Ohio region has seen a decline in thermoelectric water use and public water supply use has been steady over the past 15 years.
 - The Great Lakes region has seen fluctuating water use across the past 15 years.
 - Total public supplied domestic use has declined in Pennsylvania while the population served, and total population has increased over the past 15 years.
 - Pennsylvania is following a national trend in water use between the years 1950 and 2015 with a total decline in water use.
 - Water used at thermoelectric power plants, especially once through cooling type plants has declined across the state.
 - Public water supply trend is flat across all basins and total water served to domestic customers has declined, even while the total population serviced has increased.
 - Water use for natural gas development declined after peaking in 2015 but has since increased and flattened.
5. A presentation on climate change impact and water resources in Pennsylvania was provided by Penn State Extension. The presenter was Ben Watson, a Coastal Climate Extension Specialist with the Chesapeake Bay Region.

A link to the presentation follows:

https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Water+Cooler+TalkA+Climate+Change+and+PA%27s+Water+Resources/1_wf0nbobe

Resources Provided in the Chat

- <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/gwpa.html>
- Philadelphia Water Dept's Climate Change Adaptation Program
<https://www.phila.gov/water/sustainability/Pages/ClimateChange.aspx>

Next Steps

The next steps in the planning process developed by Chair Weston follow:

1. Prioritize and refine the list of priorities.
2. Identify and organize presentations for the full committee on specific topics in the priorities. Since the presentations will be presented in a virtual platform, regional committee members will also be invited to attend. Presentations for the May meeting will include a DCNR presentation on climate change and possibly a presentation on Emerging Contaminants.
3. Development of white papers with background information and recommendations on the priorities.

Future Meetings

The Committee has moved to a bi-monthly schedule instead of quarterly meetings. The meeting dates for the Statewide Committee in 2021 are:

- May 19
- July 21
- September 15

Chair Weston thanked the committee members for their participation and ideas during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm on a Deb Simko / Matt Wolford motion.