



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

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

### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Kelly Anderson	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Len Bradley	Michael Roth
Carol Collier	Trish Salvia
Andrew Dehoff	Deb Simko
Jennifer Fetter	Heather Smiles
Andrew Gutshall	Steve Tambini
Kate Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison	Matthew Wolford

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

Sean Donnelly	Gary Merritt
Theresa Eberly	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D
Brian Eckert	Kevin Moore
Patty Elkis	Shannon Rossman
Matthew Genchur	Simeon Suter
Daniel Gold	Jessica Trimble
Jeff Jumper	

### **Others in Attendance:**

James Horton – DEP	Bob Whitmore – Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill – DEP	Monica Gould – Strategic Consulting Partners
Dave Jostenski – DEP	
Brian Chalfant – DEP	

### **Visitors:**

Kunkel Water Efficiency

### **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 March 16, 2022, meeting was approved on a Len Bradley / Kelly Anderson 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 USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) is operational.

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 and the Ohio committee approved moving the CARP forward to the public input phase. The CARP will be reviewed by the Ohio regional committee in July. The draft Laurel Hill CARP will be shared later with the Ohio committee. The draft Marsh and Rock Creek Watersheds CARP is still under review and will be shared with the committee upon review. The CARPs will be sent to a list of stakeholders and planning officials within their watershed for review and comment after the regional committee review. Additionally, DEP will host a public hearing specifically to consider each CARP and solicit comments from the public prior to the vote for recommendation. Contingent on not having any edits because of the comment period and public testimony, the CARPs will then return to their regional committees to vote on recommendation to the statewide committee.

The final State Water Plan Update report is currently in the process of being drafted by DEP. It will include regional components, work group products, an assessment of progress since the last plan update, and a strategic plan going forward. We anticipate sharing these drafts with the statewide committee before making the report available for public comment as required by Act 220.

The State Water Plan Atlas from 2009 is being developed into a StoryMap as a Digital Atlas.

A public hearing to solicit comment from interested persons on the regional components was held on March 11, 2022, and the transcript has been shared with the regional committees.

The regional committees are finalizing their regional components to be included in the State Water Plan Update.

Current status of the regional components are as follows:

- **Delaware** – The Delaware regional committee made slight edits to the regional component and those edits are now being reviewed by DEP staff. The committee will schedule a meeting for July to approve the regional component.
- **Lower Susquehanna** – The Lower Susquehanna regional committee has approved their regional component and have forwarded to the statewide committee.
- **Potomac** – The Potomac regional committee did not have a quorum to take formal action on the regional component. However, a straw (informal) vote was taken accepting the regional component as prepared. The committee has no plans to meet again until October.
- **Ohio** – The Ohio regional committee revised the regional component based on feedback provided at the public hearing. The committee will be meeting in July to finalize the regional component.
- **Great Lakes** – The Great Lakes regional committee is completing final edits to the regional component and have scheduled a meeting on June 23 to vote on the component.
- **Upper/Middle Susquehanna** – The Upper/Middle Susquehanna regional committee has approved their regional component and have forwarded to the statewide committee.

Act 220 provides that if the regional committees do not approve individual regional components for the State Water Plan, the statewide committee will assume final approval of the regional component. The statewide committee must provide a 90 day notice to the regional committees stating that the statewide committee will act if the regional committee does not approve the regional component for the State Water Plan within the notice's timeframe. A Matt Wolford / Jennifer Fetter motion was approved to give the 90 day notice to the Potomac, Ohio, and Great Lakes regional committees that they must have a quorum and approve the regional component, or the statewide committee will approve if necessary.

The Lower Susquehanna and Upper/Middle Susquehanna regional committees regional components were submitted for approval by the statewide committee. The two regional components were approved, with one word change made in the Upper/Middle regional component, on an Andrew Dehoff / Jennifer Fetter motion.

Statewide committee members stressed the importance of the regional priorities and recommendations aligning with the priorities and recommendations being developed by the statewide committee. A review must be completed by the statewide committee and DEP staff to ensure this alignment.

## **Workgroups Updates**

**A. Legacy Issues** – Minor revisions are being completed to the report and recommendations.

**B. Integrated Water Resources Management** – The statewide committee members stressed the need to make Integrated Water Resources Management a priority in the State Water Plan Update. Bold actions and measurable goals should be established for the work to be completed as well as an accountability plan to measure progress.

### **Review of Draft Document Components**

Draft documents prepared by DEP were reviewed with the committee.

**Path Forward** – Committee members reviewed the path forward document and commented that they feel this section should be shorter, address important water issues within the state, and provide specific steps and actions. Suggestions to strengthen the document included:

- Increasing public outreach so the public is aware of the water challenges within the state.
- Emphasize the importance of scheduling a hearing for legislators to brief the Pennsylvania General Assembly on the priorities and recommendations of the State Water Plan. Included should be a discussion of water quality and water quantity within the state.
- Provide an analysis of the CARPs identified 14 years ago and critical areas that may be stressed now. Has anything changed in these areas that need to be addressed?
- Include climate change, water equity, and environmental justice in the path forward summary.
- Discuss the issue of water rights.
- The statewide committee and regional committees should remain in place and meet periodically to monitor progress on implementation of the plan's recommendations and the path forward.

### **Next Steps**

- July 20 – The statewide committee will review the remaining regional components, workgroup reports, and a final draft of the State Water Plan Update.
- Public comments on the State Water Plan Update will be received during July and August. Committee members stressed the need to provide the draft plan to state, regional and county organizations and associations connected to water quantity and quality interests within the state and not just publish the document in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.
- September 21 – The statewide committee will approve the State Water Plan Update and recommend the plan to the DEP Secretary for approval.
- November 9 – Complete unfinished business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm on a Matt Wolford / Andrew Dehoff motion.