



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

January 21, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Anderson	Jeff Jumper
Len Bradley	Gary Merritt
Carol Collier	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.
Drew Dehoff	Kevin Moore
Sean Donnelly	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Brian Eckert	Chad Pindar
Patty Elkis	Trish Salvia
Jennifer Fetter	Deb Simko
Andy Gavin	Heather Smiles
Andrew Gutshall	Simeon Suter
Kate Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison	Matthew Wolford

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Karl Brown	Daniel Gold
Jan Bowers	Shannon Rossman
Andrew Dehoff	Steven Tambini
Theresa Eberly	Jessica Trimble
Matthew Genchur	

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:

Josie Gaskey
Eric Jespen
Alex Riyard
Curtis Schreffler
Nick Troutman

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 participants log.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 12, 2020 Statewide Committee meeting were approved as presented on a Deb Simko / 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) Grants data sharing projects are progressing well. The project for improving Chapter 110 data input is complete and should go live during the first 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 first quarter of 2021.

Another one of our data sharing tools, Power BI, has been completed. This data sharing tool will display water use data to the public in a more user-friendly way.

A virtual public hearing was conducted on January 6th to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to the preparation of the regional components of the State water plan. Written testimony was accepted until January 20th. Four individuals offered verbal testimony on January 6 and four individuals have provided written testimony. DEP staff will be summarizing the public hearing comments and will provide this information to committee members as soon as completed.

Regional Committee Updates:

An update of Regional Committee activities was provided by a representative from each Regional Committee.

1. Delaware Regional Committee - Update provided by Kate Harper.

Land use is a top priority for the Delaware regional committee with a priority on integrating land use and water planning across boundaries. DEP has tools that are helpful in land use planning and the committee is looking to get this information out to planners. The committee has identified successful projects to be shared in the state water plan and is looking for additional projects.

2. **Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee** – Update provided by Jennifer Fetter.
The Lower Susquehanna regional committee has identified several characteristics that make the region unique within Pennsylvania. The region is experiencing a growing population, an increase in development of logistic centers which impacts stormwater, and an agriculture community that impacts water quality. The committee feels both water quantity and water quality need to be addressed in the plan as both works together. Flood management and at-risk water resources are top priorities for the region.
3. **Potomac Regional Committee** - Updated provided by Kevin Moore.
The Potomac regional committee reviewed the update of data collected for the CARP. The priorities for the region are focused on land use initiatives to protect water quality and water quantity. The committee has discussed the multiple sources of data available on water quality and water quantity and a lack of integration of the data sources. Capturing critical data and having it available for useful decision making is important.
4. **Ohio Regional Committee** - Update provided by Deb Simko.
The Ohio regional committee will be meeting next week. A priority for the region is acid mine drainage legacy issues. The region is seeing an influx of residents moving into the Laurel Highlands area from the cities because they are now working remotely and not required to go into an office five days a week. Westmoreland Conservation District is the first in the region to share water resources planning.

DEP is still reviewing the CARPs and a hearing has not been held yet. DEP is lacking in resources to complete the CARPs currently. Kate Harper asked if the CARPs and data collected could be shared on the website as examples for other regions.

5. **Great Lakes Regional Committee** - Update provided by Matthew Wolford.
The Great Lakes regional committee will be meeting next week. The region had no public comments offered at the statewide public hearing on January 6.

The committee has identified tourism and industry as unique characteristics of the region. Lake Erie has 20% of the water in the Great Lakes but has 80% of the fishing industry in the lakes. The committee is concerned that too many nutrients are getting into the western part of Lake Erie from farming practices outside of Pennsylvania.

6. **Upper / Middle Susquehanna Regional Committee** - Update provided by Andrew Gutshall.
The Upper / Middle Susquehanna regional committee is meeting next week. The priorities for the committee include the impact of climate change and storm water management. Uniqueness of the region includes multi-municipal planning, the rural nature of the region, and a need for financial resources to address all water concerns.

Work Plan for Review of Statewide Components

An online survey was provided to members to complete prior to the statewide committee meeting. Committee members responses to the survey was provided to members. The survey asked members the following questions:

- What are the current highest priority water resource management problems?
- What are the gaps, shortcomings or deficiencies in our current water resource planning and management processes and programs?

Chair Weston stated that he would like the committee to identify the highest priorities for the committee's work based on the survey results. Once the priorities are identified he would like to see the committee develop working groups to focus on the priorities and develop white papers on the priority that includes both background information and recommendations. An engaging discussion identified the highest priorities in water resources management and current gaps, shortcomings, or deficiencies in planning.

Highest Priority Water Resources Management Problems

1. Stormwater Management and Flood mitigation issues
 - a. Development that was completed before stormwater management was required (trying to retrofit)
 - b. Availability of flood insurance
 - c. Regulation inside and outside of MS4 areas
2. Impacts of climate change on water supply adequacy and resiliency and the impacts on flood management, drought, and adaptation strategies
 - a. Regional scale vs utility wide vs. homeowner
 - b. Wet weather vs dry weather challenges
 - c. Climate Change Advisory Committee – change in precipitation patterns (stormwater design)
3. Water supply
 - a. Statewide water well standards (private water supplies)
 - b. Water quality and water usage types
 - c. Continuation of CWPA and CARP process (targeted studies and plans)
 - d. Identification of stressed watersheds
 - e. Source water protection
4. Impacts of legacy issues – abandoned mine lands, oil, and gas wells, etc.
 - a. Format of project funding with trusts – long term treatment – consolidation of funds
 - b. Full cost bonding (different bond types)
 - c. Abandoned and unsealed groundwater wells
5. Water management and land use management – IWRP/IWRM
 - a. Watershed planning level
 - b. Integrated data platform to help make informed decisions (need data available)
 - c. Agricultural conservation practices

6. Drinking water and wastewater systems infrastructure and sustainability (aging infrastructure)
 - a. Regionalization of systems and the institutional arrangements
 - b. Affordability (some rates are 2-3x EPA index)
 - c. Oversight of private systems
 - d. Separation of combined systems
 - e. tariffs
7. Coordination amongst agencies (states and regional)
 - a. Staffing levels
 - b. Who has lead role?
8. Funding of DEP and regional projects
 - a. Understanding the needs
9. Emerging contaminants water quality issues (PFAS, dioxin, etc.)
 - a. Nutrients

Current Gaps, Shortcomings, or Deficiencies in Planning

- Single point to pull data
- Need for data to be consistent and of higher quality
- Staffing and funding levels
- One-stop-shop to find grants (centralized repository)
- Fee in lieu of and offsite mitigation for stormwater and flooding issues – watershed based
- Impacts to under-served communities that often are subject to greater climate change impacts (flooding, water quality, lack of resilience, etc.)

Resources Provided in the Chat

- There is a 2016 white paper on linkages between stormwater and flood mitigation at the PA Assoc. of Floodplain Managers website
http://www.pafpm.org/resources/Policy_Documents/Integration%20of%20Stormwater%20with%20Floodplain%20Management.pdf
- In regard to legacy impacts, with the state of the coal industry and fossil fuel (coal) power plants, the "1977 AML Legacy issues, expanded in the interim program through additional sites being abandoned, bond forfeitures, with increasing legacy issues with bankruptcies of coal companies".
- A requirement of Chapter 102 is permitting. MS4's are also required to confirm proper maintenance/repair/operation of all SWM facilities as part of their permit with DEP. Most municipalities have updated their SWM agreements to require annual reporting for this obligation. Many municipalities are requiring pre-agreement properties to comply with this requirement based on the MS4 permit.
- Penn State presentation
https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Water+Cooler+TalkA+Climate+Change+and+PA%27s+Water+Resources/1_wf0nbobe
- PAMAGIC Water Data Workshop can be found at link: [Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium](#)

- ACOE 205-510 projects (restoration\mitigation - federally funded) require the maintenance obligation to be the municipality and not the landowner. Private bank mitigation areas projects (no federal funding) establish escrows to cover the maintenance cost in perpetuity.

Next Steps

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

1. Prioritize and refine the list of priorities
2. Establish work groups for the priority areas. Committee members will be polled within the next several days to identify individual preferences to participation in one or more work groups.
3. 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.
4. Development of white papers with background information and recommendations on the priorities.

Future Meetings

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

- March 17
- May 19
- July 21
- September 15
- November 17

Chair Weston thanking the committee members for their participation and ideas during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am on a Kate Harper / Andrew Gutshall motion.