



State Water Plan Update Statewide Committee Meeting

July 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	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D.
Carol Collier	Kevin Moore
Andrew Dehoff	Kristina Peacock-Jones
Sean Donnelly	Michael Roth
Patty Elkis	Trish Salvia
Jennifer Fetter	Heather Smiles
Matthew Genchur	Simeon Suter
Andrew Gutshall	Steve Tambini
Kate Harper	Tim Weston
Richard Harrison	Matthew Wolford

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Theresa Eberly	Shannon Rossman
Brian Eckert	Deb Simko
Daniel Gold	Jessica Trimble
Gary Merritt	

Others in Attendance:

Mark Matlock - DEP	Monica Gould - Strategic Consulting Partners
Mike Hill - DEP	Bob Whitmore - Strategic Consulting Partners
James Horton - DEP	
Tim Bruno - DEP	Kevin Halloran - DEP
Brian Chalfant - DEP	Joe Buczynski - DEP
Michelle Moses - DEP	William Brogan - DEP

Visitors:

Dave Jostenski	Robert Softcheck	Cathy Yeakel
Melissa Lyon	Ron Rohall	Curtis Schreffler
Mark Nemitz	Justin Spangler	Kurt Hausamman
Jennifer Whisner	Craig Palmer	Sheryl Kelly
Denis Whitney	Pat Burke	Mark Bowen
George Kunkel	Amy Murdock	Mary Ellen Ramage
Andy Gavin	Erin Kepple-Adams	Anne Quinn

Brenda Sandberg
Lincoln Kauffman

Alex Ridyard
Susan Myerov

Jim Weaver
Ed Boscola

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 May 19, 2021, meeting were approved on a Len Bradley / Patty Elkis motion.

Public Comment

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

DEP Summary of Activities:

Mark Matlock provided the committee an update of what DEP is working on regarding the State Water Plan Update.

The USGS Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) grant data sharing projects are progressing well. The project for moving Chapter 110 water use registration forms from paper to online is nearly complete and will be deployed soon. The project involving data sharing between agencies (SRBC, DRBC, and USGS) is in the testing phase. The project should be fully operational by the end of this summer. The Power BI report summarizing water use data will be public on our website soon.

The sixth round of regional committee meetings are in process. Three of the regional committees met last week and the additional three committees will be meeting next week. The regional committees are reviewing their draft priorities as requested by State Chair Tim Weston. Delaware Committee has decided to retain the two draft priorities. Lower Susquehanna Committee is combining their two draft priorities into one and adding an additional priority. Potomac Committee is keeping the two draft priorities but made slight revisions to the wording. The Committees are also working on ideas for the Education and Outreach section for the state water plan.

Information Presentation

An informational presentation was provided by Ben Lorson, Biologist, of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Title of the presentation was "Aquatic Resource Impacts Due to Legacy Land and Water Use Practices."

- Pennsylvania stream network includes 86,000 miles of flowing water, 35,000 miles listed as Wild Trout water, and 2,200 miles of class A Wild Trout waters.

- Past land use practices have severely degraded aquatic resources. Recovery is ongoing via natural processes and correcting legacy impacts through human intervention, but many waters still have a way to go.
- Legacy practices on streams impact the state water plan through water quantity, water quality and connected healthy habitat issues.
- Legacy practices impacting water resources include logging, agriculture, mining extraction, water supply and discharges.
- Acid mine drainage has impaired 25,468 miles of commonwealth streams and impaired 5,559 miles of aquatic life.
- Recreational use loss values of impaired streams are \$19 million to \$29 million based on an annual basis.
- Aquatic connectivity is important in planning transportation networks as roads can be impediments to aquatic travel. There are 138,000 road stream crossings in Pennsylvania.
- We all need to continue to work towards restoring degraded waters from legacy impacts and preventing further degradation to our waters.
- Water quantity + water quality + connected healthy habitat.

Workgroup Updates

1. **Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation** – Update provided by Len Bradley. The workgroup is reviewing previous recommendations in the state water plan and which ones are still applicable for the current plan update and also developing new recommendations. A new DEP manual on stormwater management is coming out and the workgroup has not seen the manual to review the content.
2. **Water Supply** – Update provided by Drew Dehoff. The workgroup is compiling water use data, trends and efficiencies that have been created. The workgroup is reviewing 2009 state water plan recommendations and what has been accomplished, assessing what data is missing, overlaps in data, and oversights. The workgroup is linking water supply, land use, and climate change.
3. **Emerging Contaminants** – Update provided by Trisha Salvia. Nothing was in the previous state water plan regarding emerging contaminants. The workgroup is breaking down gaps and roadblocks to identifying emerging contaminants. The workgroup would like input from regional committees on emerging contaminant issues within their region.
4. **Water Management and Land Use Management** - Update provided by Kate Harper. The workgroup is developing a draft update and changes that have occurred.
5. **Coordination Among State Agencies** – Update provided by Carol Collier.

The workgroup is continuing to develop a spreadsheet of which agencies are involved in water management and their responsibilities. The goal is to identify needs within the various systems and what will make the system work better.

6. **Legacy Issues Impact** – No report

7. **Drinking Water and Wastewater System Infrastructure Sustainability** – No report

8. **Funding DEP and regional projects** – Update provided by Kevin Moore – No update

Vice-Chair Kate Harper requested a timeline for the development of workgroup recommendations. It is hoped recommendations can be considered and voted on by the State Committee at the November meeting. Recommendations must be internally reviewed by DEP prior to voting by the State Committee.

Timeline developed:

- The state water plan will include both a narrative and specific recommendations for each of the priority areas.
- Mark Matlock will provide the draft priorities developed by the regional committees to the workgroups.
- Draft recommendations submitted by workgroups to DEP and committee members by September 8.
- Draft recommendations reviewed by workgroups at the September 15 State Committee meeting.

Regional Committee Updates

Draft priorities developed by each Regional Committee were shared with the Statewide Committee.

Delaware Region – Update provided by Kate Harper. The draft priorities were reviewed by the Delaware region committee and no changes were made to the priorities.

Lower Susquehanna Region – Update provided by Jennifer Fetter. The committee reviewed the priorities. They are recommending a combining of the two draft priorities and are preparing a new priority. The committee wants to see the state water plan establish clear goals and actionable, implementable activities.

Potomac Region – Update provided by Kevin Moore. The Potomac Committee made minor tweaks to the draft priorities. The committee also reviewed and revised materials for the CARP and education and outreach activities for the state water plan.

Ohio Region – The committee will be meeting next Tuesday.

Great Lakes Region – Update provided by Matt Wolford. The Great Lakes region is unique within the state because of the impact of Lake Erie on the region. The committee's main priority is legislation affecting the Great Lakes issues.

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Region – The committee will be meeting next Thursday.

Next Steps

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

1. Prioritize and refine the list of priorities.
2. Continue 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.
3. Development of white papers with background information and recommendations on the priorities.

Future Meetings

The meeting dates for the Statewide Committee in 2021 are:

- September 15
- November 17

Vice-Chair Kate Harper thanked the committee members for their participation and ideas during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm on a Patty Elkis / Len Bradley motion.