

DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup

January 12, 2021; 1:30 – 3:00PM

Zoom Meeting

Members: Virginia de Lima, David Radka, Dan Aubin (DPH alternate), Corinne Fitting, Denise Savageau, Lori Mathieu, Tom Tyler, Gail Lucchina, Matthew Pafford (OPM alternate), Bruce Wittchen, Lou Rosado Burch, Janice Ehlemeyer

Note Taker(s): Ali Hibbard (DEEP)

Public: WPC Chair Jack Betkoski, Iris Herz Kaminski (New Haven), Mary Ann Dickinson (AWE),

Meeting Starts 1:30 PM

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Approval/Modification of Notes from December 8, 2020 meeting

- Notes approved.

Alliance for Water Efficiency – Rates Workshop (Mary Ann Dickinson)

- The Rates Workshop will start being promoted this week. The registration link is live but has not been distributed yet.
- An initial meeting was held with Regional Water Authority and one scheduled with the Town of Portland to begin the two rate case studies.
- A conference call will be set up in early Feb. with all the speakers on the panel to plan. A dry run will be performed in early March to practice on the platform GoToWebinar.
- The registration will be shared with the WPC mailing list, and groups will be asked to send it through their own mailing lists.
- Plan is to send out hard copy of workshop material to registrants.
- Workshop will be recorded.
- Max. 250 participants, but don't foresee that to be limiting.

Water Fixture Efficiency Revisions

- AWE has developed a one-page informational flyer on water fixture efficiency. Flyer highlights the passive savings of updating water fixture standards.
- The flyer should be updated to reference existing legislation and any equity impacts of the proposal.
- The flyer also will be updated to include the legislature-contact from each of the WPC agencies. Mary Ann will meet with these people to train them on the issue.
- There was discussion on if this legislative change should be WPC sponsored or legislator sponsored (Mary Mushinsky mentioned as a possibility). Regardless of the route, DCP and DAS need to be on board. Group needs to decide how to move forward with the proposed legislation, and to identify fiscal note, if any.

- Next step is to reach out to agency partners (DCP and DAS). Lori and Jack will lead this effort, reaching out within the next two weeks.
- Keep in mind AWE time and budget.

Drought topical sub-work group (Steve Rupar)

- Steve was unable to attend, but updated Virginia via e-mail. Drought group moving along. Challenges to meet over the holidays but will be meeting again soon. Report now expected in February.

Domestic Wells WQ sub-work group (Mike Dietz)

- Trouble meeting over the holidays. Scheduled to meet on January 25th.
- Workgroup is tackling what to do for existing wells. One suggestion is requiring certain water tests for all real estate transactions, regardless of a lender's involvement and/or requirements. Another recommendation is providing guidance for existing homeowners to perform testing on a recurring basis (every 5 or 10 years)
- One or two more meetings needed to put together recommendations.
- Mike confirmed Homebuilders Association is not represented on the topical sub-workgroup, but Real Estate interests are.

Outreach & Education topical sub-work group (Denise Savageau & Lou Burch)

- Will schedule next meeting soon. No meeting over the holidays.
- Group should develop creative ways to encourage more involvement in the workgroups and committees around the SWP. There tends to be the same people on multiple workgroups.

Regionalization & Interconnections topical sub-workgroup status

- Because the WUCCs intend to address interconnections as part of their coordinated plan implementation process, the WPC proposed postponing IWG work on the topic until after the WUCCs develop their action plan.

Potential New Topical sub-work groups

- Implementation tracking is a topic that should be addressed.
 - In early 2020, DPH and DEEP were exploring way to track implementation efforts.
 - The WPC traditionally submitted an annual report to the legislature, but it might not have been done in the past two years. Have former reports that OPM used can serve as a starting point. Corinne, Dan, and other agency staff will put together a one page proposal to provide to the WPC
- The WPC's prioritization rankings of SWP recommendations done 1-2 years ago should still be relevant.
- A Source-water Protection Workgroup may be fitting for the IWG or WPCAG (through its own subcommittee or the Watershed Lands Work Group). Discussion needs to happen on how to go forward. Source Water Protection aligns with multiple priorities of the State Water Plan, as well as GC3 recommendations.

- A topical sub-workgroup could look at the relationship between various reports and committees addressing water issues to avoid repetition of effort and/or gaps. David Murphy may already be looking at this.

WPCAG

- No Update Given

Public Comment

- No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned 3:02 pm

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm