DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
February 9, 2021; 1:30 – 3:00PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima, David Radka, Dan Aubin (DPH alternate), Corinne Fitting, Denise Savageau, Mike Dietz, Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Steve Rupar, Gail Lucchina (PURA)

**Note Taker(s):** Ali Hibbard (DEEP)

**Public:** Iris Herz Kaminski (New Haven), Mary Ann Dickinson (AWE), Alyson Ayotte (PURA)

**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 is 5 weeks from today. Workshop materials are being pulled together, and coordination is occurring between speakers
* Meetings have been held with the Town of Portland and RWA for the case studies
* The model results should be reviewed by the beginning of March. There are some data issues with Town of Portland due to the fixed-water use from MDC.
* 56 people are currently signed up. In 2 weeks, a second announcement will go out.
* Looking to get more town officials. Possibly utilize mailing lists through the COGs and CACIWC
* Materials from workshop will be available online afterwards.

**Water Fixture Efficiency Revisions**

* The bill brought forward by Mary Mushinsky (HB 5802) is meant to not allow CT’s standards to decrease if the federal rates change. (In December 2020, the federal showerhead standards changed, increasing the allowed flow rate.)
* Virginia will follow up with Jack on communicating with DAS and DCP relating to fixture standards

**Drought Plan topical sub-workgroup (Steve Rupar)**

* The workgroup has finalized the list of consensus-based recommendations

The workgroup sub-divided into 4 teams to draft sections of the report. The teams are meeting individually, and the overall workgroup will set up a meeting soon.

**Domestic Wells WQ sub-workgroup (Mike Dietz)**

* The group met on 1/25.
* Discussion included the possible testing procedure for new wells vs. existing wells, and what should be required in all real estate transactions.
* DPH is drafting changes to the regulations to include uranium, arsenic, and radon in potable water testing. Major objections are not anticipated, but possible. The workgroup is putting together a proposed change to the statute for potable water testing to be required in all real estate transactions. The workgroup’s draft is anticipated to be completed by the February meeting.

**Outreach & Education topical sub-workgroup (Denise Savageau & Lou Burch)**

* The workgroup hasn’t had a meeting in 2021, but they will try to coordinate to meet soon. Group will update Virginia when something gets moving

**Proposed Implementation Tracking**

* WPC is required to submit an annual report to the legislature on the State Water Plan, but that has not yet been done. We need ways to track and display implementation updates that are reasonable and workable. Having a group that could help design and have input on the mechanics of the tracking would help.
* Any type of annual report going to the legislature really should only be 1-2 pages. It may take a lot of effort to design and maintain a tracking system, and developing a method to assess non-quantitative goals and tasks.
* Need to identify what the legislature needs from us, and what information would be helpful for decision making.
* Possible resources: academia, graduate students, systematic data approach
* One recommendation is to move forward with appointing workgroup, and then charge the workgroup with refining the workgroup proposal to identify tasks that are doable or important. An option is to first create an annual report that is simple to satisfy the statutory requirement, and build from there to see what the audience wants to learn.
* Denise made a motion to move draft proposal forward to the WPC. Motion accepted.
* Open to recommendations on groups or individuals who are familiar with this type of data/information tracking

**Potential New Topical sub-workgroups**

* Discussion on what parts of FOIA applies to the topical sub-workgroups
* If there is a state agency employee on a topical sub-workgroup, it may be required to have an agenda posted and minutes or meeting notes taken, and the meeting may need to be recorded. It is unclear how prevalent this is across state agencies.
* Need to clarify the applicability of FOIA if a group of people are preparing documents, and are not serving as a decision-making entity
* Need to clarify what are the responsibilities of topical sub-workgroups under FOIA. These topical sub-workgroups report to the IWG, which ultimately makes decisions on action items.
* Gail offered to follow-up with PURA lawyers on this
* The suggestion of sub-workgroups having co-chair was brought up to keep tasks moving along if a conflict arises. These positions are voluntary, so it may be difficult to task individuals with more. Following Roberts Rules of Order, it may be possible to direct someone else to serve as chair if that chair cannot attend a meeting. May not need to identify someone as a co-chair

**WPCAG**

* No Update Given

**Public Comment**

Denise Savageau brought up SB 467 which is proposing to include soil health as a part of soil conservation. There will be a meeting with Jack to discuss soil health and the proposed legislation on 2/16/2021 at 11:30 a.m. Follow up is needed and more information is to come.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:24 p.m.

**Next Meeting: March 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**