DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
July 13, 2021; 1:30 – 3:00PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), Steve Rupar (WSP), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Dan Aubin (DPH alternate), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Tom Tyler (MDC), Lou Rosado Burch (CCE)

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

**Public:** Iris Herz Kaminski (New Haven),

**Meeting Started: 1:30 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No changes

**Approval/Modification of Notes from previous meeting**

* Notes approved, no changes

**Domestic Wells Water Quality sub-workgroup (Virginia de Lima)**

* Legislative language still needs to be drafted by DPH
* In the same legislative category, the proposed changes to the fixture standards need to have pressure on it for it to happen
* The finalized report should be pushed forward to the Water Planning Council (WPC). The WPC can receive the report without approving it for now

**Drought Plan topical sub-workgroup (Virginia de Lima)**

* At the last IWG meeting, Virginia solicited comments for the draft Drought Sub-Work Group Report, dated 6/4/2021
* Virginia combined comments and sent out the edited report with the agenda on 7/12/2021
* The group discussed the comments on the report
	+ Addition of “real-time” language to describe stream and groundwater gauges to distinguish between capabilities of data collection
	+ Discussion on the relationship between municipalities and private utilities referenced in section *3.06 Finding*
	+ Comments on whether a water utility is solely responsible for protecting a water resource vs. the municipality’s responsibility
* The report was accepted with the clarifying comments

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

* The workgroup is editing the Plan of Work to shift focus to education over outreach; produce educational materials
	+ Prioritize developing educational material first, and if outreach is needed in the future, it can be addressed
* The group will work on getting future developed materials about the State Water Plan out to NGOs and other groups that would benefit from this information.

**Implementation Tracking Workgroup (Dan Aubin)**

* Dan met with Lori – Two thoughts to consider with developing this work group
	+ Who would be responsible for tracking?
	+ What would the end result be?
* There was discussion about who would do the tracking – it shouldn’t be one person per se unless there are volunteers. It could be made difficult if it was only one agency responsible for tracking, as the other agencies work may not be known.
* Internal expertise at DPH does not translate into resources; could get voices heard through a one-time meeting or summit to develop a tracking system
* We could possibly utilize a future IWG meeting as a brainstorming session on how to move forward
* Discussion may be needed on the concept of a Water Director; a staff person devoted to tracking the progress of the state water plan and putting together the annual report

**Alliance for Water Efficiency Rates Workshop Follow-up survey**

* This is on hold

**WPCAG**

* No Update Given
* There was a comment on what it would look like if the advisory group and implementation workgroup combined. The two groups are different but have similar missions. No further discussion took place.

**Public Comment**

* Bruce Wittchen commented on Freedom of Information Act requirements for hybrid meetings. The guidelines have been released, but more thought is needed for how those guidelines apply to this meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** **3:04 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: August 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**