DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
December 14, 2021; 1:30 – 3:00PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Tom Tyler (MDC), Mike Dietz, Lou Rosado Burch (CCE), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Dan Aubin (DPH Alternate), Matt Pafford (OPM alternate)

**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**

* Meeting notes approved

**2022 Meeting Schedule**

* The timing of the October meeting was brough into question, as the original scheduled date of October 11th takes place on a holiday. The meeting was moved to the fourth Tuesday, October 25th to accommodate.
* Meetings will move from 1:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for 2022.
* 2022 Meeting schedule included in Appendix A.

**Implementation Tracking and Reporting (Dan Aubin & Corinne Fitting)**

* The workgroup has met twice so far and making progress on identifying major focus areas of tracking.
* The December meeting has already taken place to accommodate the holidays, but this workgroup will resume its regular schedule of the 4th Tuesday of each month in January.

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

* The workgroup presented the long-term workplan to the Water Planning Council (WPC) at their last meeting on December 7th. The workplan was accepted. The WPC also accepted this workgroup to become a standing committee/sub-workgroup, but that still needs to be defined.
* The workgroup is planning a virtual panel or webinar to observe World Wetlands Day on February 2, 2022, as well as to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA).
	+ General topics include explaining the relationship between the IWWA and the State Water Plan (SWP), history of the IWWA, and how far we have come since the act was enacted.
	+ This event, or future events, would also tie in May as Wetlands Month and June as Rivers month.
* The SWP branding example was presented to the WPC, but it was suggested that the council itself should be branded instead. There are still questions on whether outreach materials that are branded by the WPC will require WPC approval.
* The approved workplan includes reviewing the website annually to check for working links and update information as needed. The SWP webpage currently includes archives of public documents leading up to the approval of the state water plan, but the webpage does not include up-to-date information on implementation of the SWP now that it is adopted.
* It was pointed out that a fair amount of financial resources were put into developing the SWP, and it should be the agencies responsibility to make the SWP more accessible and pay for the website to be updated and managed.
* The WPC is hosting a special meeting on December 22nd to discuss agency priorities, and the outcome of that meeting may help provide direction for outreach and education opportunities.
* There have been 2 new workgroup members, and all are still welcome to join and participate.
* Next meeting is January 6th at 9:30

**Water Director Topical Sub-Workgroup (Dave Radka)**

* The workgroup had its first meeting on December 2nd.
* Members are primarily working off a shared drive since meeting around the holidays can be difficult. The goal is to have a draft product for this group or the Water Planning Advisory Group (WPCAG) to review by February, and for the WPC to review it by March.
* The focus is on what the responsibilities and duties of the job would be, and they are looking at other job descriptions for executive director-type roles, especially in other states such as Oregon. Potential funding opportunities are still be explored.
* All are still welcome to join and participate.

**WPC Meeting Recap (Dave Radka)**

* The WPC is supportive of a higher-level position for a possible Water Chief. It was pointed out that the position shouldn’t be working at specific state agency, but the details still need to be settled.
* The Department of Administrative services reached out to DEEP to discuss adopting WaterSense standards for water fixtures in Connecticut. There may be federal money to update the building code. The Department of Consumer Protection would be responsible for implementing any new standards.

**WPCAG**

* There are 2 vacancies in the WPCAG
	+ Darryl Newman of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscaping association (with Dustin Nelson as an alternate) is a proposed member representing the landscape industry.
	+ There is a remaining vacancy for the agriculture sector.

**Public Comment**

* Membership was approved by the WPC for the IWG through May 2022.
* Iris commented that Israel had a government position of an executive water director, which served ~4 million people (comparable to Connecticut’s population). This could be an example job description.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:36 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Appendix A: Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup**

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| **Tuesday January 11, 2022** |
| **Tuesday February 8, 2022** |
| **Tuesday March 8, 2022** |
| **Tuesday April 12, 2022** |
| **Tuesday May 10, 2022** |
| **Tuesday June 14, 2022** |
| **Tuesday July 12, 2022** |
| **Tuesday August 9, 2022** |
| **Tuesday September 13, 2022** |
| **Tuesday October 25, 2022** |
| **Tuesday November 8, 2022 (Election Day)** |
| **Tuesday December 13, 2022** |