DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
January 11, 2022; 1:00 – 2:30PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Dan Aubin (DPH Alternate), Lou Rosado Burch (CCE), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Denise Savageau (SWCD),

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

**Public:** Iris Herz Kaminski (New Haven), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Pat Kearney (Town of Manchester)

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

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No Changes

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

* The previous notes include the meeting schedule for 2022. The October 25, 2022 meeting is moved to October 11, 2022.

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

* EPA Long Island Sound Study (LISS) staff will be joining the meeting to present on their current tracking system for the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).
	+ The agenda of the presentation will include details about development for the current tracking system used for the CCMP and how the CCMP was revised to reflect tracking targets.
	+ LISS collects information from grantees via an excel reporting form which is fed into a Microsoft Sharepoint site. Microsoft BI is utilized to develop statistics that quantify their progress.
* Next meeting is on January 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

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

* A webinar will be taking place on February 2nd from 12:00-1:00 p.m. highlighting the connection between the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) and the State Water Plan (SWP)
	+ The webinar will include a brief overview & history of the IWWA to be followed by a panel.
	+ Graham Stevens, Lori Mathieu, and Joseph Steinberg have confirmed to be on the panel. Mike Dietz has been invited to join.
	+ A Save the Date was shared with the Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC), Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS), and the Water Planning Council (WPC) mailing list.
* Branding options will be revisited after the webinar to accommodate comments from the previous WPC meeting.
* The topic of having a website that could house outreach materials came up. Staff or resources need to be dedicated to managing the website if it were to house all the desired resources.
* A future water director could advocate for website management.

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

* The kickoff meeting for this workgroup took place in December, and their recent meeting was on December 7th.
	+ The workgroup is using Google Docs as the platform to share information and documents.
	+ Currently editing the roles, responsibilities, and duties that are critical for this recommended position description. Martin Heft mentioned during the last WPC meeting that the Department of Administrative Services, which is responsible for posting position openings, would not approve new job descriptions or titles.
	+ The language to convey the legislative responsibilities of this position need to shift away from “legislative liaison”. The exact connection between a water director and the legislative process across multiple state agencies is yet to be decided.
	+ Ideally, a water director would orchestrate future updates of the SWP. Future revisions of the SWP would directly impact how it is implemented.
* Iris will share an article about the Israeli Water Authority and the qualifications of the director of that authority.
* The workgroup has researched if similar positions exist in other states. Mike Dietz reached out to other Northeast states on this, but no other states in our region have a similar position.
* The question remains if the water director would be best suited to chair this workgroup. Currently, having two co-chairs (one represents out-of-stream uses and one is considered neutral) helps to provide a balance. If a water director chaired this workgroup, they would need to remain impartial to the different uses of water in the state.
* The next workgroup meeting is on January 21st. The last scheduled meeting will be on February 4th. The workgroup committed to having a deliverable to the WPC by March 1st.

**WPC Meeting Recap (Dave Radka)**

* WPC had a special planning meeting on December 22, 2021. The status of current initiatives and priorities were discussed.
* Current priorities will be added as a standing agenda item during WPC meetings.
* The private drinking water wells testing requirements still has more information to come from DPH. No new updates currently.
* Graham Stevens indicated that the water fixture standards revisions is moving forward. The building code is being updated in October 2022. Money from the federal infrastructure bill may be able to be used in this effort (such as possibly retrofitting state buildings).
* The Interagency Drought Workgroup met last week, and the workgroup is continuing to review the need to adopt any new recommendations.
* Climate change and health equity are growing concerns and areas of focus for DEEP and DPH. Although these topics may not be stand-alone initiatives, future projects should incorporate the need to plan for climate change and health equity.
* Future revisions of the SWP should include resiliency for drinking water systems (additional interconnections for emergencies, i.e.), updating surface water safe yield, considering the effect of climate change on safe yield and water quality, and what that would cost for utilities and their customers.

**Upcoming IWG Membership Renewals**

* The IWG needs to confirm which individual terms will be ending this year. When that is done, it will provide clarity for next steps for keeping positions filled.

**WPCAG**

* No update given

**Public Comment**

* Chris Bellucci gave a short introduction, and he will be considering who will fill the role of future membership for DEEP in this workgroup.
* There needs to be advocacy behind securing future funding for any needed revisions of the SWP.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:11 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday February 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**