DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
February 8, 2022; 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Dan Aubin (DPH), Lou Rosado Burch (CCE), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Tom Tyler (MDC), Mike Dietz (UConn), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Alicea Charamut (Rivers Alliance)

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

**Public:** Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Iris Herz Kaminski (New Haven)

**Meeting Started: 1:00 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No Changes

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

* Meeting minutes accepted

**Implementation Workgroup Membership**

* Some members are up for renewal this spring (Corinne Fitting, Denise Savageau, Bruce Wittchen, Janice Ehlemeyer, Steve Rupar, and Virginia de Lima)
	+ Corinne Fitting will no longer be the DEEP representative, Chris Bellucci will be nominated
	+ Denise, Bruce, and Janice have expressed interest in continuing in their positions.
* Lou Burch will be leaving his current job position and cannot continue to serve as the in-stream advocate after this meeting. Alicea Charamut is the alternate for this position. Lou will contact Alicea on her availability to continue to serve as the alternate for the remainder of the nominated period. Rivers Alliance may have other recommendations for individuals that would be interested in the position.

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

* The workgroup met on 1/25 and had a presentation from the EPA Office of Long Island Sound. EPA presented on their current tracking system for the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). EPA also presented on the interim tracking system that was used between updating the CCMP, which may better reflect where tracking and reporting of the State Water Plan (SWP) needs to start.
* EPA has staff dedicated to the Long Island Sound Study and tracking the execution of grants. Currently, there are no staff dedicated to the SWP.
* EPA utilizes Microsoft Sharepoint as the platform to run their tracking system, which has limitations with sharing information publicly. There is a public facing webpage that needs to be updated manually.
* The workgroup’s final recommendations are expected to be completed by April.
* Next meeting is February 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

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

* There were over 100 participants in the World Wetland Day webinar.
	+ There have been positive comments about the webinar and multiple requests for a recording.
* The limitations of the website are preventing resources from being shared online. There currently isn’t a webpage for the webinar recording to be posted where permissions are open for anyone from the public to view. t
* Continuing to explore branding opportunities for flyers for events or resources. The workgroup is trying to develop a brand for the State Water Plan as a Water Planning Council (WPC) initiative, not the WPC itself.
	+ It is unclear if the Water Planning Council is looking for the names of the members and their respective agencies, or if the branding can include “Water Planning Council” (not developing an official letterhead for the WPC)
	+ The workgroup would like to avoid the use of agency logos in any type of branding, as that involves a high level of permissions within each agency individually, and there is currently not representation from all 4 agencies in the workgroup (could make obtaining permissions difficult).
	+ There were outside parties involved in the passing of the SWP, and a brand specific to the SWP could represent that work.
	+ More direction is needed from the Water Planning Council
* Two 1-hour virtual sessions are being planned for May (Wetlands Month) and June (Rivers Month). The virtual sessions will most likely be a panel, like the World Wetlands Day Webinar, but without a background and history presentation.
* Proposed Content:
	+ Session I: Wetlands and Climate Change Resiliency
	+ Session II: Rivers and Watercourses – The importance of riparian zones.
* Open to input and looking for potential speakers
* Next meeting is March 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

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

* The recommendations for the Water Chief Roles and Responsibilities has been finalized. The document includes background on why the workgroup was formed, but mostly includes duties and responsibilities that should be included in any future water director role.
* There was a discussion about the logistics of the position:
	+ The language on where the position should be housed within a state agency or contracted,
	+ How the position will fit within the implementation workgroup (IWG), if it does at all (there was not consensus on if the position should chair the IWG), and
	+ If experience should be outlined in years or degrees.
* Recommendation document accepted and will be sent to the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG).

**WPC Meeting Recap**

* No update given

**WPCAG**

* No update given

**Public Comment**

* No public comment

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:13 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday March 8th at 1:00 p.m.**