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

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Dan Aubin (DPH), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Mike Dietz (UConn), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Steve Rupar (WSP)

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

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

**Meeting Started: 1:04 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* The date listed on the agenda was March 9th; should be March 8th.

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

* Meeting minutes accepted

**Implementation Workgroup Membership**

* The Recommended Plan for Organization of this workgroup does not specify what sector the out-of-stream and in-stream advocates need to be in. This opens possibilities for organizations to reach out to, such as:
	+ Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) or consumptive diversion registrants for out-of-stream
	+ Clean Water Action for in-stream
* A list of members will be given to the Water Planning Council (WPC) prior to their next meeting on Tuesday April 5th at 1:30 p.m.

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

* The workgroup last met on February 22nd and finished working through discussions from the brainstorming session.
* There will need to be a tracking system set up in the interim to be compliant with reporting to the legislature, and then a longer-term tracking system can be developed.
* The workgroup’s recommendations are being compiled into a report to be discussed at their next meeting (which will possibly be their last), Tuesday March 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

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

* Two webinars are planned for May 11th from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and June 8th from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Mike Dietz will moderate the May session.
* Two different save-the-dates for the May and June webinars were shown for feedback from the workgroup.
	+ It should be made clear on the save-the-dates that attendees do not need to attend both webinars, although they are welcome to.
	+ Registration information is to come. Speakers are still being confirmed.
* Staff at DEEP are working on a proclamation for the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA) through a separate stakeholder group.
* Kelsey Sudol is working on creating a StoryMap (through ArcGIS Online) to provide historical information on wetlands and watercourses in Connecticut.
* A DEEP multi-media staff is working with the workgroup to develop a logo system for the WPC and State Water Plan (SWP).

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

* The Water Planning Council Advisor Group (WPCAG) comments on the final recommendations for a water director are included as an appendix. Changes were not made to the body of the document.
* Lori was not in attendance for the last WPC meeting. Graham, Martin, and Jack discussed and accepted the report.
* The process for routing final workgroup reports was discussed, as there is not a formal process defined yet:
	+ The intent for having the WPCAG review all sub-workgroup reports is because that group represents more stakeholders than the IWG, and that input is important.
	+ A second option for routing final reports could be sending a report to the IWG and WPCAG at the same time and have the ‘author’ (the original ad-hoc workgroup) incorporate the comments from both groups simultaneously. The report would then go to the IWG, then to the WPC.
	+ It is unclear how a future Water Planning Chief would fit in to this process.

**WPC Meeting Recap**

* In future meetings, the WPC meeting recap will be moved to the beginning of the agenda.
* Martin Heft mentioned a task force within the Planning and Development Committee in the CT General Assembly, called the Commission on Connecticut’s future. The Commission’s goal is to look at how all the state plans work together. The focus is on planning, development, and equity.
	+ Martin mentioned this because in the water director job description, it was mentioned that the position should be looking at coordinating other state plans.
* Graham shared that it would be feasible to start this position as a contracted position possibly limited to 25 hours a week (at least for the first year). The WPC can come up with ideas on how to permanently fund this position.
* When a topical workgroup is authorized, it needs to be decided early on who will be responsible for Freedom of Information Act compliance.
* At the next WPC meeting on April 5th, priorities will be discussed. An effort will be made to discuss the WPC priorities at each meeting to keep up to date.

**WPCAG**

* No update given

**Public Comment**

* No public comment

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday April 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**