DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
April 12, 2022; 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Dan Aubin (DPH), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Mike Dietz (UConn), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Tom Tyler (MDC), Ann Hulick (Clean Water Action), Eric Lindquist (OPM Alternate), Janice EhleMeyer (Lower CT River Valley COG)

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

**Public:** Pat Kearney (Manchester), Lisette Stone (DPH), David Knauf (Darien Health Department)

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

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No formal changes to the agenda. Implementation Workgroup Membership was discussed at the beginning of the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

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

* Meeting notes approved with no changes

**Water Planning Council Meeting Recap (David Radka)**

* DEEP will present on the emergency connection general permit at the next WPCAG meeting on April 19, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
* Martin Heft brought up that any entity that wants to create and use a state government logo needs that logo to be approved by the Secretary of the State. The Outreach and Education sub-workgroup is prepared to follow any needed process.
* H.B. 5484 is moving forward in the legislative process. The legislative language mirrors the final report “Recommendations for Water Quality Testing for Private and Semipublic Drinking Water Wells” that the private well sub-workgroup finalized in May 2021.
* The Interagency Drought Workgroup is reviewing the recommendations by the sub-workgroup that analyzed the response to the 2016 drought. Future revision of the drought plan may be anticipated.
* The water director position needs funding. Other details are needed, such as how it will be supervised.
	+ Graham mentioned that a contracted position may be the best approach.
	+ There were different opinions on how many hours a week the position needs to be and if administrative support is needed.
* Each WPC agency needs to do an in-depth review on priorities, and then those priorities should be brought back to the WPC to determine what the Council should be pursuing over the next few years.
* A special meeting took place on Friday, April 8th to discuss funding options for both the water director position and updating the SWP.

**Implementation Workgroup Membership**

* Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves due to new members attending
* WPC approved the current slate of members at their April 5th, 2022 meeting. Membership will need to be updated and approved by the WPC in April 2023.

**Implementation Tracking and Reporting (Dan Aubin)**

* The workgroup met last on March 22nd and reviewed the draft recommendations for final thoughts and edits. There are 6 recommendations and some are more specific while others are broader.
* There was continued discussion on how final reports should be reviewed and sent to the WPC. The final feedback is that the final report should go to the WPCAG and IWG concurrently for comments. Comments which the tracking and reporting sub-workgroup agree with should be incorporated as appropriate, and any comments that the sub-workgroup did not agree with should be given a justification as to why. The comments not incorporated still need to be documented and justified.
* A possibility could be making the final report a live document to allow track changes for comments, but Microsoft SharePoint has limitations to who can edit documents.

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

* The workgroup is planning two panel webinars in the upcoming months:
	+ The next webinar is May 11th on wetlands and climate change resiliency. Speakers have been selected and registration information is to come.
	+ The June 8th webinar will be on rivers and watercourses. Planning is still taking place.
* The StoryMap is continuing to be developed. It will highlight important historic milestones surround wetland protection, and end with where we are now with the State Water Plan.
* Mary Ann Dickinson is helping with an interview with the first commissioner of DEP, Dan W. Lufkin. More information to come.
* Joe Cunningham from DEEP created design concepts to brand the SWP and WPC. The IWG discussed the two concepts.

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

* The Water Direction Report was sent to the WPC, and funding discussion are taking place. No further updates.

**Review of Implementation Workgroup Meetings**

* This agenda item is a holdover from last month to discuss if these meetings are meeting everyone’s needs or if anything needs to be done differently.
* As sub-workgroups are wrapping up, the IWG should look at what the priorities are for future implementation and tasks.

**WPCAG**

* Update from Denise – the source water protection workgroup is still going forward. There is an idea that a graduate student intern may be able to help to collect data from different programs. Discussions are taking place with Mike Dietz.

**Public Comment**

* No public comment

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

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**