DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
May 10, 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), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Mike Dietz (UConn), Chris Bellucci (DEEP),

Ann Hulick (Clean Water Action), Tom Tyler (MDC), Janice EhleMeyer (Lower CT River Valley COG)

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

**Public:** None

**Meeting Started: 1:02 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No changes to agenda

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

* Meeting notes approved with no changes

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

* The regular meeting for the Water Planning Council (WPC) was May 3rd, and special meetings were held on April 20 and April 29th. The April 20th special meeting was dedicated to discussing funding opportunities for updating the State Water Plan (SWP) and a potential water director position. The April 29th special meeting was dedicated to discussings priorities for implementation. A summary of agency priorities include:
	+ DPH – understanding impacts of climate change on water quantity and water quality, fixture standard updates, federal funding opportunities, source water protection
	+ OPM – funding for a 5 year update of the SWP
	+ DEEP – monitoring plan implementation, identifying data needs, sustainable funding for USGS data collection, source water protection
	+ PURA – funding for long term and short term implementation
* Proposed legislation for private wells originally mirrored the white paper submitted by the previous private well water quality sub-workgroup, but the language on the bill changed to be less stringent.
* There is a proposed language revision to the drought plan.
* There are funding opportunities available for various projects: exploring grants and the availability of leftover bond funds that were originally used to fund the SWP.

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

* The sub-workgroup has completed their draft report, which includes 6 recommendations to begin tracking and reporting on the SWP. General discussion took place on the draft report, including:
	+ Licensing barriers for producing statistics and graphs for reports and making those reports auto-update while still being available to the public.
	+ Any future group or individual tasked with tracking implementation of the SWP should identify what metrics need to be included in the annual report to the legislature
	+ The SWP addresses large scale issues, such as improving water for Long Island Sound. But there are many other groups that are involved with that task, but their work should still be considered implementation of the SWP. This would be addressed by having a ‘call’ for data on implementation occurring in Connecticut. Whoever is tasked with putting the SWP annual report together would be responsible for including larger-scale projects, such as LIS improvements.
* Recommendations should be sent to Virginia and Dave via e-mail, and they will compile it, and send to Dan to incorporate into the final report. Revised draft report will come back. Deadline will be this Friday May 13, 2022.

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

* The panel discussion on wetlands and climate resiliency will be on May 11, 2022 via zoom. Mike Dietz will be moderating, and Jack Betkoski will provide an introduction.
* The next workshop will be Wednesday June 8th and it is still being finalized.
* A small group within the outreach and education sub-workgroup will be providing a short write up on the SWP website to outline what information is available online, what information should be available, and why updating the website is valuable.
* Mary Ann Dickinson is doing a recorded interview with Dan Lufkin in May. That recording will be available afterwards.

**Ideas for New Topical Sub-workgroups**

* Some bandwidth should be reserved for any tasks that come out of the current Tracking and Reporting sub-workgroup final report, which still needs to go to the WPC. Technical skills will be needed for developing an electronic tracking and reporting system.
* Identifying USGS data needs was listed as a priority for the WPC. A possible workgroup could do a gap analysis on the USGS monitoring system, to identify what has been done historically, what is being done now, and what the data needs are. Additionally, it would be helpful to identify what expenses would be associated with fulfilling data needs. This idea for a workgroup was well received. A request will be made to the WPC to approve the idea, and if it is approved, a formal workgroup proposal will be drafted for the WPC to later vote on.
* Any proposed workgroups should consider that climate change and environmental and health equity are priorities of the WPC.

**WPCAG**

* No update provided

**Public Comment**

* There have been numerous reports done by past workgroups, but these reports do not all ‘live’ in one place that is accessible to the public. Some ideas are needed for how to identify what past reports are relevant to the SWP and WPC, and how those reports could be accessible to all.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:43 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday June 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**