DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
June 14, 2022; 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Dan Aubin (DPH), Mike Dietz (UConn), Janice Ehlemeyer (River Council of Governments), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Ally Ayotte (PURA)

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

**Public:** Iris Kaminski

**Meeting Started: 1:03 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)**

* In the public comment period at the start of the meeting, there was discussion on DEEP’s proposed general permit modifications for interconnections. DEEP will do a presentation on the proposed modification to alleviate some confusion.
* Denise Savageau showed the different proposed State Water Plan logos. The Water Planning Council (WPC) favored Concept 2, but Martin Heft was not in attendance. The Council will wait for Martin’s input.
* The WPC was in favor of the USGS data collection and asked the Implementation Workgroup (IWG) to put together a draft proposal.
* Francis Pickering from the Western Connecticut Council of Governments presented on water conservation, especially with developing new housing or expanding existing housing infrastructure.
* A presentation from DPH next month on the new legislation that was passed.
* The Interagency Draft Workgroup is currently meeting. As of June 2, 2022, Windham and New London County are in Stage 1.
* The WPC currently scheduled for Tuesday, July 5th may be rescheduled due to the holiday. More information to come.

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

* The IWG voted to move the final report to the WPC. Virginia will send the report to the WPC with a request for them to put it on the July meeting agenda.
* At the last WPC meeting, there was a suggestion that there should be a brief presentation with a high-level summary of the report.

**Outreach & Education topical sub-workgroup**

* The panel on rivers and watercourses was last Wednesday, June 8th. No final number on attendees yet.
* The workgroup will be looking at the State Water Plan website and making a one-page write up on what information or documents currently live on the website, and what else should be available online to the public.
* There will also be some development of framework on how an on-going sub-workgroup, such as this one, could report on progress.

**USGS Data Collection topical sub-workgroup**

* The WPC supported the concept of this proposed workgroup. A sub-workgroup proposal will be drafted for the next IWG meeting, and Chris Bellucci will chair.
* The purpose of the workgroup overall is to identify the status of the USGS data on surface and ground water, and what data gaps exist. Some other focus areas could be:
	+ Provide information for the public or legislature on how this data can be used to plan better drought and flood response.
	+ Analyze how other states manage their surface and groundwater monitoring network
	+ Identify what a merger of water quality and water quantity concerns would look like.
	+ Update public information for why the data from gauging stations and wells is important to justify the price for maintaining the infrastructure.
* Temporary funding for stream gauges and wells can prevent the continued operation of these monitoring sites. A consistent funding source is needed to help maintain the monitoring network.

**WPCAG**

* No update provided

**Public Comment**

* No Public Comment

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:12 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** **Tuesday July 12th at 1:00 p.m.**