DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
January 10, 2023; 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Dan Aubin (DPH), Anne Hulick (Clean Water Action), Denise Savageau (CT Conservation Districts), Tom Tyler (MDC), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Mike Dietz (UConn), Janice Ehlemeyer (Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments)

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

**Public:** Kim Czapla (DEEP), Rebecca Dahl (OPM)

**Meeting Started: 1:01 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* The Outreach and Education Workgroup update is moved up in the agenda to accommodate Denise’s schedule.

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

* Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Outreach & Education topical sub-workgroup**

* A reminder that the workgroup changed their regularly scheduled time for 2023 to the first Tuesdays of the month from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (the morning of the regular Water Planning Council Meetings)
* The 2023 workplan that was presented at the last Water Planning Council (WPC) meeting on January 3rd.
* The regular World Water Day presentation/workshop will now be lead by Alicea Charamut with assistance from other environmental organization leaders. The Outreach and Education workgroup offered assistance for organizing this event. World Water Day occurs on March 22nd.
* The workgroup will collaborate with CIRCA on creating factsheets on topics such as drought. The factsheets will be hosted by CIRCA on their website.
* Included in the workgroup’s 2023 workplan is to expand the pipeline between outreach and jobs in water resources. There is a job model used on the west coast called Bay Work (BayWork.org) that brings together job seekers and employers in the water sector. Tom Tyler is involved in a similar initiative that is starting locally. The discussion highlighted that there are many resources available, and the workgroup would like to make these resources more well known.

**Water Planning Council January 3rd Meeting Recap**

* There is an upcoming WUCC meeting on February 15th
* The Department of Public Health (DPH) is continuing to provide resources to labs and homeowners on the recent legislation pertaining to private wells.
* The Interagency Drought Workgroup met on January 5th (which was after the last WPC meeting) and eliminated the remaining Stage 1 declaration. Currently, no counties in the state are in drought.
* The recent update to the drought plan was limited to recommendations that were considered “low hanging fruit”. The next step of implementing recommended changes to the drought plan may be more complicated and require legislative changes. This workgroup will be sending assignment to various agencies that may be responsible for implementation. This workgroup also asked the WPC to look over the recommended changes to the workplan for feedback.
* The annual report was accepted under the contingency that discussed changes would be implemented.

**Water Planning Council Annual Report**

* The annual report is packaged and ready to go!
* The final draft of the report will be distributed to the SWP Implementation Workgroup.

**USGS Data Collection topical sub-workgroup**

* The 2nd meeting was on December 16th with 18 participants.
* The meeting was an open discussion on how people in attendance are using the USGS monitoring network and what data gaps they have noticed.
* The next meeting time is being determined. There will be a deeper dive into one of the monitoring networks – groundwater, discharge, or water quality. More to come. Someone else from USGS may be pulled in to be the expert in the monitoring network.
* It was brought up that the USGS Data Collection sub-workgroup is not mentioned on the Water Planning Council webpage. After discussion, it was decided that there could be a new page on the website that lists information on sub-workgroups from the annual report. The information can be inserted as text to prevent any links from breaking if the page is restructured in the future.
* The 3rd meeting will focus on the discharge/streamflow network. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m and will be through Microsoft Teams.

**New Topical Sub-Workgroups**

* A permanent future tracking workgroup should be formed to be responsible for producing an annual report on a regular basis.
	+ Set metrics could be developed to assess what type of progress is being made on implementation of the SWP.
	+ It may be helpful to reach out to legislators, possibly the Environmental Committee, about what type of metrics are important for them to hear about.
	+ The annual report for this year covered topics going back to SWP adoption in 2019, but future annual reports will only be covering one year.
	+ It is important to highlight what is being accomplished by agencies due to a push from the Water Planning Council rather than what agencies are doing because of state or federal requirements that would be done anyway.
* A future workgroup could develop draft language on drought ordinances for municipalities to adopt as they see fit. But it can be a tough issue – watershed boundaries don’t follow town boundaries and many utilities service multiple towns.
* The IWG should solicit feedback from the Water Planning Council on what type of implementation they would like to see next, and also give examples of what we have in mind.
* The conversation left off with requesting to continue to think about topics.

 **WPCAG**

* New WPCAG Workgroup on Conservation Pricing and Rate Analysis is starting. Alicea Charamut is organizing.

**Public Comment**

* No comments received

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:40 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14th at 1:00 p.m.**