DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
February 14, 2023; 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Dan Aubin (DPH), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Alyson Ayotte (PURA), Anne Hulick (Clean Water Action)

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

**Public:**  Iris Herz Kaminski

**Meeting Started: 1:03 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* The workgroup should discuss membership renewals during the agenda item “Meetings”.

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

* Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Water Planning Council February 7th Meeting Recap**

* The February 7, 2023 meeting of the Water Planning Council (WPC) was the first in-person meeting since 2020. Maureen Westbrook, retired President of Connecticut Water Company, was presented with an award for her service.
* Bonnie Burr of UConn Extension was accepted as the Agricultural representative for the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG).
* The Department of Public Health (DPH) will be implementing the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5), which will consist of monitoring for 29 types of PFAS and lithium for community and non-community systems for the next three years. The data will be provided to the EPA.
* Consistent with the recommendations of the drought plan, the Interagency Drought Workgroup will put together an end-of-drought report. The Office of Policy and Management has agreed to pull together existing drought municipal ordinances.
* The proposal for the new tracking and reporting workgroup was approved by the WPC.

**Meetings**

* The workgroup discussed whether these monthly meeting should continue to be virtual over zoom or in-person, as it was before March 2020.
* A benefit of meeting in-person is increased collaboration. Although there was a comment that this is a small group that has successfully collaborated with each other for the past three years. If a meeting is held in person, workgroup members requested advanced notification to block off traveling time. Many members now have virtual meetings scheduled back to back. Meeting virtually allows participants to share documents and resources immediately, and meeting in-person can limit the workgroup to using paper copies to discuss documents during the meeting.
* After soliciting feedback from the workgroup members present, it was decided the meetings will remain virtual at the same time and date.
* In April, some memberships terms are up: Lori Mathieu (Dan Aubin has been attending as the DPH alternate), Alyson Ayotte, Mike Dietz, Tom Tyler, David Radka. Of those members, Tom Tyler expressed he does not plan to renew his membership.
* Two members need to be appointed by the WPCAG to attend these workgroup meetings. Virginia formerly held this role, but she is no longer a member of the WPCAG. It should be brought up to the WPCAG. Some membership shuffling may be needed.

**Outreach & Education topical sub-workgroup**

* The sub-workgroup is planning two late spring/early summer lunchtime panel discussions. On April 12th, the tentative discussion is on Climate Change and Drought and on May 10th, the tentative discussion is on Impacts of Climate Change on Watersheds. Speakers and moderators are still being planned.
* The workshops have been on Wednesdays in the past, and the two workshops that are being planned are also scheduled for a Wednesday. The sub-workgroup should assess hosting these on different days of the week to have further reach.
* The sub-workgroup is continuing to develop guidance to accompany the State Water Plan logo.

**USGS Data Collection topical sub-workgroup**

* The last meeting scheduled in January was postponed to better prepare maps and tables for the sub-workgroup to react to. The new date of the next meeting is Friday, February 24th from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. over Microsoft Teams. Time Sargent of USGS will be joining to discuss the discharge and streamflow network.
* The future meetings are being scheduled in advance to organize speakers from USGS. The tentative future meeting dates and times are March 27th, April 24th, and May 22nd, all from 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**Alliance for Water Efficiency Conservation Scorecard**

* The recent [2022 Alliance for Water Efficiency Scorecard](https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/sites/www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/files/assets/AWE%202022_Scorecard_Connecticut.pdf) was discussed. This could be a strategy to use for future planning and strategizing. The scorecard is a small snapshot of all the things that are done in Connecticut, and it should serve as a reminder of what work still needs to be done.
* It is possible to itemize the top things the best states are doing and apply that to what Connecticut can do.

**Closing out topical sub-workgroups**

* There has been a request from Martin Heft to have a formal process for closing out a topical sub-workgroup.
* Since we will be creating a State Water Plan annual report every year going forward, it could be possible to formally close out workgroups through the annual reporting form and the annual report itself.
* Although the webpage is still under construction, and it would be helpful to have the information of active/inactive workgroups on the webpage.
* The WPC should approve whichever process is selected for formally closing out a workgroup, and that process should also apply to WPCAG sub-workgroups for consistency.

**Tracking & Reporting – Phase 2 Sub-workgroup**

* The proposal for the Tracking and Reporting Phase 2 sub-workgroup was submitted to the WPC and approved. It would be ideal to develop an electronic way of tracking, so the workgroup needs members with expertise to develop the technology to automate as much as possible.
* The group that was responsible for putting together this past annual report should create a short after-action report to see what worked and what didn’t.
* There are no metrics listed in the State Water Plan to be consistently measured. It is unclear if it is the responsibility of this sub-workgroup to identify metrics and what needs to be captured. The audience of the annual report is legislators, so it should be kept in mind what type of information would be helpful for a legislator to know.
* Agency staff participating in these workgroups should be responsible for producing the report each year. This would also help to include data from state agencies into the report.
* Right now, a chair of a workgroup is expected to be a member of the IWG. If this workgroup would like to see that changed, it should be brought up to the WPC. Additionally, the new standard of workgroups can also be having multiple chairs/co-chairs. No sub-workgroup chair was decided.

**WPCAG**

* No update provided

**Public Comment**

* The Governors budget was released. A quick glance showed there was no obvious line item about an update to the State Water Plan.

**Meeting Adjourned: 3:10 p.m.**

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