DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
August 8, 2023; 1:00 PM

Webex Meeting

**Members**: Mike Dietz (UConn, stand-in chair), Denise Savageau (CT Association of Conservation Districts), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Kelsey Sudol (Northwest Conservation District), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Janice EhleMeyer (Lower CT River Council of Governments)

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

**Public:** Becca Dahl (OPM), Brandon Hayden, Iris, Nicholas Velseboer (CEQ), Kim Czapla (DEEP)

**Meeting Started: 1:04 p.m.**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* No changes to the agenda

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

* Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Water Planning Council Retreat Recap**

* The Water Planning Council (WPC) Retreat as it was proposed was to invigorate the group and continue discussions on future priorities. The feedback after the retreat was that the event provided an open in-person discussion opportunity. Some discussion points from the retreat that were brought up during the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup (IWG) meeting include:
	+ Hiring a Water Director: It may be possible to utilize a Memorandum of Understanding with an outside group or quasi-state entity, such as the Institute of Water Resources. There was discussion on what needs to come first – a water director, or an attempt to consolidate and make our processes more efficient.
	+ College Internships: The WPC Retreat Meeting Report included mention of building a relationship with colleges and universities. Right now, there is not a clear website or contact person to direct a student that might be interested in interning in specifically water planning programs.
	+ Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines: developing guidelines or best management practices of LID would help to implement many of the goals of the SWP. A statewide LID manual would help streamline practices at the local level and across the state.
	+ Numerous Workgroups: There are many goals of the SWP, and that leads to the formation of numerous workgroups and in the past. There needs to be strategic planning for what workgroups to create in the future.

**Implementation Workgroup and Advisory Group – Both Necessary?**

* We are not statutorily required to have this workgroup. By combining the IWG with the Water Planning Council Advisory Workgroup (WPCAG), we can combine resources to be more efficient. The WPCAG is set by statute with membership set out to some detail. But the WPCAG does not have state agencies as members.
* Combining the workgroups would streamline the work. Also, it could help make the group more approachable and understandable by the public. An increase in public participation could help the WPC advocate for a Water Director.
* There should be clearer documentation or understanding of work that has already happened before discussing future priorities. If the WPC needs more funding and more legislative support, there needs to be more inventorying to solidify what the “ask” is.

**Outreach and Education Workgroup**

* The Outreach and Education Workgroup did not have an August meeting.
* The theme for next year is source water protection to recognize the anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Aquifer Protection Act.
* State Agency staff are continuing to work on the website.
* Next meeting is September 5th.

**USGS Data Collection Sub-workgroup**

* The report is continued to be drafted and should be ready to distribute to the sub-workgroup in the next few weeks.

**WPCAG**

* The previous meeting focused on discussing the upcoming WPC Retreat. The Source Water Protection workgroup is continuing to work on their draft white paper and will have something to share shortly. The Conservation Pricing and Rate Recovery Analysis Workgroup is active and underway. The WPCAG did start a sub-group to discuss the group’s priorities and plans to meet quarterly.

**Public Comment**

* No public comment

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:13 p.m.**

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