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

Zoom Meeting

**Members**: Virginia de Lima (chair), Chris Bellucci (DEEP), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Anne Hulick (Clean Water Action), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Kelsey Sudol (Northwest Conservation District)

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

**Public:** Iris Herz Kaminski, Paul Aresta (CEQ)

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

**Topics of Discussion**

**Changes to Agenda**

* The agenda lists an item for an update for the October 3rd Water Planning Council (WPC) meeting. The agenda item should be an update for the November 7th WPC meeting.

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

* Notes from the previous meeting were not approved due to the lack of quorum at the time.

**Water Planning Council November 7th Meeting**

* The WPC approved a motion to eliminate this workgroup by spring of 2024.
* The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is proposing to open a staff position that will have a focus on State Water Plan concerns.
* The WPC is waiting for the biennial budget to address funding.
* In the past, there were plans to form a Phase II of the tracking and reporting workgroup. It is recommended that the possible workgroup is revisited.
* When incorporating recommendations from the past, it may not need a future workgroup. Instead, certain recommendations could be selected and checked in on each month.

**Outreach and Education Workgroup**

* The workgroup is still exploring the idea of doing a lunchtime webinar in December on flash drought.
* For 2024, the workgroup is looking at tying together Groundwater Awareness Week in March with the 20th anniversary of the Aquifer Protection Act and Drinking Water Week in early May with the 50th anniversary of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
* Drinking Water Week is in early May – might be able to tie together the Safe Drinking Water Act with Drinking Water Week.
* The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5th at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

**USGS Data Collection Sub-workgroup**

* The sub-workgroup members submitted comments on the draft report, and those comments have been incorporated into an updated draft report.
* The next meeting of the sub-workgroup is Friday, November 17th at 10:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams. This is the first meeting since the report was first drafted.
* After the Friday meeting, the report will be sent to Virginia to forward to this group.

**2023 Annual Report to Legislature**

* The draft 2023 annual report will hopefully be finalized after this meeting to then be sent to the WPC members.
* The WPC first asked that a report be drafted and ready by November 15th to give agencies time to review the report before then sending the report to the legislature.
* Kelsey will email the recording of the April 2023 Drought lunchtime webinar put on by the Outreach and Education sub-workgroup so that it may be included in the annual report.
* This group had a membership change in April of this year, and the report needs to be updated to reflect that change.
* For this year, it was decided to not collect information from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The size of an NGO can limit if there is staff time available to provide the annual report team feedback on what work the NGO is doing that supports the State Water Plan.
* It was also decided to not include information on work completed by state agencies that support the State Water Plan. This may change in future years.

**Water Planning Council Advisory Group and Implementation Workgroup**

* The possibility of different member terms was discussed.
* The terms for this workgroup are 2 years. The terms for the Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) are 4 years. Longer terms may give the group more stability but may also be intimidating for newer members.
* Overall, it was decided that the different member terms were not a high concern.
* The advisory co-chairs are appointed to 2-year terms. The co-chairs are mandated to be from an in-stream and out-of-stream use. If there are three co-chairs, then the third slot would need to be neutral.

**WPCAG**

* No update given

**Public Comment**

* Iris Herz Kaminski has accepted a new position at the Yale School of Public Health, which has received a grant to investigate 1-4, dioxane. If anyone has interest in the topic or experience with the contaminant, Iris is interested in speaking.

**Meeting Adjourned: 1:54 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: December 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**