

Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
February 18, 2020; 11:30 – 1:15
PURA

Attendees: Virginia de Lima, David Radka, Corinne Fitting, Lou Burch, Steve Rupa, Dan Aubin (Alternate for Lori Mathieu), Gail Lucchina,

Attended by Phone: Mike Dietz Eric Linquist (Alternate for Bruce Wittchen)

Others: Ali Hibbard, Alicea Charamut

Note Taker(s): Dan Aubin

Start time: 11:33am

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda:

- No official changes, couple of minor updates
- *Update:* IWG submitted a letter to the WPC summarizing its recommendations on Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) tasks; the recommendations were accepted
- *Update:* David will work with Mary Ann Dickinson to get cost estimates on Alliance for Water Efficiency proposed items
 - Preference would be to complete a few tasks completely rather than spreading resources thin and achieving very small-scale successes among multiple tasks.

Approval/Modification of Notes from January 21, 2020 meeting:

- Alicea: Edit on the topic of Alliance for Water Efficiency to include her desire for stakeholders to have the opportunity to weigh-in on recommendations
- Steve Rupa: Edit on page 2, under discussion drought work group to include DEMHS with DESPP. Agreement that it would be listed as DESPP/DEMHS

Update on Domestic Wells topical sub-work group (Mike Dietz):

- Private Wells workgroup has not met since the last meeting, instead members have been working remotely on writing the white paper.
- DEEP remediation division is interested in a private well database and may potentially have some funds for scanning.
- DPH budget request includes \$100k for PFAS private well database development.
- Mike was talking to Lori Mathieu from DPH on the potential funds to create a database DPH will meet with DEEP on March 4th to discuss funding options; Mike will attend.
- Dept. Consumer Protection scans well records but only as a jpeg file, a more detailed scan with metadata is needed to be useful.
- Mike is completing the draft white paper and will send it out to the implementation workgroup for review
- Goal is to have a draft white paper by the end of March.

Update on Drought Plan topical sub-work group (Steve Rupar):

- Steve Rupar answered the side questions from Virginia's handout from WPCAG
- Drought workgroup met on February 7th at the DPH State Lab in Rocky Hill with a special guest, John Mullaney of the USGS.
 - o John Mullaney lectured on new available tools that USGS has in predicting drought occurrence by comparing current to historic streamflows.
 - o Tools were impressive, but not all tools were publicly available technology.
 - o John was a participant in the 2016 drought, as the drought unfolded, he became aware of procedures that could be improved upon.
 - o In February 2016, the USGS held measurements for a month due to funding, John expressed the concern that could have influenced the statistics of the interagency workgroup, looking at the number of months below normal (25th percentile).
- The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has adopted a new Water Loss Control policy and best practices
 - o The policy is published in the January 2020 journal AWWA, and AWWA no longer supports any form of performance indicators using percentages, such as percent non-revenue water or the percent of unaccounted-for water loss
 - o State agencies continue to use unaccounted-for water percentage for regulatory purposes, unlike other states that have adopted new procedures.
 - o Steve to create a presentation to educate the WPC of the importance of updating water loss control procedures, which will assist in comparing with other utilities nationally, meter accuracy and data processing issues. Newer focus is more on indicators – normalized apparent and real losses, such as volume per day, volume per connection, volume per leakage
- Steve predicts about another 3 or 4 meetings of the Drought workgroup to review historical information and then they will be in a position to develop recommendations and construct a final report
 - o Historical review is still underway and could look at the different types of droughts and the responses that were taken
 - o Discussions from the utilities highlighted push back from the local health directors who rely on messaging from DPH. Miscommunication or lack of the notification process, disputes between agencies could be a reason for lack of communication.

Update on status of website (Eric Lindquist):

- Undersecretary Heft gave an update on website at the last WPC, updating and migration of information is still in progress
- Interim platform to host agenda minutes and meeting dates
- Once the new website is up, he will migrate everything over.
- Work continues on the website, there will be another update in March

Updates from WPC, WPCAG, and WUCC meetings:

- WPC – Responded to our recommendations on AWE proposal; they accepted
- WPCAG – no update

- WUCC - Implementation meeting at regional water authority on January 30th to discuss consolidated WUCC reports and findings among all 3 WUCCs. WUCC and COG reps, stakeholders, and DEEP; at least 30 people attended.
 - o This meeting was to build consensus on priorities and where WUCCs can take the lead on implementation items and identify next steps.
 - o 5 topics were identified as WUCC priorities: 1. water conservation, 2. drought response and resiliency, 3. design standards (community and non-community), 4. noncommunity system proliferation, and 5. regionalization/interconnections
 - o Goal is for all 3 WUCCs to meet in the next month to affirm the potential topics and gather interest on who wishes to work on these groups. So far about 15 people are interested.
- AWE – recommendation to prioritize rates and disincentive – found a near final draft of a WPCAG rates workgroup – David to send it around for us to review.

End time: 12:46 pm