

Draft Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup

May 19, 2020; 11:30 – 1:15

Zoom Meeting

***Please note, due to the nature of this meeting, all attendees may not be accounted for. If someone is missing from this list, please suggest a modification.**

Members: Virginia de Lima, David Radka, Corinne Fitting, Steve Rugar, Bruce Wittchen, Denise Savageau, Tom Tyler, Alicea Charamut for Lou Burch

Note Taker(s): Dan Aubin, Abigail Davis, Kevin Veilleux

Public: Water Planning Council Chair Jack Betkoski; AWE President Mary Ann Dickinson; Ali Hibbard; Iris Kaminski

Meeting Starts 11:30am

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Approval/Modification of Notes from April 21, 2020 meeting

- No changes; notes approved

Alliance for Water Efficiency – Plan:

- Discussion focused on key points from Mary Ann's presentation at last month's meeting
- Rates Workshop: Mary Ann proposed a workshop in Fall 2020, or perhaps a virtual workshop if COVID-19 public health precautions are still in place
 - Consensus to wait until Spring 2021 for an in-person workshop; virtual workshop may not be an effective alternative
- Workshop will include representative speakers, and a panel of 4-5 local officials
- Workshop will also include a panel of utilities, using one utility as an example for the rate model
- Will focus on educating utilities and local elected officials, who will in turn provide education on rates to their respective towns
- Mary Ann will provide an example/case study of rate structure
- Jack will follow up on where the workshop can be held
 - Tom Tyler offered up the MDC training center
- David R., Alicea C., and Steve R volunteered to assist on the planning group – establishing potential dates, identifying speakers, and building an invitation list
- It is important that this workshop not conflict with meetings planned by the CWWA or the CT section of the AWWA.
Note: the annual CT Section AWWA "Sustainability Workshop," usually held at the end of May, will be postponed until next year
 - Looking at March 2021

Slate – Update & Plan:

- Each of the current IWG members is going to continue serving
 - Bruce and Corinne as state representatives

- Denise as the in-stream representative
- Steve R as a subject matter expert
- Virginia as the WPCAG representative
- There is still a vacancy for the out-of-stream representative
 - The position was offered to Mike Emmons, he'll think about it but has not committed
 - Other suggestions: Terry Jones (Jones Tree Farm), Mary Dickerson (Economic Development, Town of Portland), Janet EhleMeyer (River COG Regional Agricultural Council), Bonnie Burr (former Dep't of Ag legislative liaison)
- Denise supported Terry Jones as an option from his experience in the agricultural industry
- Jack seconds Terry Jones, but recommends contacting executive directors as well since Terry himself might not have the time to serve
- Virginia will contact Janice EhleMeyer
- Since the slate started last month, suggested we submit the slate to the WPC with the vacancy still showing
 - Motion made; no one opposed

Drought Plan topical sub-work group – Update & Plans (Steve Rupar):

- Haven't met since last IWG meeting; Microsoft Teams meeting scheduled for this Thursday, May 21st

Domestic Wells topical sub-work group – Plan (Corinne Fitting):

- Mike D not present; Corinne gave the update
- DCP database work items are moving forward
 - Mike D and Gary Robbins have been meeting with DPH to coordinate summer interns to assist with inputting the historic data
- At this point, the workgroup has completed what it set out to do with regard to locational database needs
- Corinne questioned what to do with the white paper that was prepared and no longer needed
 - David R suggested that the paper still has value in documenting what the work-group has accomplished and the importance of the work
- Going forward: DPH has concern over water quality in domestic/private wells
 - This group, or perhaps an extension of it, could focus on the issues surrounding WQ in private wells
 - Possibly new members for a new group
 - Focus on testing private wells

New initiative for topical sub-work group

- Discussion focused on possible topics for new topical sub workgroups
- The private well workgroup will morph into one focused more on water quality
- David R suggested a workgroup to look into regionalization/interconnections of water utilities
- Dan Aubin suggested a workgroup to focus on marketing the State Water Plan, as that has shown to be a severe need in the past year
- Both initiatives were supported by IWG members and volunteers will meet to develop proposals for recommendation to the WPC
 - Marketing: Dan Aubin (DPH), Denise Savageau (in-stream), Gail Lucchina (PURA), Iris Kaminski (public)

- Regionalization/Interconnections: Dave Radka (out-of-stream), Alicea Charamut (in-stream), Gail Lucchina (PURA), Peter Galant (out-of-stream)

Meeting Adjourned 1:02pm

Next Meeting: June 16, 2020