

DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
October 13th, 2020; 1:30 – 2:30PM
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, Tom Tyler, Lou Burch, Gail Lucchina, Mike Dietz, Bruce Wittchen, Steve Rugar, Denise Savageau, Dan Aubin (alt. for Lori Mathieu)

Note Taker(s): Dan Aubin (DPH) & Ali Hibbard (DEEP)

Attendees*: Mary Ann Dickinson (AWE); Bradley Spilka (AWE); Alicea Charamut; Iris Kaminski; Ingrid Jacobs

Meeting Starts 1:33 PM

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Approval/Modification of Notes from September 8, 2020 meeting

- Notes approved

Alliance for Water Efficiency – Update (Mary Ann Dickinson):

- **Water Rates Event Planning:**
 - In-person workshop is not looking likely, therefore draft virtual workshop is being planned for March 16 and 17, 3 hours per day
 - Mary Ann shared a draft/ working agenda for March 2021 virtual conference
 - Jack B. on opening / welcome, Lori M. setting the stage on rates discussion (both are available on March 16)
 - Mary Ann to dive into rate and conservation measures
 - Rate model case studies
 - Regional Water Authority and Town of Portland have agreed to be examples for rate studies
 - Panel discussion “getting to yes on rates”
 - Representatives from RWA and Portland will be on panel
 - Other panelists will include Jack Betkoski and possibly Senator Formica
 - Mary Ann to gather logos for sponsorships once everything is confirmed
 - Goal is to begin event distribution in mid November
 - Limit of 500 people for the Go to Webinar
- **Water Fixture Efficiency Revisions**
 - Two proposed approaches: one based on regulations, one on legislation
 - Discussion on whether to tie language to WaterSense program (if WaterSense guidelines change, there would be no need to redraft the language) or to WaterSense and volumetric amounts

- Regulations may be in conflict if statute is not changed first
- Colorado example: showed an easier path to make changes
- Bringing both drafts to the WPC (Dave Radka will draft a memo)
- WPC will review and then coordinate with DCP, if decision is made to move forward
- All agencies should be “on the same page” before submitting any changes
- Need to be aware that lower water demands could result in distribution issues which could pressure utilities to upgrade or modify infrastructure. Current infrastructure is built around a certain usage amount

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

- Review of 2016-2017 drought is complete
- Gathering the top 10 recommendations from everyone, consensus-based approach
- Mapping recommendations to initial 4 ‘charges’, dividing up into task groups to focus on specific charges
- Draft report by the Sub-workgroup will be ready by end of December 2020
- Group is pleased that the Interagency drought workgroup is meeting, membership and participation is more consistent
- Looking closely at regions vs whole state, better focus this time on counties and specific needs
- Different classifications in drought statuses among National agencies, state/local authorities, and utility companies; which can result in some minor confusion.

Domestic Wells white paper (Mike Dietz)

- White Paper from Private Wells’ database review is completed
- Responses drafted to reviewers’ comments
- White paper sent to WPC, still under review
- Discussed asking WPC Advisory group to submit a consensus review for future IWG products

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

- Water Quality of Domestic wells first meeting held, good discussion and approval of draft scope of work
- Working on who else to invite
- Meetings will be on 4th Monday of the month; next meeting is Oct 26th
- Recording of meeting is available
- Discussion of notes vs. recording of meetings

Outreach & Education topical sub-work group (Denise Savageau):

- Next meeting is October 14th
- Working on reaching out to other organizations; will present at annual meeting of CACIWC (CT Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions)
- Audiences and how to educate and involve groups are high priority

Regionalization & Interconnections topical sub-work group (David Radka):

- WPC still undecided and reviewing proposal

WPCAG:

- No update

Public Comment:

- None
- Bruce Wittchen suggested including an additional panelist to the rates workshop that represents consumers such as the Office of Consumer Council

Meeting Adjourned 2:29 pm

Next Meeting: November 10th, 2020 at 1:30pm