

DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
November 10th, 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, Denise Savageau, Gail Lucchina, Dan Aubin (DPH Alternate), Mike Dietz, Bruce Wittchen, Janice EhleMeyer, Alicea Charamut (alternate), Steve Rupar, Corinne Fitting

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

Public*: Mary Ann Dickinson (AWE); Brendan Crowley; Ingrid Jacobs; Iris Kaminski; Bradley Spilka

Meeting Starts 1:30 PM

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Approval/Modification of Notes from October 13, 2020 meeting

- Notes approved

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

- Rates workshop
 - Date is s March 16th and 17th of 2021, 9am-noon sessions both days
 - Maureen Westbrook will join Jan Beecher and discuss the Water Rates Adjustment Mechanism available to private water companies
 - Panel members:
 - No confirmed speaker from town of Portland
 - Decision to have a CT only panel to focus on CT needs, rather than include out-of-state speakers
 - Planning group will decide whether to include a consumer advocate
 - Hopefully creating a flyer promo before Thanksgiving
 - Deciding whether to provide hardcopies of workshop materials, or to only make material available electronically
 - Mary Ann recommends mailing workshop materials to participants and has budgeted to do so
- Existing Water Laws and Fixture Efficiency WaterSense efficiency standards may be at risk of backsliding with a new administration. Therefore, it may be advisable to include reference both to volumetric standards as well as link to WaterSense.
- WPC requested more data on potential water savings resulting from revisions to current fixture laws, including related energy savings, if quantifiable. Corinne mentioned that DEEP does not have energy consumption data for pumping, treatment, and distribution of public water, or for wastewater treatment, although it's possible that PURA might have some data.

AWE may be able to put together a ballpark estimate based on water use in CT and data from other states.

- Consideration to having a group, such as CWWA, sponsor legislation rather than one or more state agencies

Drought topical sub-work group (Steve Rupar):

- Each member has come up with the top 10 recommendations and group is mapping them to their 4 charges.
- Currently discussing whether findings and individual recommendations have consensus; goal is to produce consensus document
- Not in agreement on whether water-use ordinances are needed
- Breaking up the report into sub-teams
- Work on the report is on track to be completed by the end of December

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

- Group has been discussing what water quality parameters they are trying to address (e.g., potential testing for new, currently untested contaminants, or focus on follow-up testing)
- Group generally agrees to not add more contaminants to the current contaminant list due to concerns over cost and staffing and will likely limit recommendations to subsequent testing, such as during a property transfer, while leaving options to health districts to add more testing requirements
- Following discussion, IWG recommendation is that group should develop an “ideal” testing regime without consideration of staff or financial limitations, and provide pros and cons of any expanding testing

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

- Denise shared the Education and Outreach conceptual plan
- Two audiences, water resource leaders and general-public users
- Short-term and long-term goals for the workgroup
- Creating several types of different presentations for specific audiences
- Proposal to create a presentation team to utilize other group participants because it is not always feasible to rely on just the WPC and their staff
- Long term plans will reach out to more water leaders with a broader scope of involvement
- Janice recommended adding in farmers and agricultural leaders as they use water differently
- Proposed Idea: Should we consider two sperate groups to reach out to both audiences?

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

- Discussed by WPC again but DPH and DEEP requesting more time
- DPH and DEEP to review whether additional amendments to the proposal are needed to move forward
- No decisions yet on approval of the sub-work group

WPCAG:

- **None**

Public Comment:

- None

Additional Group Comments:

- IWG members asked to consider what other workgroup topics might be prioritized for WPC consideration.

Meeting Adjourned 2:36pm

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2020 at 1:30pm