

DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup
December 8th, 2020; 1:30 – 3:30PM

Zoom Meeting

Members: Virginia de Lima, David Radka, Corinne Fitting, Tom Tyler, Denise Savageau, Mike Dietz, Bruce Wittchen, Steve Rupar

Note Taker(s): Ali Hibbard (DEEP)

Public: Jack Betkoski (WPC Chair), Mary Ann Dickinson (AWE), Bill Christiansen (AWE), Iris Kaminski

Meeting Started 1:30 PM

Topics of Discussion

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Approval/Modification of Notes from November 10, 2020 meeting

- Notes approved

Drought topical sub-work group (Steve Rupar)

- Members have discussed individual findings and recommendations and are pulling their consensus recommendations together
- The report summarizing the consensus recommendations will hopefully be completed by the end of January
- General finding is that there is not enough data. More data are needed to evaluate drought in the future on a local scale, such as an increased number of groundwater monitoring wells and stream gages.
- Some items, such as whether to recommend more widespread municipal drought ordinance adoption, will require additional review and/or discussion.

Domestic Wells WQ sub-work group (Mike Dietz)

- Group discussed increasing required water quality testing parameters and will recommend testing new wells and possibly existing wells for the following: arsenic, uranium, and radon
- Current testing is limited to “potability” only, although local health directors retain authority to require enhanced testing if local conditions mandate
- The proposed changes may need to be statutory and come from the WPC/state agency. Will not make the proposal for the next legislative session (starts 1/6)
- Unclear at this point if it could be effected through a change to regulation; more to come.

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

- CACIWC presentation was well received.
- The workgroup was asked to plan to present to CACIWC next year, as well as contribute to CACIWC’s newsletter *The Habitat*

- Discussion on if long-term and short-term goals should be tasked to different workgroups – general consensus was that it is not necessary, but more discussion between group members is needed.
- In the future, the group may develop a schedule to plan out action items and presentations.

Regionalization & Interconnections topical sub-workgroup

- The WPC has not reported back on any further discussion on this topic, so still on hold

Alliance for Water Efficiency – Rates Workshop (Mary Ann Dickinson)

- Discussed the agenda for the rates workshop taking place March 16th-17th
- Registration will go out in early January
- This workshop will not have CEUs

Alliance for Water Efficiency – Water Fixture Efficiency Reviews (Bill Christiansen)

- Bill presented a draft memo on water and energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions and discussed the assumptions and parameters of the AWE tool under different water-efficiency standard scenarios. Kept assumptions conservative, as they are generalized for the whole state.
- Used assumption that water supply in Connecticut comes from 50% groundwater and 50% surface water and terrain is relatively flat (less pumping needed). Denise noted the percentages based on population from work preparing the CACIWC presentation – 23% of population is served by private wells; 77% public supply, and of that, 15% is ground water and 85% is surface water.
- Bill will revise the analysis using these numbers, as well as an estimate of the current degree of WaterSense fixture penetration in the state. Revision will also include a little more detail on the assumptions as an appendix to the write up.
- Information from this tool can accompany a draft bill in the future to highlight energy and water savings.
- AWE will also condense to a 1-pager for the general public and legislators.

Potential New Topical sub-work groups (Virginia)

- Opened discussion on what potential new topical sub-workgroups could be formed to advance goals of the SWP
- Discussion on how to address high-stressed basins in the state – to move forward should the group identify which basins are highly stressed using data in the SWP or bring together technical experts to further identify basins and make suggestions on mitigating stress to certain basins
- It was noted that identifying stressed basins may be premature at this time; DEEP houses water use data for permitted diversions, and is working on cleaning up data. Registered diversion Water Use data will begin being sent to DEEP starting in January 2021.
- Long Island Sound Study is beginning a modeling project (HSPF Modeling) that may be relevant for addressing stress on basins in the future. Initial focus is on nutrient loading, but can be modified for other impairments, including flow
- There may be an overlap between addressing high-stressed basins and the possible Regionalization & Interconnections workgroup

- Upcoming recommendations coming out of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) should be kept in mind for future action items
- Discussed priorities of the SWP IWG set by the WPC in 7/2018
 - Drought Planning
 - Addressing aging infrastructure
 - Identify significant high-quality sources for consumption and emergencies
 - Health equity
 - Water Conservation
 - Consistency with existing state plans
 - Private wells
- Need to identify how to track what the IWG does as well as what state agencies are doing

WPCAG:

- No update given

Public Comment

- Iris Kaminski posed the following questions to the group:
 - Are there standards for micro and nano particles that come from synthetic clothing and are released into wastewater via washing machines? DEEP will share data.
 - What happens with registered diversion when we have an emergency-state drought?

Meeting Adjourned 3:05pm

Next Meeting: January 12, 2021 at 1:30 pm