



**Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)**  
**Water Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2024 4:00 – 6:00 PM ET**  
[Link to the recording](#)

This is a public meeting, the recording, slides, agenda, and meeting minutes will be posted on the [Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) website.

Disclaimer: Please note this is not a word for word translation.

CEEJAC Members Present (full registrant list below)

- [Chair] Cierra Patrick, Economic Development Manager, City of Groton
- Terry Adams, Stamford
- Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council
- Sharon Lewis, Executive Director, CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)
- Lori Mathieu, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch Chief, in for Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Department of Public Health

**1. Welcome**

*Cierra Patrick* opened the meeting with a welcome to all participants. We started with the ground rules and an overview of the agenda.

**2. Presentation about [Integrated Water Planning Management 2.0 \(IWPM\)](#)**

Rebecca Jascot, Environmental Analyst, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse/Water Planning and Management Division, CT DEEP - [Rebecca.Jascot@ct.gov]

- a. Integrated Water Planning Management (IWPM) 2.0
  - I. Why is this important?

Action Plans are the mechanism for implementation to improve or protect water quality in CT. Water Quality action plans provide potential funding opportunities, which integrates suggestions from CT residents and communities for water quality action plan development. They also identify where work is already being done and where are there opportunities for partnerships with other entities in CT communities.

Additionally, this is required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA)

## II. CWA Section 303d and the impaired waters list

Under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303 (d), state, authorized tribes, and territories are required to report the health of their waterbodies every 2 years. For the waters that don't meet water quality standards, they are required to have a plan to:

- restore the waterbody back to its water quality goals for the impaired designated use or
- protect waters that are meeting water quality standards from being degraded through a protection plan.

This is done through the Integrated Water Quality Report, every 2 years.

At DEEP, the Monitoring and Assessment Program collects data and assesses whether the waterbody is meeting its water quality goals for its designated use. The list of waterbodies that are not meeting the water quality standards are submitted to the EPA for review and approval.

For a waterbody that is not meeting its water quality goals, a plan must be developed to restore or protect the waterbody. There are 3 types of Water Quality Action Plans:

- Total Maximum Daily Load Plan (TMDL) – the amount of a pollutant that can be present in a waterbody before it starts to degrade one or more of that waterbodies' designated uses. TMDL's establish waste load and load allocations to restore water quality and serve as a protection plan
- Alternative Plans – these go direct to implementation through a Remedial Action Plan or a permit
- Protection Plans – meant to preserve the waterbody in its current condition as its meeting the water quality standards

Restoration and Protection Plans serve as a bridge to connect the water quality standards, data, criteria (site clean up activities, permit limits, non point source programs, watershed based plans) that lead to implementation strategies.

## III. IWPM Planning Process

1. Planning process for 2022-2032 – reaching out to communities to understand where we should focus our efforts. This Priority Document is due to the EPA by April 1, 2024
  - a. Working internally with DEEP EJ office to identify EJ communities, water quality topics, and specific waterbodies

- b. Refining priorities from IWPM 1, which were: environmental justice, stormwater and non point source, nutrients, swimming and shellfishing, fish and wildlife, climate change
- c. For IWPM 2, we want to incorporate EJ into Water Quality Action Plans for all topics

IV. Priority Areas:

1. Stormwater and Nonpoint source
  - a. Watershed response plan – developed factsheets, WQ based permitting for stormwater and inclusion of stormwater requirements into TMDLs
2. Nutrients
  - a. Algal blooms impact fishing, swimming
3. Swimming and shellfishing
  - a. Want to add new waters to be identified for plan development – are there coastal waterbodies that should be prioritized for swimming and shellfishing?
4. Habitat for fish and wildlife health
  - a. Aquatic bugs are important for fish and wildlife
  - b. Focused on fish and wildlife toxicity – focused on bradly airport streams, incorporated risk and contaminated site cleanups
5. Climate Change – causing increased flooding, increased temperatures
  - a. Proposing to add language about climate change scenarios in WQ modeling efforts
  - b. Align with CT EJ tool for planning considerations
6. EJ – considered federal EJ info when selecting waters
  - a. Proposing to use new EJ screening tool
  - b. Planning outreach with tribal partners

V. Next Steps:

1. Submit comments in writing by 2/16/2024 – Send to Rebecca Jascot [Rebecca.Jascot@ct.gov]
  - a. Swimming, shellfishing, nutrients, fish and aquatic life
  - b. April/May finalize list and submit to EPA

VI. Wrap Up/Questions

- Cierra Patrick – once these plans are developed, who is responsible for the implementation?
  - Rebecca Jascot– It depends on who the stakeholders are. Municipalities or environmental groups or conservation districts.
  - Traci lott – Plans identify source of pollution, if there is a permit, that will be modified.
- Cierra – would a watershed based plan be a nonpoint source plan?
  - Rebecca – nonpoint source plans are watershed plans and are non-regulated. Known as 9-element plan for implementation. TMDL’s are regulated plans, watershed plans are non-regulated.
  - Traci – plans cover regulated and nonregulated sources of pollution. Things that have permits and also evaluate the non regulated piece. The plans that we do put together the goals, for non-regulated it will show how much pollution and provides a foundation to establish a water based plan. Our plans cover 2 out of

- 9 elements and helps community develop next steps. Future public meetings about non point source program.
      - Cierra – Recommending Baker Cove Watershed in Groton, CT
- Chat: Can you talk a little more about what happens after you submit that list to the EPA in April?
  - Rebecca - If water body is in category 5 or 4a, TMDL in place – then is considered impaired. Water on list are required to have a plan in place, then we evaluate the type of plan it needs, alternative plan or TMDL or maybe permitting program can help us.
  - Traci – act of developing plan is one of the big goals. It’s a commitment to state/communities and state/EPA
- Joe Magdol – Climate change and EJ issues – street flooding in the North End of Hartford. The City in conjunction with MDC is doing a large study of the north branch of the park river and flood waters that enter it. Farmington Ave to Albany Ave in Hartford. Is that stretch of water, an impaired water body? What parameters is it impaired for?
  - Traci/Rebecca – believe that it is
  - Graham Stevens – yes
  - Graham – Bacteria, it receives a CSO (Engineered discharge for sewer) and releases untreated stormwater and sewer to the north end of the river in hopes that it doesn’t flood the streets and flood homes/businesses.
  - Joe – pump station has been shut down for some time, pumps into the North Branch of Park River, is it true that the pump station pumps into the North Branch?
  - Graham – HFD flood control commission operates in HFD to pump storm water away from flooding. State funded a study of all the stormwater and sewage drainage in the north branch of the park river to see how we can get that water safely from stormwater pipes to gully brook or other interceptor stormwater pipes.
- Chat – Are there specific priorities for EJ neighborhoods?
  - Rebecca – which EJ neighborhoods should we focus?
  - Graham – the whole reason we’re coming to CEEJAC is better interface with EJ communities about water quality efforts to hear about where we need to focus our efforts.
- Chat – How is the location determined? And what sort of tools are needed to show impact in the environment?( GIS, topography maps, etc?)
  - Rebecca – GIS is helpful to see where it’s located. They are chosen from public input and public comment.
- Lori Mathieu – What are the water quality standards? How much testing have you done to understand how waters are impaired? Share the GIS maps to see visually what you’re seeing across the state and this is why we see this type of classification.
  - Resources Shared in the Chat:
    - Water Quality Assessment information is in the IWQR: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Water-Quality/Water-Quality-305b-Report-to-Congress>
    - There is an interactive map on that page and is accessed here: <https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=71d4cd5834514c279ff7b7009d17b47f>



them and trusts them and listens to them. Am I doing community outreach?  
Importance of being authentic and genuine.

- Graham – I learned a lot and that was really impactful for me. DEEP wants to do more of this. We need the community to tell us how to do better.
- Hailey Greene – this is an iterative process and there needs to be a process of educating the community and involve teachers. Keep them updated and involved.
- Katherine Bennett, East Haven – the FAA approved expansion of Tweed Airport. Residents have pushed for full env'l impact study and that was denied. East Haven and parts of New Haven are EJ communities. I didn't feel their response was in depth enough, particularly on water quality. Tunnel Brook runs under the airport and drains into Long Island Sound at Lighthouse Point. They found oyster beds at this location and they downplayed the impacts of the expansion on the water. De-icing fluid, they claim to be non-toxic but it does cause low oxygen levels in that estuary. Flood mitigation wasn't in depth enough. They are disturbing soils that have been there since the 1930s that will go into the water. Didn't do a survey of aquatic invertebrates.
  - Lori – what is the WQ classification for that area right now?
    - Traci – Water Quality Standards are focused on uses, not whether the water quality is meeting the use. It's SA – part of the stream is tidal, so it would have recreation and would have healthy aquatic systems. If we had water quality data to do the scientific study on the biology, we would list whether that water body has water quality that supports those uses.
      - Directions for how to look this up: To understand your waters, their goals and quality, put either the name of the waterbody or an address into those maps. You will be able to zoom to the area of interest. For Tuttle brook, the Classification is "A" in the freshwater portion, and "SA" in the salt water part. That means it has uses like "recreation" and "health habitat for aquatic communities". We do not have a WQ Action plan for the area. The salt water portion of the river is impaired for aquatic life uses but we don't have information on bacteria which we use to evaluate recreational uses. Again, we are happy to come back to talk about how to use all this information.
- Chat – how do these other mapping tools interact with DEEP's map?
  - R – CT ECO has many map viewers. Integrated Water Quality Map works with the IWQ report.
- Chat - How is this effort being integrated with climate adaptation planning happening in CT? Especially since EJ neighborhoods / vulnerable communities are being prioritized for flood protection and urban heat impacts.
  - Graham – Water quality we monitor for quality not quantity. In the future we'll look at quantity of water needed in say a stream. Quantity is not regulated. We are trying to build resilience in communities. Governor released funding for community resilience planning – plans to build resilience for their communities based on their needs for things like water, heat, etc. we are looking to rollout additional grants for further planning and matching grants for resilience projects.
  - Traci – the action plans we have are focused on water quality. They don't drive climate evaluations. If you are going to do something like a control on the ground, especially if you're putting together something that's not a one time stream clean up, you should think about how climate change will impact the solution that you are putting in.

- Denise Savageau – this is a water quality program, but water quantity impacts quality. When we have low flow streams, we have higher temperatures in the stream that can move pollution or algal blooms. We have more algal blooms during periods of drought.
- Rep. Bumgardner – District is the southern half of Groton, have several watersheds (Thames, Pawcatuck) and headwaters are in the Eastern Pequot and Mashantucket Pequot tribal nations. Have had a grassroots organization working with the tribal nations for recreational opportunities and fishing. IRA/BIL – any EJ community is equipped to submit robust applications for projects that are important to their communities. What advice to municipalities about collaboration to get certain things in order to apply for these funding opportunities?
  - Graham – we’re establishing municipal outreach communication pathways. Some groups have money in hand to help municipalities apply for and receive funding.
  - <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-selects-health-resources-action-receive-50000000-fund>
- Graham – CSO’s are not regulated through a permit, they are regulated through a permit to the wastewater treatment plant. MDC has put a lot of money to try to untangle this infrastructure problem to separate sewers and capture the overflows before they reach a watercourse. Best way to not use CSO’s is to separate stormwater and sewage pipes. How do you manage that stormwater in light of climate change? That remains to be determined, but we need to first stop people from being exposed to untreated sewage in their homes and streets.
  - Alicea – had the MDC followed the guidelines of integrated planning when they brought forth the long term control plan. Had they done that, I don’t think we would have had the issues in the North Branch. It’s important that there is the community outreach to meet these clean water act goals. The MDC, their outreach was to town councils not individual communities. They had a community group that they consulted with, and this is what we need to demand to ensure that every one’s voice is heard so that we don’t spend two years to solve a problem that could have been prevented with real community engagement. Rivers Alliance, Park River – we could all be engaged.
  - Graham – We have mandated that MDC meet with community and DEEP reviews the presentations to ensure that these presentations are accessible. We are pumping out the notices to a long list of stakeholders to ensure that people are attending those meetings. DEEP and EPA attend these meetings. DEEP applied for a Government to Government grant through EPA for this particular issue.

### 3. Closing

- a. Invitation to join the CEEJAC water subcommittee – really focused to bridge gap between community and state, talking about the projects and programs and provide guidance on how best to do community engagement. Reach out to Sarah Huang, sarah.huang@ct.gov

#### Full List of Registrants

Traci lott	Cierra Patrick
Rebecca Jascot	Lori Mathieu
Graham Stevens	Abbie Winter
Annie Decker	Joe Magdol

Leigh Whelpton  
Michael Davis  
Adrienne Houel  
Maritza Bond  
Kristin Barendregt-Ludwig  
Aaron goode  
Eric Hammerling  
Alicea Charamut  
David Michel  
Emma Cimino  
Megan Granato  
Ashley Stewart  
Cecelia Drayton  
Diane Lauricella  
Rebecca Jascot  
Jacquelyn Torres  
Halle Lisette Pierce  
Kellie Kingston  
Tonya Sanders  
Julianna McVeigh  
Maggie Favretti  
Jillian Kara  
Denise Savageau  
Caitlin Daddona  
Eric Russo

Katherine Bennett  
Lawrence Young  
Chloe Edwards  
Joel Anastasio  
Leticia Colon de Mejias - Warrior  
Queen  
Matt Pugliese  
Yahshua WS  
kim masson  
Pallavi Mande  
Bonnie Johnston  
Renata Bertotti  
Michael Davis  
Daniela Larsson  
James Fowler  
Yaw Darko  
jodi gardberg  
doris johnson  
Rebecca Dahl  
Bosede Akereyeni  
Sharon Lewis  
Hailey Greene  
Terry Adams  
Rep. André Bumgardner  
Josh D