

# DRAFT Meeting Notes for the State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup

November 9, 2021; 1:30 – 3:00PM

## Zoom Meeting

**Members:** Virginia de Lima (Co-Chair), David Radka (Co-Chair), Corinne Fitting (DEEP), Steve Rugar (WSP), Tom Tyler (MDC), Mike Dietz, Lou Rosado Burch (CCE), Denise Savageau (SWCD), Bruce Wittchen (OPM), Ally Ayotte (PURA), Dan Aubin (DPH Alternate)

**Note Taker(s):** Ali Hibbard (DEEP),

**Meeting Started: 1:30 p.m.**

### Topics of Discussion

#### Changes to Agenda

- No Changes

#### Approval/Modification of Notes from previous meeting

- Meeting notes approved

#### Implementation Tracking and Reporting (Dan Aubin)

- The Water Planning Council (WPC) has not expressed concerns so far with the comments brought up during the brainstorming session.
- The workgroup has 10 volunteers, including the co-chairs, some of whom are new to the process
- It is estimated that the workgroup will work over a period of 4-6 months to develop recommendations.
- The first meeting is Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. via zoom, and will provide background information for the benefit of those new to the process.

#### Outreach & Education topical sub-workgroup (Denise Savageau)

- 2 new members are joining the workgroup (total of 8)
- The WPC members were supportive at the last meeting of making this workgroup a standing committee
  - The WPC requested a workplan that reflected the long-term goals and time commitment estimates.
- Denise went over the revised workplan and identified near-term and long-term goals.
  - Certain themes could be highlighted across each year,
  - Wetlands was proposed for next year because it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wetlands and Rivers Act. Some key events are World Wetlands Day, Wetlands Month, etc. These observance days could be linked to goals in the State Water Plan.
- There was discussion of whether Education and Outreach material should be on the State Water Plan / WPC website or a separate page. OPM has limited capacity to take on new website material.
  - This issue of webpage management should be brought up to the WPC.
  - A webpage could be a critical digital media resource to provide outreach to the public.
- The State Water Plan does have tasks in multiple sections supporting the need to provide outreach and education on water conservation and on the water plan (Sec.5.2.3.3 and Sec. 5.2.3.9).
- The workgroup was tasked with looking at other states' webpages on their respective state water plans.
- Dan showed a possible template for branding state water plan information. The committee liked its simplicity.

### **Alliance for Water Efficiency Rates Workshop**

- There have been no further responses – 10 responses so far, 2 of which reflected that information learned during the workshop was being implemented
- Virginia will resend the survey with a deadline for the end of November.

### **Water Director Topical Sub-Workgroup**

- The WPC approved formation of this workgroup.
- A chair and co-chair are needed to head the workgroup
  - Virginia and Dave volunteered to chair
- A draft job description had previously been written and will be used as a starting place for the topical sub-workgroup discussion.
- This is expected to be a short-term workgroup with recommendations given to the WPC for their March meeting.
- Graham Stevens and Lori Mathieu will meet to determine the structural framework of such a position; e.g., what type of position it would be – contractor or employee, and how it might be funded. The topical sub-workgroup would be tasked with determining the responsibilities of the position.
  - The consensus was that it should be a senior-level position and not merely an administrative role.
- There was concern with the difficulty of developing a job description without knowing the position's final level of authority and responsibility. A job description could be developed that outlines the job duties, and then an authority level determined.
- There was a suggestion that the workgroup could develop a list of pros and cons for each possible job level and for contractor vs. state employee.

### **WPC Meeting Recap**

- Some updates from the WPC meeting were brought up in the workgroup discussions.
- The WPC agreed to revisit each agency's list of priorities. Each agency was tasked with reviewing their previously identified priorities and reporting any updates or new goals at the next WPC meeting.
- The IWG will wait for the WPC to complete its review prior to considering additional workgroup formation.

### **WPCAG**

- The Interagency Drought Workgroup is working on their final charge in their list of recommendations. Many recommendations have already been adopted. The other recommendations will be reflected in the next updated version of the drought workplan.

### **Public Comment**

- No Public Comment

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:53 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.