

State Water Plan Implementation Workgroup Topical Sub-Workgroup Proposal

Name: State Water Plan Website Improvement Sub-workgroup

Topic/Charge

The charge of the State Water Plan Website Improvement sub-workgroup is to:

- Evaluate the current State Water Plan website as follows:
 - Review for content and intended audience.
 - Review for accessibility and ease of use for customer
 - Review for O&M needs
 - Determine if there are short-term fixes/long-term goals
- To make recommendations that improve the overall effectiveness of the website including:
 - FOIA compliance
 - Outreach and Education for various audiences
 - Regular updates/maintenance at minimal effort
 - Short term/long term implementation

Purpose/Need

The Outreach and Education sub-workgroup identified the State Water Plan website as a barrier to effectively educate the public and various stakeholders concerning the State Water Plan. As part of their work, they identified two needs related to outreach/education: 1) information about the State Water Plan itself and 2) information on water resource management that is needed for implementation of various State Water Plan components. They did a quick assessment of the website in the context of providing information about the plan and information for implementation. They produced a short report on some of the shortcomings of the website. (*see attached*). This was presented to the IWG and the WPC. The O&E workgroup followed up the report with a recommendation to the IWG to form a committee to evaluate and make recommendations for an updated website.

In summary, updating the website and providing for O&M needs is critical for 1) meeting FOIA requirements and 2) education folks about the SWP and about water resources management.

Background

(List any relevant statutes, regulations, or sections of the State Water Plan that require the certain implementation task that the workgroup would work on. Explain why the topic of the workgroup is important.)

1. State Water Plan
 - a. Outreach, Education, and Public Engagement Sec 5.2.3.9
 - i. Create a new outreach, education, and public engagement framework that align with CT Water Plan goals
 - ii. Create a data-based water education plan to reach key constituencies that may not be active in the Plan development process
2. FOIA requirements – a website is needed to assist the WPC and the implementers of the State Water Plan meet all legal requirements

Scope

The sub-workgroup will conduct its work over a six (6) month period and will report back to the IWG and the WPC with its findings.

The scope of the work will include a review of the State Water Plan website to evaluate and make recommendations for an update to the website as per the charge. It will also look at staffing and basic operations and management. It will also look at the website of the Water Planning Council to see how the webpages work together and interact with each other.

Workgroup membership

The chair will be Kim Czapla (DEEP). DEEP will provide administrative support to this sub-workgroup to meet FOIA requirements.

The workgroup is open to all who have an interest in the subject matter and wish to contribute. A call for membership will be sent by e-mail to the WPC e-mail list upon workgroup approval. Membership should include, but not be limited to:

- A representative from the IWG O&E Subgroup
- A representative from the WPCAG
- A representative from at least two of the WPC agencies

Existing Resources

State Water Plan Website Review, 2022