

Source Water Protection Citizen Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Source Water Assessment Plan Update - Subcommittee Meeting

July 24, 2019

Final Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Tidewater Utilities Conference Room

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Douglas Rambo, P.G., DNREC, Division of Water

Mr. Rambo called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He asked for introductions around the table. The attendance list is included at the end of the meeting minutes.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 27, 2019 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Rambo asked if anyone had any edits to the June draft meeting minutes. Mrs. Laura Mensch and Mr. Ashley Kunder commented on the last bullet point on Page 1 regarding a discussion Mr. Rambo had verbally with Mr. Keith Mensch and not at the meeting. Mr. Kunder stated that he spoke with Mr. Mensch and Mr. Mensch does not recall the details of this conversation with Mr. Rambo and Mr. Rambo stated that he will look into it and have it clarified.

No additional edits were suggested.

Final meeting minutes are posted online at <https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/Meeting/63062> .

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS FROM THE JUNE 27, 2019 MEETING – Douglas Rambo, P.G., DNREC, Division of Water

Table 4-1 - Updated

Mr. Rambo updated Table 4-1 from comments and suggestions made at the June 27th meeting. He stated the subcommittee is getting closer to the list that will be included in the Source Water Action Plan as what routinely gets tested through various Programs such as Underground Storage Tanks (now known as “Corrective Action Group”) and the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) (updated Table 4-1 attached).

Information from DHSS on Water System Security

Mr. Rambo stated that he spoke with Mr. Keith Harrison at ODW and Mr. Harrison told Mr. Rambo they have a “Water System Security Threat and Emergency Response Guidance Manual” (these were distributed to the subcommittee). Mr. Rambo discussed the manual with the subcommittee and mentioned the typo in the green bar that should say “Green” and not “Orange” and “Low” not “High”.

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION FROM THE SOURCE WATER CTAC COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 18, 2019 – Douglas Rambo, P.G., DNREC, Division of Water**

Mr. Rambo said, “One of the outcomes of that meeting is for this subcommittee to discuss consideration of inclusion of susceptibility to saltwater intrusion, flooding, sea level rise, and storm water.” Mr. Rambo asked for discussion from the subcommittee.

Mr. Ross Elliott said, “For specifically the sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, will we incorporate those models into the CCR or will they just be projected into the story map?” Mr. Rambo replied, “It would be an awareness of where you are related to the projections for sea level rise. There’s nothing that mandates water systems have to account for sea level rise unless they are getting federal funding.” Mr. Elliott suggested incorporating the flood maps. Mr. Rambo and Mr. Elliott continued to discuss.

It was asked if the EPA had any requirements but they were not present at the meeting and Mr. Rambo said he would reach out to some colleagues in other states with their Source Water Program that are approaching sea level rise.

Mr. Elliott stated that the storm water systems are lots of times private. He continued to discuss. Mr. Rambo said, “The problem with storm water is that the management of storm water is spread out across DNREC, DelDOT, the City of Wilmington, counties, and Conservation Districts. So trying to get a master list is going to be difficult and we may only be able to go off of what we can get from DelDOT and potentially the counties.” Mr. Elliott stated that would be a good start. Mr. Rambo continued, “A partial thing could also be us having someone go through in GIS and mark the locations of visible storm water management ponds in aerial photography.” Mr. Andrew Homsey said, “DelDOT has a very good database but it’s not complete. New Castle County is okay but they’re not complete either.” Mr. Homsey continued to discuss.

Ms. Samantha Smith added, “It goes back to that discussion we had that if we don’t have the most up to date and accurate information should it even be included rather than providing just partial information that’s not accurate?” Mr. Matt Grabowski said, “Having worked in the Storm Water Program for a number of years, there is no complete GIS data and there’s just so much construction happening at such a rapid rate it’s almost immediately outdated. I think we would be best to add a step in our review where we reach out to whoever has delegated agency control in that particular area.” He continued to discuss with the subcommittee and stated that without talking to that particular jurisdiction we may miss something because, particularly in coastal Sussex, a lot of these storm water BMP’s are underground because of the value of the property and will not appear on aerial.

Mrs. Amber Bataille stated, “In terms of sea level rise, we have the maps from Coastal Programs. In terms of saltwater intrusion, that’s a whole other beast.” Mrs. Bataille discussed further. Mr. Homsey brought up the presentation and discussion that Mr. Scott Andres had at the May 8, 2019, Water Supply Coordinating Council meeting regarding saltwater intrusion. Mrs. Bataille and Mr. Homsey continued to discuss. Mr. Rambo stated that our coastal communities have been dealing with saltwater intrusion for decades.

Mr. Elliott stated how the DGS is beginning to work on establishing a Groundwater Monitoring Network. Mrs. Bataille said they are starting the infrastructure and DNREC has a network that's established but right now they're production wells. She continued to discuss and also stated that the Water Supply Section is in the process of establishing an Ambient Groundwater Quality Network statewide. She continued to discuss further with the subcommittee and also discussed how she is contacting smaller systems to see if they would be willing to join the network but at that point it would be voluntary or if they will give us access to their wells. Mr. Homsey stated it seems it would be in their best interest and Mrs. Bataille agreed but stated cost could possibly be an issue. The subcommittee continued to discuss.

Mr. Homsey asked if getting a sample is difficult and Mrs. Bataille said that taking the sample is simple but getting the sample is difficult. Mrs. Sheila Shannon asked if ODW could carry a conductivity meter with them when getting their sample for the smaller systems? Mrs. Bataille said that is a possibility but we would have to make a partnership with ODW. Mr. Kunder added that it's not just ODW but also the Department of Public Health. The subcommittee continued to discuss. Mr. Elliott said it sounds like we need more resources to adopt the chlorides under the SWAPP to make it more of a requirement. Mr. Rambo stated that technically SWAPP is non-regulatory but can use the data found to make recommendations that can assist other Programs.

Mr. Homsey asked Mr. Rambo if DNREC has a position on sea level rise. Mr. Rambo replied, "Right now the operation is that the Department is looking at half meter to one and a half meters of sea level rise by 2100." He continued to discuss and said the potential is pretty good for saltwater intrusion in the next 50-80 years. Mr. Elliott stated it's already a mission. The subcommittee continued to discuss.

Mrs. Bataille continued to discuss the Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network. Mr. Elliott stated that there needs to be an early warning system and asked if we can recommend that. Mr. Elliott and Mr. Homsey discussed.

Mrs. Mensch discussed with Mrs. Bataille the data that can be used from the Department of Agriculture.

Mrs. Bataille stated that we are in early stages of developing this network. She said she believes they are going to start with the Columbia aquifer but eventually go to the other aquifers that are producing drinking water. She stated that in the coastal areas maybe we don't need to monitor the Columbia as heavily because most of the water purveyors are not using the Columbia but it's important to monitor it so we'll have an idea if we're moving salt down into the other aquifers. Mrs. Mensch stated that the Department of Agriculture's are all outside the municipalities. Mrs. Smith added that this is a work in progress. Mr. Rambo said, "Technically the CTAC is a sounding board to provide information to the Secretary of DNREC so if the subcommittee deems it necessary or important we can take that issue to the Cabinet Secretary and see if there is the possibility for looking at funding for progressive years and go towards this."

Mrs. Bataille said another place to get resources is the Water Supply Coordinating Council (WSCC) who meet three times a year at the Kent County building. She stated that the Council

consists of many of the providers and the Council has been good about getting project funds. Mrs. Mensch stated how this has been a topic of discussion lately at the WSCC meetings.

Mrs. Shannon stated how salt is tough to treat and very expensive to treat.

Mrs. Mensch said, "Say you're irrigating saline water and now you're introducing saline into the soil. That can be an issue. Maybe different than the drinking water side."

Mrs. Smith said, "So as far as the Plan, I know we're working on saltwater intrusion and getting data so is it worth putting that into our Plan currently. The one that we're working on now."

Mrs. Mensch said, "It would make sense. I think the issue is how do you incorporate it into the mapping?" Mrs. Mensch and Mr. Elliott discussed incorporating the models and Mrs. Bataille agreed with incorporating the sea level rise models and also suggested if the wellhead protection area intersects a saltwater body then your susceptibility has now increased or even take a buffer approach. She continued to discuss.

Mr. Rambo asked Mr. Hassan Mirsajadi if Watershed Assessment has any mapping that shows the extent of the saltwater push and Mr. Mirsajadi replied, "We have no maps but we have tide boundaries, extent of tide excursion, and steam depths." Mr. Rambo said the extent of tide could be a good estimate for monitoring. The subcommittee continued their discussion.

Mr. Rambo said for the next meeting he can put together a few maps that look at the flood mapping with relation to source water areas, the sea level rise maps related to source water areas, and have examples to show. He also stated there will be a follow up discussion on this topic at the next meeting.

COMMENTS ON CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Douglas Rambo, P.G., DNREC, Division of Water

Mr. Rambo said a draft Chapter 1 is on the Group.io page and is also attached to the meeting minutes. He also stated that he is almost finished Chapter 2 (Delineation) and it is broken into two sections for Surface Water and Groundwater. Mr. Rambo continued to discuss with the subcommittee what is currently being updated and he added that if anyone has any questions or suggestions on updates to the draft to email him at Douglas.Rambo@delaware.gov.

OPEN DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional comments.

The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tidewater Conference Room.

ADJOURN – Douglas Rambo, P.G., DNREC, Division of Water

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

These minutes are not intended to be a detailed record. They are for the use of the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program, Source Water Assessment Plan Subcommittee members in supplementing their personal notes and recall of Committee discussions and presentations and to provide information to Committee members unable to attend. Minutes recorded and submitted by Kimberly Burris.

Attendees are listed below alphabetically, last name first:

Bataille, Amber – DNREC, Source Water Protection Program
Brown, Patrick – Sussex County Engineering
Burris, Kimberly – DNREC, Division of Water, Administration
Elliott, Ross – DNREC, Tanks
Grabowski, Matthew – DNREC, Division of Water
Haggerty, Kenneth – Artesian Water Company
Homsey, Andrew – DGS, Water Resources Agency
Mensch, Laura – Department of Agriculture
Mirsajadi, Hassan – DNREC, Watershed Assessment
ONeill, Gyllian – DNREC, Division of Water
Peterson, Steve – DNREC, Waste & Hazardous Substances
Rambo, Douglas – DNREC, Division of Water, Source Water Protection Program
Shannon, Sheila – Tidewater Utilities
Smith, Samantha – DNREC, Division of Water, Source Water Protection Program