

Drinking Water & Clean Water Advisory Council
March 8, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Meeting notes
65 total attendees
Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and opening remarks – Carey Johnson, Director, Division of Water

Potential Issues with Wastewater Treatment Sludge Management – Post Generation - PFAS

Tony Hatton, Commissioner, Dept. for Environmental Protection (DEP)

- Intro to PFAS as an emerging contaminant. Widely used and distributed in consumer products, but do not break down easily. Over the next 2 – 5 years, PFAS in air, water, and soil will be a challenge from technology and cost standpoints.
- In order to be proactive DEP began sampling finished drinking water in 2019 as part of a probabilistic study, and expanded PFAS analytical capability at the Frankfort laboratory. PFAS was detected in about 40 locations but none exceeded the 70 ppt that would trigger an EPA health advisory. A fish tissue study is currently underway.
- The EPA recently released its PFAS roadmap which outlines systematic promulgation of PFAS standards for water, air, and waste. A maximum contaminant limit (MCL) is foreseeable in the next few years, but there are concerns with establishing too many standards too quickly in light of emerging technology and how PFAS moves through all aspects of the environment. Wastewater sludge disposal has only two options (landfills or land farms), both of which present additional issues.
- Addressed questions on filter media, and 40 surface water and fish studies, sampling protocol, and commercial lab sampling of PFAS.

Sandy Williams, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority - Infrastructure Funding (BIL)

- State Revolving Funds (SRF) – an additional \$100 million, 5 new CAP grants (all SRF rules apply)
- Three new Drinking Water and two new Clean Water grants
- Anticipate EPA Guidance this week
- Answered questions regarding new grants and ranking criteria, which KIA and DOW will work on together.

Division of Water and Division of Enforcement Focus Items

Natalie Bruner, Director, Division of Enforcement

- Overview of Operator Certification and online operator training, testing, and other available resources

John Webb, Asst. Director, DOW Director's Office

- Drone Program – new elements being developed by DOW
- Both water and ariel drones provide safety, and accessibility to otherwise inaccessible areas
- Thermography assists with detailed site analysis; orthomosaics provide high definition images (each pixel depicts 0.67 inches of surface area) , and bathymetry to enable lake capacity measurements

Jory Becker, Manager, Water Infrastructure Branch

- Currently ranking 23 SRF projects

- Water systems' timely responses to questions from ADDs are crucial to complete the process
- Capacity Development Strategy is mostly complete, the focus will now turn to implementation
- Drinking Water Needs Survey is completed; Clean Water Needs Survey portal opened on March 1st and is in the process of being launched

Constance Coy, Manager, Field Operations Branch

- Systems should reach out to Regional Offices when emergencies occur rather than waiting for an inspector; the Branch can assist with facilitating emergency-related funding
- Collaborated with Kentucky Emergency Management for dam safety and flood assessment for regional disaster mitigation plans
- FEMA recently made funding announcements for its latest disaster declarations (Carey Johnson)

Jason Hurt, Manager, Surface Water Permits Branch

- Continuing to track PFAS updates
- Beginning work on the KYG20 permit renewal (small MS4 communities) for Spring 2023, with stakeholder input expected over the summer of 2022
- Eform development continues – short form C expected later this summer.

Elizabeth Danks, Environmental Scientist, Drinking Water Branch

- Developing LCRR guidance
- Developing guidance for evaluating distribution sampling points, which may be the first guidance of this type in the nation

Committee status and reports

Infrastructure Sustainability (Russell Neal, DOW)

- Met on Feb 24
- Identified 4 goals – creating BIL scoring guidance; review the current scoring guidance for potential revisions regarding resiliency; ways to encourage asset management planning; and ways to encourage the reduction of water loss. All of the goals will incorporate issues related to disadvantaged communities and environmental justice

Lead In Drinking Water (Elizabeth Danks, DOW)

- Met on February 28
- Discussed Lead Service Line Inventory (LSL); waiting for EPA guidance expected this spring
- Encouraged systems to update inventories in anticipation of LSL requirements

Regulations & Compliance (Elizabeth Danks, DOW)

- A Sampling Point/Distribution workgroup is developing a guidance document. Currently none exists to help systems update sampling points, etc.

Small Systems (Sarah Gaddis, DOW)

- Met on March 1 for the first time; next meeting March 22 at 10 a.m.
- Robust discussion regarding asset management tools, BMPs, cooperation with adjacent systems, and capital improvement planning
- Value of Water informational presentation and potential outreach campaign

Source Water Protection (Matt Glass, KRWA)

- Co-Chairs met on Feb 24 to plan full committee meeting at end of March. Strategic planning will be discussed.
- Emerging issues - PFAS
- Surveying committee members regarding four goals

Operator Recruitment and Development (Valerie Lucas, CWP)

Operator survey distribution has been postponed until May. Further discussion in April.

Open discussion facilitated by Carey Johnson, DOW Director

- Chat message: reminder to register for the KY/TN Water Professionals Conference (July 17-20) at the new Central Bank Center in Lexington, KY. For more info: www.kytnwpc.org
- Discussed legislation including SB 118 (permitting), HB 597 (water resources - EEC Agenda Item), HB 758 (DW and CW funding), and PFAS bills.

DWAC/CWAC tentative meeting schedule for 2022 (2nd Tuesday of the last month of the quarter):
June 14, September 13, and December 13.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.