Source Water Protection Sub-committee Introductory Meeting

March 1st, 2018

Introductions:

Jack Stickney – KRWA
Steven Evans – Assistant Director, KWRRI
Ed Fortner – Utilities Director Berea, KY
Dorothy Rader – Water Quality, KY American Water
Mary Carol Wagner – Water Quality Manager, NKY Water District
Chloe Brantley – Water Supply Section Supervisor, Division of Water
Suzette Walling – UK Agricultural Extension
Melissa Melton – RCAP
Brad Lee – UK Agricultural Extension
Laura Norris – Water Supply Section, Division of Water
Russ Evans – OMU/Water Quality Lab
Brent Tippey – HDR Inc.
Earl Coffey – Danville City Engineer
Allan Shingleton – Water Supply Section, Division of Water
Russ Rose – Oldham County Water District
Chris Gohman – Hardin County Water District
Amanda Spalding – Hardin County Water District

Purpose of SWP Sub-Committee/Comments/General Discussion:

- Will this group be charged with a specific task by the DOW Director, as other sub-committees have been charged within the Drinking Water and Wastewater Advisory Council?

- What is purpose of this group?
  - Sharing BMPs/Management strategies
  - Discuss emerging issues
  - Collaboration between different agencies
  - Input on regulation modification

- Is implementation of management strategies or regulatory foundation the focus of this SWP sub-committee?
  - Jack – both

- What can this committee do to help benefit the utilities?
  - Discuss BMPs and management strategies rather than looking at the regulatory view

- Regulatory:
  - This group has potential to provide input to the updates of the 4:220 Water Supply Planning regulation and updates of source water assessment and protection plans.

- Consider a holistic and collaborative approach among utilities across the state when revising regulations and moving toward the future of Source Water Protection.
  - Focus on management practices with various tools, regulatory being one of those, however not the only one.
    - Cannot be solely a regulatory “checkbox” mentality to achieve SWP
• Strong need for a “one stop shop” for utilities to obtain near real-time data and access to all source water protection information
  o WRIS would be the ideal place to host these needs/data
  o Important in the event of a time sensitive emergency (HABs, spills, etc)
  o Current web-mapping set up is cumbersome for users
    • Various documents
    • “Hidden data” needs to be more accessible
• Utilities/users need various maps/data in one location
  o WRIS portal needs to be more interactive for users and an adaptive resource
  o Support for portal to incorporate real-time water quality data
  o Level of discomfort from some utilities with CSI’s and other water system information being readily available to public (terrorism)

Goals for Sub-Committee:
• Develop mission statement and action plan for sub-committee
  o Set interim goals to achieve over time
• Stakeholder engagement process
  o Surveying interests with SWP
  o Compare notes with other boards (water resources board) – do they have similar interests and goals? Should they be part of this discussion?
  o Avoid re-inventing the wheel
• How to set target goals that will benefit utilities of all sizes?
  o Changes to WRIS portal & web-mapping capabilities is a good starting point
• Create a list of ag contacts to use as a clearinghouse for contacts if utility has an ag issue in a region
• Potential to use 319 program to compare what watershed plans overlap w/ 319 funding to prioritize next projects
  o Funding is beneficial for SWP initiatives, especially for smaller utilities

Potential partners/collaboration:
• The USACE, NRCS, and agriculture representatives should be a stakeholder in this sub-committee
• Developing relationships between agriculture and utilities
  o Strong need for their input/collaboration
  o Initiate discussion on how agricultural practices may affect local water supply
  o How do we get farmers and large ag groups to commit and connect to SWP initiatives
• Ideology needs to be geared away from regulatory approach, but to bring in educational measures
• Water Resources board is currently working with ag stakeholders to implement BMPs and big picture ideas
  o Share meeting minutes. Is there any cross-over between these groups?
  o Include as a stakeholder
  o Potential to send SWP sub-committee to their meeting and vice versa?

Post Meeting thoughts:
The DOW Director may ask the SWP Sub-Committee in the future to weigh in on evaluating new water sources (whether primary, back up or emergency). This could be a potential topic for the next meeting,
Resources:

Kentucky DOW Source Water Protection Story Map: https://kygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=7496a20a4f0a413985cd1213c4be9b25


KIA WRIS Portal: https://kia.ky.gov/WRIS/Pages/WRIS-Portal.aspx