

Drinking Water & Clean Water Advisory Council
June 14, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Notes

The meeting began at 10:03 a.m.
72 total attendees.

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

General remarks - John Lyons, Deputy Secretary, Energy & Environment Cabinet
General overview of PFAS strategy and scope across the entire cabinet.

Discussion items – Carey Johnson, DOW Director

- Power point presentation began with the Division of Water organizational structure, and a review of items that have occurred since the last DWAC-CWAC meeting, including the favorable EPA Region 4 KPDES Permit Quality review, completion of public water system Risk and Resiliency and Emergency Response Plans required by the AWIA of 2018, the EPA State Directors Meeting, the Integrated Report and updated Water Health Portal, Nutrients, PFAS, Waters of the US, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) implementation memo

Russell Neal, Municipal Planning Supervisor, Division of Water

- BIL SRF Implementation power point presentation
 - Link to the EPA BIL guidance <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-srf-memorandum>

Presentation began with an overview of available amounts, ranking criteria, SRF authority and processes, and BIL implementation issues.

 - Disadvantaged Community definition – the group discussed median household income and the use of census tract data to expand eligibility of rural and other communities. Blake Edge (GRADD) provided a link to a beta version of an EPA mapping tool that is currently open for comment:
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

Next steps: the Infrastructure Sustainability workgroup will complete its draft guidance for BIL for Lead Service Lines (and later Emerging Contaminants) which will be sent to the DOW Director's Office for review before being distributed to the larger group for comment and feedback.

Carey Johnson, DOW Director

- Gulf Hypoxia Task Force – funding was received on June 10, and there is a special emphasis on disadvantaged communities.
- Reviewed the significant increase in infrastructure funding over the next few years, with Lead Service Lines receiving the greatest amount

Division of Water and Division of Enforcement focus items:

- Natalie Bruner, Director, Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
 - Drinking Water Operator license renewals – about 1347 out of 3004 completed
 - Reminded utility attendees to stay in contact with Civil Enforcement staff

- John Webb, Assistant Director, Division of Water
 - PFAS update – reviewed PFAS commercial products and industrial uses, physical and chemical properties, EPA Health Advisories of 2016, and the DOW Drinking Water Study of 2019
EPA PFAS Roadmap of 2021-2024 focuses on three areas in the water sector: primary drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFAS and ambient water quality criteria in 2022 and Human Health criteria in 2024, restricting effluent discharge, and draft recommended Aquatic Life criteria
Kentucky detections have been far lower than PFAS/PFOS EPA acute water quality criteria
Anticipate EPA drinking water health advisories within the week, and the Division will help utilities communicate with customers

Committee reports – Carey Johnson, DOW Director – a PFAS subcommittee will be formed

- Lead In Drinking Water – Amy Stoffer (NKYW) – waiting for EPA guidance for Lead Service Line Inventories and working on how to reach small systems
- Compliance and Regulations - Elizabeth Danks, DOW – information regarding reduction in Disinfection Byproducts was distributed through Drinking Water Wednesday; draft distribution system sampling guidance document is under way, the last revisions were in 2016.
- Nutrients – Josiah Frey, DOW – the group met on May 18 to discuss the EPA nutrients memo and consider regulations, guidance, and policy; will focus on reviewing technical information and funding opportunities. Always looking for new members – if interested contact any of the co-Chairs: Josiah Frey (EEC) josiah.frey@ky.gov, Brian Bingham brian.bingham@louisvillemsd.org, and Mark Sneve mark.sneve@strand.com.
Link to EPA nutrients memo: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/accelerating-nutrient-reductions-4-2022.pdf>
Carey Johnson - Agriculture Water Quality Plans – opportunities in MS4 programs can make a difference; emphasis tends to lie with treatable technologies; optimization is not one size fits all but where it does work it has significant impact.
- Small Systems – Sarah Gaddis, DOW – the group has met several times regarding how to engage and assist small clean water systems with tools to improve, including Best Management Practices to share information about efficiency and economy. Considering the use of Story Maps and invite small systems to participate. The group is working on technical assistance documents, including an audit preparation checklist to facilitate the audit requirement for funding. Considering producing a Value of Water educational video for a variety of audiences.

- Operator Recruitment & Development – Valerie Lucas (CWP) and Donna McNeal (KWRRRI) – 427 operator and 191 manager surveys were completed, able to give away 1000 Amazon gift cards. Reviewing data to identify challenges and what can be done to help operator recruitment and retention. Results will be presented at the Water Professional Conference and white paper will also be made available. The results will also be presented at the September DWAC/CWAC meeting.

Announcements facilitated by Carey Johnson, DOW Director

- Dr. Lindell Ormsbee is retiring from the UK Water Resources Research Institute on June 30 – more information is available from Donna McNeil, donna.mcneil@uky.edu
- Action items – will share the CJEST and screening tools; and establish new PFAS committee
- The Division is developing a water-related podcast
- The KY/TN Water Professionals Conference is July 17 – 20 at the Central Bank Center in Lexington

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

Adjourn – 11:46 a.m.