

Drinking Water & Clean Water Advisory Council
January 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes (Draft)

The meeting began at 10:01 a.m.
Total attendance: 60

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

Introduced John Webb as the new Assistant Director of the Division of Water, and Bill Caldwell as Acting Manager of the Watershed Management Branch.

Power Point presentation outlined the Division of Water organizational chart, intended goals for the Drinking Water and Clean Water Advisory Councils, and updates including PFAS, UCMR 5, WOTUS, new funds that will be available through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Gulf hypoxia task force. The presentation also outlined DOW priorities in 2022, including engaging Advisory Council workgroups and subcommittees on specific issues.

Division of Water and Division of Enforcement & Compliance Assistance updates

- Amanda LeFevre, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. for Environmental Protection

In November 2021, the cabinet consolidated the Division of Compliance Assistance under the Division of Enforcement for efficiency. Amanda LeFevre introduced Natalie Bruner as the new Director.

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

Thanked everyone who assisted with western Kentucky disaster response. The Division is working on filling positions and making electronic tools and as efficient and useful as possible. Discussed generational investment in infrastructure.

- Jory Becker, Manager, Water Infrastructure Branch

Seventy systems participated in the 2021 Drinking Water Needs Survey. The Clean Water Needs Survey of 2022 will be the first in 10 years; the DOW is working on a rollout strategy. The needs surveys determine the portion of federal funds Kentucky receives, so participation is extremely important. The 2022 call for projects cycle was extended for counties affected by the December tornado outbreak. Explained BIL additional base caps, and that the American Waste Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 added capacity development as a requirement for SRF funding.

Russell Neal, Supervisor, Municipal Planning Section – reviewed the Kentucky Drinking Water Capacity Development Strategy (Power Point Presentation) which is open for a 30-day public comment period. In response to questions, the comment period began on January 11, and capacity development will remain part of the Sanitary Survey for the foreseeable future.

- Constance Coy, Manager, Field Operations Branch

Explained the process by which the Division participated in western Kentucky emergency response, and thanked all staff and stakeholders who assisted in recovery efforts.

- Jason Hurt, Manager, Surface Water Permits Branch

In 2021 the Division issued 2,100 final permit decisions. Key upcoming issues are PFAS, nutrients, renewal of KYG20 for small MS4s, and ongoing migration of permit forms to eForms.

- Alicia Jacobs, Manager, Drinking Water Branch

Introduced Ethan Givan as the new Compliance Section Supervisor. The Branch continues to work through the Lead & Copper Rule Revisions and data management issues.

Committee status and reports – Carey Johnson, DOW Director

- Operator Recruitment and Development – Donna McNeil (KWRRRI) on behalf of committee chairs – The committee has 17 members and meets monthly. The water workforce survey, piloted in December, is scheduled for distribution in February.
- Infrastructure Sustainability – Russell Neal – The committee has three workgroups: Capacity Development, Water Loss, and Asset Management. It met in December to begin developing committee priorities, and anticipates reporting more in March.
- Compliance & Regulation – Kim Padgett – The committee meets consistently and restarted data management discussions, especially in light of the pandemic. To date, about 77% of systems are submitting documents online, and about 100 systems still report by mail. The committee is working on offering training and creating sample site selection guidance. Next meeting is on May 24 at 10 a.m. Smaller groups will meet monthly to work on the guidance document.
- Source Water Protection – Matt Glass – Acknowledged work of Dale Booth in developing and distributing a survey for four general goals: funding/planning, communication, education/outreach, and emerging topics (sharing info, updates, events, legislation). Anticipate a formal meeting in March.
- Lead In Drinking Water – Amy Stoffer – the committee met quarterly and stakeholders seek any lines of communication with EPA. There are 12 committee members, and 8 subgroups. The LSL inventory and replacement workgroup is currently active, and the funding/financing workgroup would like to engage with KIA to understand what is available. The committee will next meet on May 9 at 2 p.m.
- Small Systems – Sarah Gaddis & Scott Young – the committee has just started organizing and is seeking members – anyone interested in participated should contact the co-chairs. The first goal will be examining how best to facilitate communications between small systems and KIA, and how best to support them.
- Nutrients – Brian Bingham – beginning to reorganize the committee after individual discussions and contact, and plans on distributing communications in 3-4 weeks to move forward as a group.

Open discussion facilitated by Carey Johnson, DOW Director

The power point presentations and minutes will be shared.

Joe Burns (KRWA) commented on operator certification regulations.

DWAC/CWAC tentative meeting schedule for 2022 (2nd Tuesday of the last month of the quarter):
March 8, June 14, September 13, and December 13.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.