

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Delaware River Location

Monthly Meeting, June 21st, 2022, 11am ET

11:00-11:10 Introductions. Attendees: Haley Burns (PDE), Erica Rossetti (PDE), Yeana Kwagh (EPA HQ), Meagan Currie (IndEcon), Kathy Klein (PDE), Eric Ruder (IndEcon), Zach Nemec (PA Sea Grant), Irene Purdy (EPA 2), Megan Mackey (EPA 3), Cathy Magliochetti (EPA 3), Kate Hutelmyer (PDE), Jeffrey Richardson, Flavia Rutkosky (FWS), Kelly Knutson (CDRW)

11:10-11:55 Presentation. National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) and Water Equity Mapping – Yeana Kwagh, Meagan Currie, and Eric Ruder

Presentation and Discussion Summary:

- Timeline was a full year with a phased approach.
 - Phase 1: Feb/April Stakeholder Assessment and Process Design
 - Phase 2: May/July Identifying Key Issues and Priorities
 - Phase 3: July/August Recommendations / Path Forward
 - Phase 4: July/December Watershed Analysis and Water Equity Mapping.
- Equity & Engagement Workgroup explored qualitative questions such as what does water equity look like, what role can UWFP play to enhance water equity, how can we map inequities around water, how can we engage communities, what are equity hot spots throughout the watershed
- Tool: Recovery Potential Screening (RPS) Tool - chose 21 indicators (out of about 300) based off of stakeholder feedback, categorized into
 - social vulnerability (linguistics, education, income, minority, age, etc)
 - human land and water use
 - watershed health (water quality, soil, etc.)
 - present vulnerability
 - toxicant load
 - projected climate vulnerability
- Maps were divided into HUC 12 (smallest they can go), a watershed approach showing the vulnerability index cumulative scores by color. Could go smaller and do base groups.
- One extra step would be required for the Delaware River Estuary and/or Basin because it spans multiple states. Could also do a full state analysis for each state. (Originally formed as a state decision making tool). Would have to inquire with RPS about how to do cross-state analyses.
- EJ Screen data can supplement this data.
- Cost: Funded jointly by the National Park Service and EPA Headquarters and funding went towards contractors. One contractor (Industrial Economics, Inc) did the water equity mapping and more technical work with RPS data and GIS (quantitative), and one contractor (Consensus Building Institute) did community and stakeholder engagement and interviewing (qualitative). Can ask Chris Orvin about the actual cost.

- Usefulness: Would be a useful tool especially based on the large scale of the region we are working in. Would be helpful information for our local partners as well to learn more about the area they are working and to help with expanding work and getting grants (especially now with Justice 40). Would also help us to prioritize where the needs are and fill in gaps.
- First steps:
 - Figure out funding
 - Create a contact list for stakeholder engagement
 - Get involvement from UWFP ambassador, EPA regional coordinators, partners
 - Hire consultants
 - Facilitate meetings between partners and consultants

Resources shared:

- <https://www.rivernetwork.org/integrated-water-management-planning-equity/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-wrap-river-system-project-report>
- <https://www.epa.gov/rps/overview-recovery-potential-screening-rps>
- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Equity/Initiatives/Atlas>

11:55-12:00 UWFP Updates – Erica Rossetti

- Letters of Support: one written for the Center for Environmental Transformation in Camden as part of a climate resiliency proposal
- Community Funds: new application from Esperanza in North Philly
- Chester River Fest: new date is October 23, 2022 in the afternoon
- Next meeting will take place on July 19, 2022 from 11-12 ET on Zoom