

**Rhode Island:**  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**  
**Department of Environmental Management**  
**Division of Planning, Statewide Planning Program**

RI State Guide Plan Update:  
Water Quality Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, September 24, 2013**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Room 280  
Department of Environmental Management  
235 Promenade Street, Providence

**Agenda**

1. Greetings
2. Introduction of Members
3. State Guide Plan Overview and Status – *Nancy Hess, DOP*
  - a. Role of the Advisory Committee
4. Big Picture on Water Quality Activities
  - a. DEM - Section 319 & EPA Program Updates - *Sue Kiernan, DEM*
  - b. CRMC & NOAA Updates – *Jeff Willis, CRMC*
5. State of the State – RI Water Quality – The Real Facts - *Sue Kiernan, DEM*
6. Preliminary Issue Identification:
  - a. Top 5 Draft Issues to Start Discussion – *Sue Kiernan, DEM*
  - b. Overview of Plan Outline - *Ernie Panciera, DEM*
7. Discussion & Feedback – *All - moderated by Sue Kiernan*
8. Looking ahead -
  - a. Set Next Meeting Date - *Nancy Hess, DOP*
  - b. Committee Homework - *Ernie Panciera, DEM*
9. Adjourn 12:00 PM

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

**WHY:**

- Protect and improve water quality for public safety, health, general welfare, economic and ecological values.
- Establish statewide vision, goals, policies and actions to reduce pollution and improve water quality over next 20 Years.
- Educate on what water quality is and how it is measured.
- Identify sources of pollution.
- Address as a cross cutting topic in each section how climate change impacts water quality.
- Educate the public and decision makers on what needs to be done to address known pollution sources and manage water quality.
- Set watersheds as a planning unit for water quality protection and restoration in the State to provide uniform guidance, goals and strategies.
- Identify what state, regional, and municipal actions are needed for water quality protection and restoration.

**WHAT IT IS:**

- A snapshot of the current state of water quality in RI and outlines strategies for improvement.
- Address the long-range topics that affect water quality.
- Coordinating what the State and municipalities need to address and have not otherwise already discussed in SGP or other programs.
- The “other” things not addressed by *RI Water 2030*.
- Update of the Non-point Source Management Plan (EPA requirement) and consolidation of water quality into one guide plan element as part of streamlining and modernizing the SGP - condensing water quality topics into one document instead of 3 documents.

**WHAT IT IS NOT ABOUT:**

- Items addressed by *RI Water 2030* regarding drinking water supply.
- Recreational/open space issues addressed by the *SCORP*.
- Land use issues already covered in *Land Use 2025*.
- Duplicating and coordinating other functions of existing agencies, programs and plans such as RI CRMC Program and SAM plans, BRWCT Systems Level Plan, and water resource programs of DEM

**COORDINATION:**

- Serve as a comprehensive document aimed at systematically managing water quality in the various watersheds within the State.
- Coordinate and set uniform guidance for water quality management planning and protection/restoration on statewide and watershed scales.
- Provide guidance for municipal CCP and state decisions on land use and public facilities affecting water quality.
- Make suggestions for future update of *LU 2025* water quality cross references.
- Encourage implementation of *LU 2025* to protect water quality/open space/ conservation lands.
- Assess and assist in implementation of existing state programs/plans related to water quality.
- Support DEM and CRMC (and other state agencies) work programs.

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

**OLD SGP THAT ARE TO CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE ELEMENT (USE SOME BUILDING BLOCKS FROM EACH) AND EVENTUALLY RESCIND:**

- (110) old water quality goals and policies (not the whole Element)
- (162) Rivers Plan – Amended 2004
- (715) CCMP for Narragansett Bay - 1992
- (731) Nonpoint Source Management Plan - 1995

**CROSS REFERENCES TO OTHER SGP:**

- (121) *Land Use 2025 -2006*
- (152) *SCORP* – Amended 2009
- (611) *Transportation 2035* – Amended 2012

**CROSS REFERENCES TO OTHER’S PLANS:**

- BRWCT Systems Level Plan*
- New CCMP for Narragansett Bay*
- CRMC *SAM PLANS*

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

**I. Why Does Water Quality Matter? [WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?]**

**II. The State and Its Watersheds [WHAT HAVE WE GOT?]**

**III. What Is Happening with Water Quality? [ISSUES AND CONCERNS]**

**IV. Looking Forward [WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE? IMPLEMENTATION]**

---

**I. Why Does Water Quality Matter? [WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?]**

A. Introduction

1. Purpose of this Water Quality Management Element
2. Relationship of this Plan with other State Guide Plan Elements and other plans

B. What is water quality?

C. Why this is important: drinking water, food, recreation, economy, aquatic life

D. Vision for state water quality

Example: Rhode Island's surface waters and groundwater provide high quality drinking water, habitat for wildlife, recreation opportunities such as swimming and boating, and economic activities such as shellfishing, fishing and tourism.

**II. RI Waters and Watersheds [WHAT HAVE WE GOT?]**

A. Existing water quality in RI – overview

1. Rivers/streams
2. Lakes/ponds
3. Estuaries/coastal Waters
4. Groundwaters

B. Water quality impairments and threats –general overview

C. What is a watershed?

1. Hydrology
2. Watershed functions

D. Watershed designations

1. USGS HUC system
2. Watershed planning areas (DEM designations) -General discussion of the major watersheds and the 26 watershed planning areas.

E. Watershed management

1. Watershed approach
2. Current watershed management in RI

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

- a. State - DEM and CRMC planning and regulatory efforts, other state programs
- b. Municipalities
- c. Watershed councils, nonprofits

**III. So What Is Happening? [ISSUES AND CONCERNS]**

A. Water quality management – pollution sources

1. Wastewater

- a. Direct discharges to surface water
  - i. RIPDES Permitting Program
  - ii. Pretreatment Program
  - iii. Operations and maintenance
  - iv. Sludge and septage management
  - v. Facilities plans
  - vi. Sewer plan reviews
  - vii. Reduction of CSO's and system overflows
  - viii. Wastewater reuse
- b. Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) –Sanitary waste to groundwater
  - i. Permitting; advanced treatment requirements in sensitive areas
  - ii. Technology approval
  - iii. Cesspool phaseout
  - iv. Municipal roles – local wastewater management programs
- c. Non-Sanitary groundwater discharges

2. Stormwater management

- a. Impervious cover
- b. Road maintenance -- salt and sediment
- c. State regulation of stormwater discharges
  - i. Construction
  - ii. Industrial multi-sector
  - iii. Post construction (Wetlands, RIPDES, Groundwater Discharges)
  - iv. MS4
  - v. DOT – design, construction, O&M, road salt storage

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

- vi. Municipal role in stormwater management
    - MS4
    - Growth management (LID)
    - Stormwater utility districts
  - 3. Agriculture and turf
  - 4. Waterfowl and wildlife control
  - 5. Boating and marinas
    - a. DEM Pump-Out Program
    - b. CRMC Clean Marinas Program
  - 6. Surface mining – sand and gravel, quarries
  - 7. Hazardous materials storage
    - a. Above ground storage tanks
    - b. Underground storage tanks
  - 8. Waste management
    - a. Waste facilities (solid, hazardous and medical)
    - b. Site remediation (including Brownfields)
    - c. Household hazardous waste
  - 9. Emergency response – oil spills
  - 10. Litter/marine debris
- B. Land use management – Land Use 2025
- C. Aquatic habitat management
- 1. Wetlands
  - 2. Riparian buffers
  - 3. Invasives -- aquatic and terrestrial (as pertains to riverine habitat)
  - 4. Restoration of aquatic habitat
- D. Watershed hydrology management
- 1. Stream bank erosion
  - 2. Stream connectivity
  - 3. Floodplain management
  - 4. Other hydromodifications

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

**IV.Looking Forward [WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?]**

- A. Vision
- B. Goals and policies for water quality protection and restoration
  - 1. Overarching policies
  - 2. Source specific management policies
- C. Implementation -- strategies for strengthening water quality management
  - 1. Monitor and assess water quality and watershed conditions
    - a. Water quality standards – designated uses and criteria
    - b. Environmental monitoring strategy
    - c. Environmental indicators
  - 2. Prioritization and planning to protect and restore
    - a. Setting priorities
    - b. Planning -- TMDLs, SAMPs, watershed plans
    - c. Protect designated high quality waters
      - i. Antidegradation
      - ii. Source Water Protection Areas
      - iii. Other high quality water designations
    - d. Strategies for Specific Watersheds – e.g., Coastal Development
  - 3. Partnerships and integrated planning
    - a. Coordination/Integration of state efforts --across programs and agencies.
      - i. Between state programs
      - ii. Between state and local programs
    - b. Public education and outreach
    - c. Technical assistance/training
  - 4. Land use management
    - a. Reference Land Use 2025
    - b. Smart growth and development ordinances (LID)
  - 5. Implementation Tables with strategies for sources in Section III

**RI Water Quality Management Plan  
State Guide Plan 731 Update  
DRAFT**

D. Resources needed for implementation

1. Stormwater utility districts
2. Financial assistance
  - a. Clean Water Finance Agency -- SRF, CSSLP
  - b. Federal grants and state bonds

E. Cross references and suggestions for update to other SGP and Other's Plans

F. Evaluation

**References & Appendices**

Appendix – Glossary of Terms

Appendix – Watershed Fact Sheets