

Stakeholder Meeting August 12, 2021 Breakout Room Discussions			
		Priority Activities that the Water Table should take a leading and coordinating role in	
Questions	Designing a shared regional identity/story around the Delaware Watershed and unifying our messaging for bigger impact.	Coordinating existing and/or new sources of funding to increase impact on water quality, such as a regional CIP for water infrastructure, new funding mechanisms like a trading market, and/or a circuit rider who improves access to funding.	Adapting to and Mitigating impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, flooding, drought, extreme heat, and encroaching saltline.
Does the priority action need further defining?	To design a shared vision of the watershed you have to take into consideration its rich history. People interact with the watershed in very different ways. The DRB doesn't have a "brand" like the Chesapeake has. There needs to be a bigger platform to bring people into the fold. The urban stretch lacks geographical context to the rest of the river. A unifying message would be helpful for fundraising purposes and to build a larger constituency to support more money coming into the Basin.	Immediate funding needed, some projects will require longer term funding	<p>It is hard to mitigate impacts of climate change without understanding what the impacts could be on water resources- emphasize understanding impacts of climate change (increased rainfall, storm intensity, increasing temperatures, drought, sea level rise/ inundation, more flooding)</p> <p>More understanding is needed concerning changing species distributions in climate zones - vegetation, ecology... (ex. will certain trees survive in 50 years if the ecology is impacted by changing climate conditions?) Certain species may be impacted based on ability to thrive with climate impacts</p> <p>In order to have success, need bite-size pieces in terms of problem definition - a lot has been written about climate impacts/implications... some seen, some not so visible. If we are going to have an impact on mitigating climate risks we need to define/target fairly narrowly, then build on as we go - suggest prioritization for preparation/response to climate impacts. If we can prioritize, can have target we can actually hit (versus aspirational)</p> <p>A lot of news about IPCC's new report - in summary we are locked into a hotter future. At this point, adaptation needs to be considered too... not just mitigation. Climate change is happening now and we need to work together on adapting to these changes</p> <p>Need to include resilience - building resilience both for human and ecological communities... conversations have been occurring about the different pieces between stakeholders in the Delaware River Watershed, this could be an opportunity to leverage data, who has what and where are the gaps? In terms of assessing impacts, focus should be on current and future implications.</p> <p>Opportunities - infrastructure bill with a lot of funding coming that doesn't just focus on critical infrastructure - good time to take stock to look at resources across Delaware Watershed stakeholders to figure out what projects are going on where... where adaptation and resilience projects are happening, where there are gaps... something like a strategic plan... a lot of players and resources that can be leveraged so we do not duplicate efforts... who has what and how does that contribute to bigger picture</p> <p>On the precipice of having funding for these programs, we need to collectively look at how to make best use of resources</p> <p>Getting back to core question (and things identified in)- need to keep scope and impacts broad enough to consider more as we move along</p>
			Supporting workforce development for the next generation of water professionals from diverse backgrounds, for example, by training and employing the underemployed through a Civilian Climate Corp. More specifically, a Civilian Climate Corp, (WPF CCC Initiative for the Delaware River) could engage marginalized, underemployed and unemployed communities to address climate and conservation needs. Water Table Stakeholder roles could include 1) identifying relevant projects, 2) identifying and creating pathways for in demand career pathways, 3) providing training and certification, and 4) creating jobs and economic growth in struggling communities.

<p><b>What is the desired outcome?</b></p>	<p>We want people to have a vested interest in the watershed. To understand how their daily decisions and actions impact water quality. You can't love something without learning about it. Want to build parolés' connection to the river. We need to engage more people, recruit more advocates (numbers matter), help people develop a mental picture of the watershed and where they live, work, and play in this landscape. With the redevelopment of riverfront sites that were previously industrial, and more access, the number of people connecting to the river is increasing. To many, however, it is still seen as a polluted and industrial waterway. Need to create more opportunities for connectivity and access and look at issues relating to public vs. private ownership.</p>	<p>Coordinate the grants projects so they holistically address the basin as a whole. Filling gaps in match funding. This will allow additional participants who traditionally struggle to match grants. Remove barriers to action, coordinate projects so they have the greatest impact. For example, doing projects within a larger framework, being aware of what others are doing, perhaps a steering committee to represent all the viewpoints. Standards and guidelines to integrate key factors like resiliency.</p> <p>Make connections to larger initiatives such as William Penn projects and others.</p> <p>Understand where money is already going, identify gaps, how do we more widely broadcast these investments so we can identify ways to work together and leverage existing and future funding for optimal impact. Can we develop a matrix and gather information from municipalities etc - to understand capital budgets across the basin.</p> <p>Gaps around any individual organization's ability to fund with its own budget/ revenue. The "extra" stuff that Water Table participants value but that can be hard to get into an individual organizations own capital improvement plan, e.g., relating to Recreation/Workforce/Climate/Nature-based</p> <p>Identify gaps, where are there needs that represent shared priorities that do not have funding.</p>	<p>A plan is important, coordinates well with identifying priorities, could reach programs and funds. Connect end-game dots to where we are now.</p> <p>Coalesce group around set of priorities, put into plan, then funders interested (and agencies) can respond</p> <p>Agencies have important role with regard to regulatory requirements - work with, or adapt if needed</p> <p>Opportunity - under the Biden administration all federal agencies charged to do much more on climate and EJ issues - charging regulatory agencies to look for innovative solutions that provide opportunities to ensure thriving human and natural communities - part of what we need to be able to do, innovative long-term solutions... putting all of our players together to figure out what solutions can be brought to bare, another role that can be played. Opportunity for innovation. (EPA)</p> <p>Unify public commitment... there are still people who don't believe in climate change, should we be putting resources toward further explaining climate change impacts?</p> <p>Recognize we have political realities we need to work through... political leadership can change and still has challenges (ex. PA State Legislature)... need long term thinking while developing an understanding towards what we can get done now.</p> <p>Need to be pragmatic, it has been challenging to advocate for proactive science when politics have created divisiveness across the watershed and between lawmakers</p> <p>We have powerful voices - need to think about strategy and outcome and pull together Re: public commitment and need for community-led approach. We need to make sure community leaders are in room and part of moving forward with implementation</p> <p>Objective - series of projects that are best for meeting these various objectives? Keep bottom-line impacts in mind... for resources and thriving local economies... plan needs to evolve around priorities and give us something to build around... for those not really excited about climate, economic situation important - sustainability circles concept (nexus with story around the Delaware - all foundational)</p>	<p>How can the water table inform universities on the needs of the industry and what type of students are needed in the industry. And could the water table become a bridge for students into the industry.</p> <p>Make space for other folks in water-adjacent fields (construction), second career folks, etc. Water table work to broad the definition of water-related work.</p>
<p><b>Why is the Water Table cross-sector collaboration needed to advance this?</b></p>	<p>No one entity can do this alone. There are lots of active players in the watershed who need to be engaged. This will require cross-sector coordination and shared ownership. A non-coordinated effort will fail or leave out important perspectives. Need to avoid competition for limited funds. A platform for people to access information and to understand what is happening. People don't know what they don't know - introduce issues.</p>	<p>All participants have a unique role to play; to have collective impact we need a united approach. Let's all talk about what we do, how we do it, why we do it. To make big impacts we need to understand how we each plan, organize, and fund. If we understand the objectives of each organization we can understand where we can work together.</p> <p>Nothing brings people together like money. We are being practical - we can work together on a project, and to obtain funds.</p>	<p>Climate change is a challenge that requires interdisciplinary and collaborative effort across basin, demonstrating understanding, resiliency, awareness of economic conditions for adapting/preparing</p> <p>Mitigating - giving predictions, that's not how we'll be dealing it this (alone); adaptation may be bigger piece here</p> <p>Strengthens advocacy around work if it's deep and wide - broad based collaborative effort among all stakeholders is stronger</p> <p>Needed for engagement with communities - leveling that is part of the value of the collaborative, sharing information well requires lived experience (lots of messengers, and different people working on)... many impacts already really impacting people in communities.</p> <p>Ability to come together to be deep and broad to minimize blocking forces... when many voices (including big voices) come together makes a big difference/impact - how can this do that with all the credibility of this group?</p>	<p>Synergies between partners to tackle programs together.</p> <p>Clearinghouse for resources and initiatives. Make it easy for folks that this may not be number one priority.</p>
<p><b>What are others already doing?</b></p>	<p>The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed has been working as a unified voice for funding (in the non-profit arena). Others involved already include WPF (DRWI, AWE), DRBC, DELEP/PDE, WRADRB, SRFs (state programs), EPA R2&amp;3 and the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN).</p>	<p>Is there an efficient way to determine this?</p>	<p>Stroud: Implementing BMPs - not all necessarily for CC but many with potential to build resilience - agricultural and stormwater planning; understanding and modeling future outcomes; education and outreach on climate change</p> <p>Suggestion to follow-up with a survey to get input from all Table participants on this question</p> <p>Mapping of projects related to - where are we spending money and doing projects on this... EPA has a host of water programs generating projects/activities around this... Modeling and mapping to see where we are making progress.. Big bottom-line thing that would be helpful</p> <p>Knowing where the planners, engineers, implementers are and thinking about future changes - are we really designing things for future conditions</p> <p>Can efforts out of this inform people about future planning and capital improvements? Next generation - how do we really change? That would help identify gaps (see next question)</p>	<p>Have a clear/numerical goal or target for workforce development.</p> <p>Establish a group goal that the entire water table advocates for.</p>

<p><b>What else needs doing - What are the gaps in addressing this issue?</b></p>	<p>The efforts to date have been very decentralized. There needs to be a mechanism to bring information together, tell the story better. Formalize something for all sectors (water users, non-profit, academics) and find opportunities for everyone to be comfortable contributing to the effort. Need to make sure the economic development/tourism/maritime community is represented. Need to identify and engage local watershed groups and other local entities.</p>	<p>What are the gaps in addressing this issue? Climate change - how do we identify critical needs across the basin and fund these.</p> <p>Major renovations can be funded. Typical maintenance on a natural resource or a pumping station cannot be funded by SRF program. In Camden, when it comes to long term maintenance, the DEP has a dedicated source of funding (?), infrastructure bank can help. Camden Power Corp can fill some gaps.</p> <p>Challenge is paying for the extra - recreational, adding trees, workforce development, lighting, "The amenities" that a funding source like NJDEP can't cover but a local utility is asking for.</p>	<p>White paper on climate impacts/influence in DRB with focus on policy and gaps. Useful for being ready for what comes out of DC - WRA might be a good cross-sectional group to do/champion this - oldest organization</p> <p>A lot of time spent on problem, not enough time on solutions - what do solutions look like?</p> <p>Find, highlight, projects out there focusing on solutions</p>	<p>Individual organizations vs. water table as a whole. More training and hiring of local staff especially from under-served communities. Aid water employers in finding folks to fill their positions. Outreach to schools and other community organizations.</p> <p>Need to include other social service industry and folks that work specifically in workforce development. How do we partner with ppl that know the most. Don't try and re-invent the wheel but lean on professionals to achieve shared goals. So much potential overlap with the goals of other industries and organizations.</p> <p>What are others already doing in this space? If nothing specific enough could we replicate others in other regions. Also what are the barriers? Is the pay enough? No - typically the entirety point to get to other jobs. Do we need to promote the value of some jobs. Does the water table groups have the ability to connect with local communities. Whats happening for internal training of staff at organizations participation in water table.</p> <p>Fragmentation between organizations Water table can help with having conversations to understand what are the needs and barriers to advance program.</p>
<p><b>What resources (organizational participation, funding, time) are needed?</b></p>	<p>Municipal stormwater fees for sustainable funding, timely messaging goals, utilize existing products - rework/revise/reuse.</p>	<p>There are a lot of \$250k projects that could have a major impact. How do we fund stormwater infrastructure improvements above our intakes?</p> <p>Delaware Action Network concept discussed.</p> <p>Process: Discussion and list of all investments and priorities from all players. Identify what is funded, and what is not funded. Looking at the list, we can determine what types of projects these are - are the stormwater, or are they unique. Can we package those gaps and present to feds to obtain federal infrastructure funding.</p>	<p>Navigate and take advantage of infrastructure funding Need support, involvement, collaboration with agencies - remove/navigate any regulatory barriers Need connections in community - people with important connections in places where work needs to happen and to help navigate/ ground truth solutions Action beyond regulatory guidelines/targets... for example, water quality targets based on past not future Identify early, wherever we can, set of circumstances where we have a challenge and there is a process in place - how do it in way that takes into account long terms impact and climate... early engagement important; EPA wants to be on solutions end of integrating climate into permits, regulations, etc., need to be in conversations early for that. Importance of dialog - between agencies, organizations, communities Focus needed, being judicious about key areas for partnership will be important - can't do everything at once... Get wins in place to push things forward - Strategy</p>	<p>White paper/survey/summit to better understand goals, needs, and obstacles - gap assessment that involves the right players who may not already be at the table</p> <p>Funding, obviously if we're talking about paying people to do work</p>
<p><b>Are there good models to replicate for this?</b></p>	<p>On the sub-watershed level; watershed wide cleanup days, basin-wide programs, Schuylkill Scrub. Need to look at successful examples of building a watershed identity (Great Lakes, other NEPs, etc.) Look at social media vehicles like Tik-Tok.</p>	<p>Schuylkill Action Network, can we do a Delaware River Network.</p> <p>Can we develop a fund that leverages/find funding for "extras": climate change, workforce development, recreational, This group can also identify who else is working on those issues in that area. Camden Collaborative Initiative is CCMUA, a suite of nonprofits, etc is an example. The private side is joining with state and nonprofit entities to fund projects. There needs to be a lead entity to manage/lead.</p> <p>Another small example that WPF is involved in is between the PWD and SDP for green school yards - the SDP comes to the \$1M fund WPF set up with their "extra" - the stuff neither SDP nor PWD can easily provide funds though both see the value for it, in the context of a green school yard/stormwater mgmt project that aligns with WPF criteria.</p>	<p>Two mentioned in the survey: PCB TMDLs for DE led by DRBC and Dischargers Coalition, and work underway with Wissahickon TMDL alternative... regulatory actions with collaboration among various stakeholders. Schuylkill Action Network (collab with EPA, DRBC, DEP on source water protection solutions) and Dissolved Oxygen Partnership (collab with 12 largest municipal dischargers in Delaware Estuary) - example models of collaboration. Question posed to EPA: What's best way to engage with EPA on this, knowing they will be involved with SRFs and where money flows through... is there an existing forum to talk with regional/ federal regulators on these types of issues? EPA comments to question: Need strong dialog with states - EPA in process of what's coming down the pike... they are putting out State Revolving Fund IUPs... discussions are needed with the states/ EPA so states and communities asking for kinds of projects seeking... needs to come up from communities - need to keep them educated and aware of what can and should be done... once see what comes through, need to determine how to direct it to the best places? Requires a lot of community, state and EPA (Amie Howell at EPA focusing on infrastructure funding coming in) Project Registry - PDE worked on a while back, new examples in Delaware for pulling in and leveraging different funds (CBR4 and pilot) Private investment will also be needed - to add to and stabilize flow of public funding (through political changes) NJ Corporate business tax - state relies on for various things (open space funding)... not generally infrastructure</p>	<p>Bayworks in San Francisco, PowerCorps in Philly and Camden</p>

<p><b>What geographic area should this cover?</b></p>	<p>Tiered or multi-level messaging (basin-wide, tidal/non-tidal, upper/lower, main-stem/trib, urban/rural).</p>	<p>Watershed wide, is this a way to organize/package projects for funding, for discrete elements of the Delaware River Basin. Do need a defined geographic extent.</p>	<p>Focus of WT project has been on DVRPC area - advocate for expanded project area to include the upper basin?  Risk analysis for understanding climate change impacts - for humans and ecological services might help guide - where are critical areas most at risk?  Entire watershed - whatever happens in watershed, affects others, need to look at holistic, may have geographic priorities within, but purview should be holistic</p>	<p>There's a tension between urban areas and recognizing that there are many underserved, under-resourced communities in more rural areas (who aren't necessarily in the room)  Targeting water utilities, sewage enforcement officers, etc. would be viable basin-wide, but with room for a pilot project or two  Need to identify employment centers (where are the jobs located?) to do this work effectively</p>
<p><b>What could you/your organization offer?</b></p>	<p>Pennvest funding one-stop shopping (grants, loans); new Center for WQ Excellence, sub-level SRFs for county/regional program  EPA - DELEP, SRFs, RA's voice/advocacy  PEC - statewide perspective</p>	<p>skipped question</p>	<p>White paper example of something that could be offered - UD Water Resources could do writing on that... Nate Boon's white paper might be good model  PWD has developed a comprehensive climate adaptation program with projections for Phila, rainfall projections, etc. - could put science on table to share with other folks. A lot of info for infrastructure planning purposes could offer  Bartram's already starting to talk with people - will be important time/connections to commit  River Network have been doing a lot around CWA and CC - making sure data for permitting etc are used... compiling a lot of resources around that to educate, can help out with. Also a lot of community-led resources and training of local leaders, communities - resources and training materials  Victory Brewing work with local orgs and restoration efforts (Headwaters Ale) good model, forward thinking - perhaps they and other brewers would be interested in promoting? Way to mobilize that voice and power  Stroud - in statewide initiative (PASoilHealth.org) with opportunities for education in climate context, other organizations involved (farmer-led effort)</p>	<p>CCP has played a supporting role for these types of programs in the past (grant writing, partner connection, promotion, connecting trainers with potential projects for trainees)  ANS has the WINS program to help women and girls get introduced to natural resource education and careers  Academia more broadly - connecting with students  Upstream Alliance can help as a communicator and promoter, and many of the nonprofits may be in a similar position  Natural Lands can help with connecting local folks to environmental careers through project engagement at the local level  MontCo Planning Commission can connect through municipalities, can we incorporate language into their procurement processes for labor force with stormwater projects and maintenance?</p>
<p><b>What are potential challenges?</b></p>	<p>Time, money, focus, diverse perspectives, education (stormwater).</p>		<p>ran out of time</p>	<p>We may not have the right people at the table yet to do this work  The scale is potentially massive and we could go in so many directions to start  Funding funding funding</p>
<p><b>What are the next steps to advance this priority?</b></p>	<p>Identify the players. Understand and take advantage of the infrastructure bill. Keep projects focused.</p>	<p>Create a group or a number of groups that would be a body to fund projects that are not otherwise funded due to lack of access to funds. ID sources of funding, and fund (through infrastructure funding). Oversee dispensement of funding because it brings together people who have a broad understanding of critical needs. Funding needs to be unrestricted.</p> <p>Unite all our voices to advocate for more funding for the Delaware River Basin to make sure the Delaware gets its fair share.</p> <p>Ensure that individual organizations/entities are moving forward with their own individual programs/projects, while also tying the larger group together to ensure both progress and potentially assist in making projects that are ongoing bigger and better, as possible.</p> <p>Ensure projects are effective, communicate benefits of this work (academia can help). Partnership helps ensure we are investing in things that work. Scientific evaluation that says that is proven, and then captures and communicates results.</p> <p>There If this group was about piloting and trying new, we should be able to demonstrate what works, advance innovation (like Venture Cap investment)</p> <p>Gatekeeper, joint benefits authority, perhaps like Jersey Water Works, SAN,</p> <p>Hard for any individual org to resource their "extra" - how can this group/this concept help mobilize that resource? The resource to find the resource? I.e., a resource that can solicit needs from members to pull into proposals for funding, grant writing for new and pending federal \$.</p>	<p>ran out of time</p>	<p>Gap analysis to hone in on what we're actually talking about  Identifying groups already doing this work who could be part of this initiative, and existing programs we could be leveraging (rather than reinventing the wheel)  Analyze the potential gaps in workforce pipelines at regional level (how many people are retiring soon, are there folks in the pipeline to fill those positions?)  Further defining roles for the Water Table as a whole vs. roles for Water Table members</p>

<p><b>Are there “low hanging fruit” steps that could be taken to show quick progress?</b></p>	<p>Take advantage of forthcoming media coverage of federal infrastructure funding.</p>	<p>Recommend item 3 to EPA, dovetails with administrations Justice 40 initiative</p> <p>SAN is 400 people working together with paid facilitators. This initiative could start small by identifying who needs to do what due to permit requirements, and who wants to fund these broader initiatives like Source Water Protection. We would need staff to administer. We need to mobilize to get funding from the fed. Assist with grant writing.</p> <p>Create a working group?</p>	<p>ran out of time</p>	<p>Identifying groups already doing this work who could be part of this initiative, and existing programs we could be leveraging (rather than reinventing the wheel)</p> <p>Create a jobs subcommittee for the Water Table</p>
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