

What topics would you like to see covered in a future summit?

On projects

- *Lessons learned/project analyses*
 - In-depth case studies of successful water quality projects
 - Actual examples of projects that are happening on the ground.
 - Lessons learned from the CWSPs and sharing of knowledge
 - I want to see the conversation go from everyone knowing the existing issues to making change in the system. P is obviously really flawed and doesn't acknowledge the host of other benefits many of these project have. Habitat, global warming etc.
- *Operations and Maintenance*
 - Operations and Maintenance of CWSP projects
 - Maintenance and capacity building
 - Operations, Verification, & Maintenance. Methods/ideas to drive incentive for private landowners/partners to continue pursuing CWSP funding
 - More information on the most cost effective project types, and CWSP processes (how they are different and similar)
 - efforts taken to increase DEC & VDHP regulatory review capacity
 - lots of processes for Formula Grants can be improved. I would like to see a process for revisiting guidance and policies for revisions
- *Funding*
 - More discussion of the bigger context: Enhancement Grants and other types of funding opportunities and state- and national-level priorities or programming that support similar types of projects or complementary types of projects.
 - Contracting, reviewing the CWIP funding policy for changes needed, how to follow procurement policies effectively.
 - It might be good to have a follow-up event but don't wait for a year. Let's try to do one in October that dives deeper on Construction costs from 2024 season, key revisions to CW Funding Policy, and other key topics.
 - I wanted to hear more about paying for conservation including land owner incentive payments?. Site prep / invasive maintenance?. O&M funding?.

On communications

- I think there needs to be a round table discussion on the issues CWSPs are facing and an action plan of how to address these issues. The most valuable part of the summit was the questions and comments asked by the CWSPs. DEC needs to address the problems within the program and this is a perfect event to do so.
- I think it was very helpful to have discussions between DEC and the CWSPs, so please continue. Would a Legislators' input be helpful?
- Improving communication between CWSPs, BWQCs, project implementors, and other project stakeholders.

What was the most beneficial thing you that learned/acquired from the summit?

Communication and Commiseration

- *Hearing different perspectives was useful/helpful*
 - engaging with other Clean Water partners
 - It was helpful to hear which areas were shared and which were unique.
 - Hearing from the CWSPs about what issues are coming up with the work is helpful to work towards continuous improvement of the program.
 - Hearing from CWSP and BWICs. I'm from DEC.
 - Hearing the feedback from all of the CWSPs and partner organizations was very valuable.
 - Meeting folks in-person
 - The interaction that lead to important needs.
 - Opportunity to interact in person with CWSP providers and DEC staff
 - Hearing from a variety of people offering their perspectives from all view points of this process. That was really great!
- *There are challenges shared by many CWSPs*
 - That other CWSPs are going thru the same challenges us as.
 - The perspective and challenges faced by the other CWSPs and water quality partners around the State.
 - It was good to hear candid assessments from each CWSP about how the process is working and what the barriers are.
 - The parts most relevant to me were the slam on REIs and the progress of each CWSP. It was really important having discussions around the fact that CWSPs have hard times acquiring projects.

Revealed Problems

- That the state doesn't want to use clean water funds for their own DEC staff, but collectively we think they should.
- That CWSPs are not being supported enough and many people are feeling frustrated.
- How other CWBWC are achieving their goals and the problem with using P as the primary determinate in approving projects

New ideas

- I learned how the CWSP framework operates
- Ideas about capacity development
- I am fairly new and had not attended this type of event so I found this all to be informative.

Do you have feedback on opportunities to improve the clean water service network? [a symbol (e.g., ^) before a response indicates that the feedback is from the same individual]

Emphasize uniformity across basins

- (^) more similarities across CWSPS, each one doing their own thing is challenging. Would be great to have had more guidance before we tried forming BWQCS.
- Are there ways that all the CWSPs can do more things in a way that is more similar? Timing for RFPs, etc?

Streamline project requirements/paperwork

- (*) less paperwork for applicants. I can do more grants if the process is faster and easier. Rolling applications.
- With more time to find averages consider assigning blanket Phosphorus reduction amounts to project types so we no longer need to calculate per project and focus on scoring co-benefits (Can't say how EPA reporting would work but this would certainly speed things up on the ID/development side).

Improve/expand communication between partners and stakeholders

- (^) There needs to be more communications from DEC to the public about this work.
- It would be good to have more opportunities for two-way or general sharing. I think everyone in the room has good insights and ideas, so it would be great to solicit those more actively during discussions or activities rather than just a bunch of presentations.
- I think it would be helpful for there to be more in person opportunities beyond just once a year. It doesn't necessarily have to be multiple summits but other types of in person meetings would be good.
- Municipalities and local citizen networks need help to understand the process
- Find a way for people to share information, updates, lessons learned?

Other suggestions

- Would be good to have members of the for-profit sector involved
- I hope that DEC/CWIP is able to implement some of the important feedback and changes suggested by our partner organizations. While I understand the comments about how DEC staff can be a bottle neck, I hope that the requirement to check in with DEC scientists on projects at early stages (not the permittees, the staff scientists) will remain. I feel that early and often communication with DEC project staff makes it easier to review projects and give timely feedback.
- (*) more guidance. We can hire a staff member if we can get more capacity \$\$\$. Staff time for participation on the Boards should happen automatically in a more organized way.

Do you have any other comments about the summit?

Include more time for discussion

- More "free" time for open discussion, and/or small groups e.g. small group meetings - BWQC members or CWSPs meeting to discuss processes.
- Very clearly have someone from DEC taking notes. Hold space to talk about and address issues facing the program right now.
- Create more time for discussion - perhaps create a longer block or more blocks just dedicated to discussion for the whole summit. Maybe small groups?

Encourage staff to stay for the entire length of the event

- Secretary Moore, Neil, Charlie Baker, and Jared Carpenter should not have left early!!
- Any legislative folks who are speaking on the creation of the legislation for this program should absolutely stay for the entirety of the event. It was offensive for all three speakers, who could really help initiate change, to leave and not hear out the concerns and problems with the program.

Consider a different venue

- It was weird that it took place in a very religious location - ideally, wouldn't take place somewhere with crosses in the future.
- The space was not the greatest - kind of dated, no water in the kitchen, etc. It worked as it needed to, but it seems like there must be a better facility somewhere!
- (^) The morning coffee could have included pastries/bagels too! There also wasn't easy access to a water refill option... Lunch was good though.
- Although everyone was wonderful at being quiet during each presenter, I found it difficult to hear quite often.

Other suggestions

- (^) Since it was a fairly small group could've been nice to do simple introductions to know who was there and which organizations. Maybe not everyone's names but at least stand up with different types or orgs... those that work for DEC, CWSPs, partner orgs... etc.
- For presentations, I'd like to hear more from local level implementers about the barriers they encounter. Ultimately, the system we create has to work maximally efficiently for the people who are already trained/skilled in doing the work (and who are already actually doing the work) rather than upper level administration -- improvements to upper level administration (regional or statewide) should be done in service of the local level.
- Perhaps an AI ranking system to help drive discussion to most important concerns
- (*) Would love to see a summary of top feedback points and where the follow up and changes (if they are possible) will happen.

Kind words

- Really enjoyed the Basin Slam!
- Thanks for organizing everything and for facilitating us all coming together to discuss how we can continue to work towards something better!
- Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to put this together! It was a great event.
- It was truly wonderful to meet all the participants in PERSON!!!
- Great job putting together this first ever summit!
- Thanks for lunch!
- Excellent work by Jack Reed
- Really great seeing everyone. Lets do this once a year as suggested above.
- (*) Thank you for organizing! Collecting this feedback was great and hopefully can be incorporated into work going forward