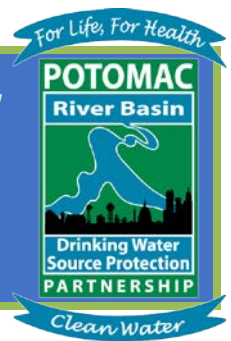


Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

2014 Annual Report

www.PotomacDWSP.org



Note from the Co-chairs

The Partnership serves as a forum where Potomac basin water utilities and state and federal agencies develop strategies for addressing source water concerns with a unified voice. Tracking research and conditions in the Potomac basin headwaters allows for early issue detection and a better understanding of potential causes. In 2014, the collaboration between the government and utility sectors led to the development of source water management recommendations; a basin-wide database of unregulated contaminant monitoring results; regional tracking of water quality trends; and a coordinated plan to assess threats and identify protection opportunities.

The role of leading these and other efforts rotates each year between the Government Committee and the Metro Area Water Utility Committee. These governing bodies are led by

member organizations on a two-year rotation. In 2014, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) and Washington Aqueduct led the Government and Utility committees, respectively, with the Aqueduct conducting business meetings. The DDOE and the Aqueduct continue to lead in 2015, but DDOE takes on active leadership. This structure allows all members to play a leadership role and brings diverse perspectives to source water protection in the basin.

Collin Burrell, Associate Director for Water Quality Division, District Department of Energy & Environment

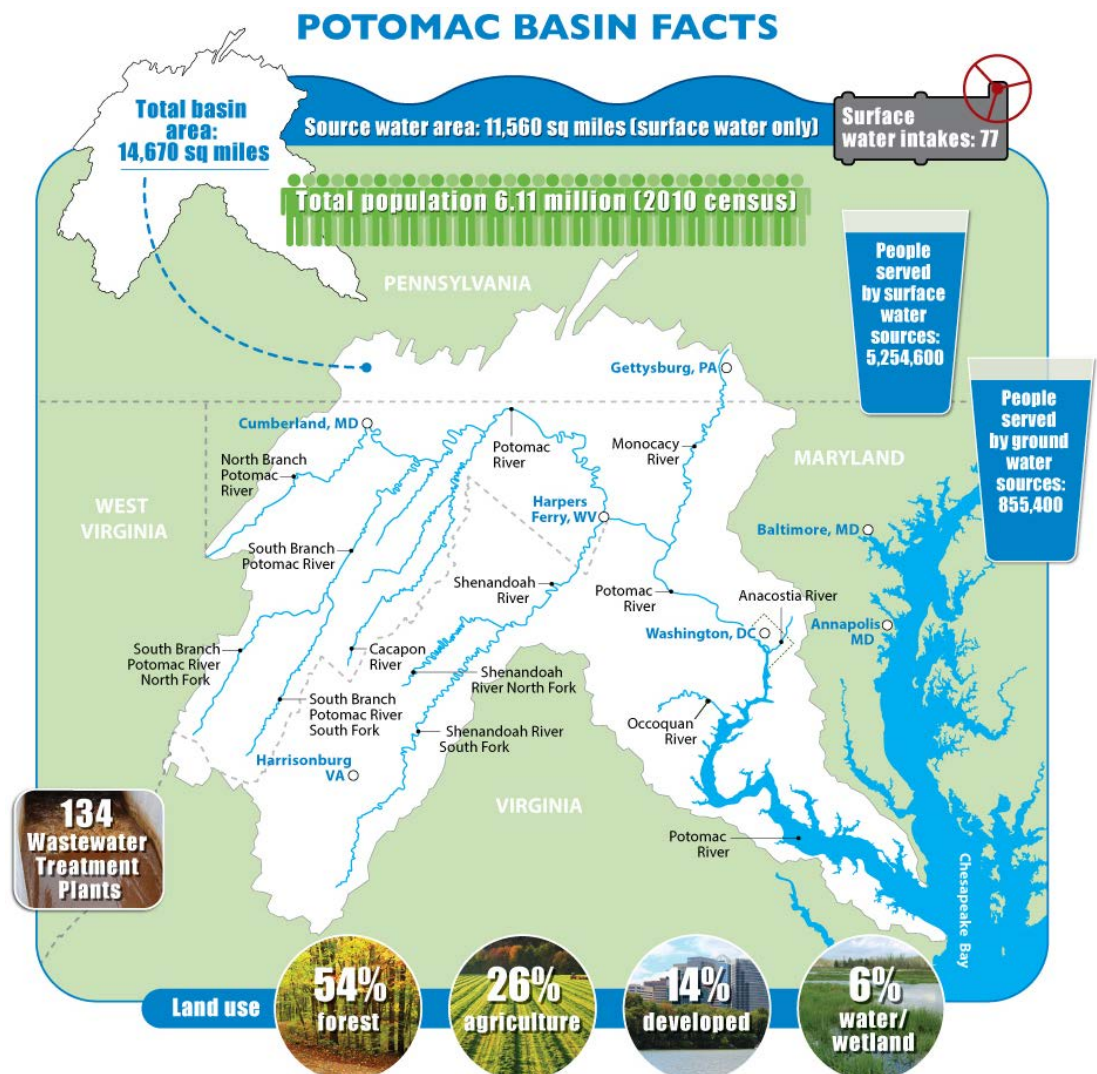
Tom Jacobus, General Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Aqueduct Division

About the Partnership

Established in 2004, DWSP is a coalition of water utilities and state, interstate, and federal authorities. Twenty organizations are official members, with others participating in Partnership meetings, workshops, and activities.

Mission Statement

DWSP serves as a cooperative, voluntary partnership working toward the goal of improved source water protection for the Potomac River basin in recognition of the vital role of the river and its tributaries in supplying drinking water to millions of people and in support of the multi-barrier approach to safeguarding the public drinking water supply.



2014 in Review

For more than a decade, the Partnership's work groups have served as the primary drivers for successful protection initiatives. By sharing information and tracking issues that impact the basin, they prioritize strategic efforts to address member needs and challenges. The 2014 work group accomplishments are highlighted below.

- The Government Committee hosted a meeting on harmful algal blooms to engage member and non-member stakeholders on management strategies.
- Emerging Contaminants Work Group members monitored the occurrence of unregulated compounds by tracking utility data collected in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.
- The Partnership supported regional efforts to understand and manage the emergence of compounds associated with pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water supplies.
- State-level activities to manage nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay were followed closely by the Agricultural Issues Work Group.
- The Urban Issues Work Group tracked National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits up for renewal, updated a list of stormwater regulations, and sponsored a session on stormwater permitting in Maryland's Montgomery County.
- A list of water supply criteria under each state's water quality regulatory program was updated by the Urban Issues Work Group to better understand what is regulated by the Clean Water Act.
- The Early Warning and Emergency Response Work Group met with Colonial Pipeline, a major carrier of oil and gas, to discuss spill prevention and emergency response capabilities.
- In addition to tracking water quality trends in the basin, the Water Quality Data Work Group sponsored a session on alkalinity trends in the Eastern United States.
- The Reaching Out Work Group developed a list of source water protection best practices and authored a related blog post for the Potomac Conservancy.

Looking Ahead to 2015

In 2015, the Partnership will continue to improve its understanding of water quality issues and expand efforts to protect and manage the basin's water resources. The work groups have identified the following priorities in their 2015 work plans.

- The Government Committee will lead the Partnership's effort to update the basin's source water assessment and develop a watershed-based protection plan.
- Members of the Emerging Contaminants Work Group will continue to track unregulated contaminant data, research, and legislation. The group also will consider hosting an information session to share the Potomac basin data with interested stakeholders and will track and support a DC Water research project on sources of endocrine disrupting compounds in the Potomac River.
- The Agricultural Issues Work Group plans to hold an information session on regulatory requirements and related efforts to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Best management practices regarding roadway deicing strategies will be developed by Urban Issues Work Group members to reduce negative impact on drinking water supplies.
- The Early Warning and Emergency Response Work Group will coordinate a joint spill exercise with Colonial Pipeline to improve emergency management plans.
- Water Quality Data Work Group members will create maps related to water quality in the basin and track data collection efforts of basin users.
- In addition to assisting with messaging around unregulated contaminants, the Reaching Out Work Group will identify outreach goals and develop a communications plan.
- The Partnership will seek funding to study the impact of forest cover on drinking water quality in coordination with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.

For More Information:

Visit www.PotomacDWSPP.org or contact Karin Bencala, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; 301-274-8139; kbencala@icprb.org.

Member Organizations: City of Frederick, Md. – City of Hagerstown, Md. – City of Rockville, Md. – District Department of Energy & Environment – DC Water – Fairfax Water, Va. – Frederick County, Md. – Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin – Loudoun Water, Va. – Md. Department of the Environment – Pa. Department of Environmental Protection – Town of Leesburg, Va. – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 – U.S. Geological Survey – Va. Department of Environmental Quality – Va. Department of Health – Washington Aqueduct Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Washington County, Md. – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Md. – W.Va. Department of Health and Human Resources – W.Va. Department of Environmental Protection