



## POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for August 26, 2015

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

### Attendees

#### Utilities

DC Water:  
Saul Kinter  
Ying Tan

Fairfax Water:  
Mishelle Noble-Blair  
Greg Prelewicz  
Niffy Saji

Leesburg:  
Russell Chambers

Loudoun Water:  
Cathy Cogswell

Rockville:  
Judy Ding

Washington Aqueduct:  
Shabir Choudhary  
Alex Gorzalski  
Jude McKenna  
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:  
Martin Chandler  
Priscilla To

#### State and Local Government

DOEE:  
Collin Burrell  
Shah Nawaz

MDE:  
John Grace

Pa. DEP:  
Patrick Bowling

VDH:  
Roy Soto

WV DHHR:  
Scott Rodeheaver  
Monica Whyte

#### Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:  
Catherine Magliochetti

ICPRB:  
Karin Bencala  
Renee Bourassa  
Curtis Dalpra  
Michael Glassman  
Carlton Haywood  
Heidi Moltz

MWCOG:  
Mukhtar Ibrahim  
Lisa Ragain  
Lana Sindler

USGS:  
Cheryl Dieter  
Elizabeth Shipley

#### Other Interested Parties

Md. DNR:  
Dan Boward

## Workgroup and Committee Reports

### ***Emerging Contaminants*** – Martin Chandler, WSSC

DC Water's Potomac EDC research project: Three grab sample rounds have been completed at wastewater effluent, agricultural, and anthropogenic-influenced sites. Not enough results are in yet to determine if there are any trends, but estrone has commonly been detected. The goal will be to look for any geographic patterns in EDC detection. Passive (POCIS) sampling units should be installed in August.

Microbeads: This new issue has been raised by a number of utilities and DOEE. Microbeads are very small plastic particles used in consumer products. They are able to pass through WWTP filtration and are not absorbed into sludge. There is a vast number of these floating in the ocean and they have been found in the Great Lakes. Because of their presence in the environment, they could be in the drinking water sources. The question is whether or not they are in the Potomac or one or more of the reservoirs. The workgroup will start looking into the science on microbeads and consider it for a 2016 priority issue.

UCMR3 data tracking: M. Chandler continues to track results from UCMR3 in the EPA's database. A summary of the June numbers were sent to the workgroup. Instead of occurring quarterly, updates from the EPA will now be made semi-annually. Of the approximate 50 Potomac utilities required to do monitoring, 90% have begun reporting. Thirty-two have completed their sampling. As noted previously, finished water detection of chlorate and metals (chromium, strontium, and vanadium) continues. There have been several detections of perfluorinated compounds and VOCs. There have been no detections of hormones.

WRF research project updates: Project 4323 (consumer perceptions and attitudes toward EDCs and PPCPs in drinking water) has been completed. Lisa Ragain (MWCOG) reported that a new project is underway, #4551, to implement the findings from #4323.

Tracking legislation and regulations: Senate bill 697, the Lautenberg Chemical Safety for 21st Century Act, would make minor amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). It was reported from Committee and is now being considered by the full Senate. HR.212 was signed into law in August and amends the SDWA to require the EPA to develop a plan to assess and manage the risks posed by harmful algal blooms. The EPA issued a Health Advisory on select algal toxins in June.

Take-back events: DEA-sponsored events are starting up again. The national event will be on September 26. Events in Pennsylvania will be held on September 12. COG's Community Engagement Campaign is working with local police and health departments to spread the word.

### ***Early Warning and Emergency Response*** – Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

Source Water Assessment update: L. Ragain provided an update on the metro area source water assessment project with Corona Environmental Consulting. [Her slides are available here.](#) The Partnership has been assisting with the delineation of the zone of critical concern (ZCC). This zone will define the area for which Corona will conduct a more detailed assessment of threats. The potential sources of contamination within the ZCC will go through a risk ranking process.

The tool is meant to be a living product that is easy to update and access. The AWWA G300 source water assessment standard is being used to make sure all necessary components are included and to set an example for how to do a thorough assessment.

Corona is in the process of contacting state agencies to learn what data can be shared for the project. Corona may need help getting Tier II reports from the counties. Utilities might find it useful to participate in LEPC meetings in their area. Other DWSPP members may be asked for help once data gaps are identified. There will be no public review of the data or the tool. However, MWCOG and Fairfax Water staff recently participated in a WRF Project (# 4581) review workshop of the underlying tool that Corona is using for the metro area source water assessment project. The metro area project work is expected to be completed in April.

The utilities that are participating in the project will determine who can have access to the tool; no decisions have been made yet. The DWSPP membership remains very interested in using the tool for source water protection. It could be used to evaluate the Partnership's list of priority issues and refocus our efforts.

Exercise with Colonial Pipeline: The exercise was held on June 3. It allowed all the various players who would be involved in a large-scale response to get to know one another and sort out everyone's role. Follow-up discussions are being held to address issues raised during the exercise. COG is writing up a summary of the exercise and next steps.

Travel Time Tools: ICPRB continues to explore the available tools for estimating travel times to intakes downstream of a spill. In addition to the ICPRB model, IC Water can now also be run. NOAA's GNOME model is being considered as an option for modeling spills of floating substances into a reservoir.

***Government Committee*** – Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy & Environment

Monocacy: An initial meeting to discuss a source water effort in the Monocacy watershed was held on May 13 at the Frederick County Health Department. Participants included planners from Frederick and Carroll counties and the City of Frederick, Maryland, and Adams County, Pennsylvania. There are already many watershed protection projects in progress at the county level. There was interest in finding ways to better engage with watershed's water suppliers. The next step is to draft a list of questions for the suppliers that will help us better understand their interest in source water protection. The meeting's participants offered to help get responses from the utilities. As the effort moves forward, it would be helpful for one or more of the DWSPP utilities to provide their perspective in planning meetings.

West Virginia: Suppliers are required to submit protection plans by July 1, 2016. Monica Whyte is working with all the systems in the Potomac area to meet the due date. Two meetings to review requirements for these plans with the suppliers were held in early September in the Eastern Panhandle. ICPRB sent a representative to each meeting.

WV DHHR will likely hold a Source Water Protection Table Top Emergency Exercise in the Eastern Panhandle this fall. October 8<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> were discussed as possible dates. This could be an opportunity to discuss joining DWSPP or starting a supplier committee in the region.

***Reaching Out*** – Karin Bencala, ICPRB, for Nicole Kaiser, DC Water

Annual Report: Copies of the 2014 Annual Report were distributed. Minor changes were requested. The updated version is available on the [DWSPP website](#).

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18. We need to decide on a location and theme for the meeting. Suggested locations were Leesburg, Loudoun Water, Fairfax

Water, and the Berkeley County Sewer District. A tour of the Loudoun Water intake construction was suggested as an option for a field trip.

#### **Water Quality Data** – Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

Cyanotoxins: The workgroup has started an effort to list and map cyanotoxin monitoring stations in the basin. Maryland Department of Natural Resources' data are available on their [Eyes on the Bay](#) mapping tool, though there are only two monitoring locations in the non-tidal Potomac basin. Virginia Department of Health has an [algal bloom surveillance map](#). The Va. Department of Environmental Quality has shared information on monitoring station locations. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Quality does little monitoring for HABs. HABs are really only a concern for them in the Great Lakes region. The workgroup is looking for contacts in West Virginia and will follow up with WV DHHR.

ICPRB continues to maintain the [water quality data inventory spreadsheet and interactive map](#).

#### **Urban Issues** – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

WQS: EPA issued the final rule updating Water Quality Standard regulations. One highlight is that there is now more opportunity for public involvement in the process. [Learn more about the changes from the EPA](#).

The survey to gauge water utilities' understanding of Water Quality Standards (WQS) was circulated. Thirteen responses have been received so far. A reminder will be sent soon. Algae, suspended solids, organics, taste and odor, DBPs, pesticides, and EDCs, among others, have been listed as contaminants of interest. Some respondents are very supportive and others are skeptical of using WQS for source water protection. A concern was raised about whether this signaled an intention to push for stricter standards at wastewater treatment plants. This is not the intention and has not been a focus of the workgroup.

NPDES Permits: A number of NPDES permits are still moving through the renewal process. The workgroup has requested a copy of the Ft. Detrick wastewater treatment plant permit to review due to the chemical research activities on the base.

Road Salts: The workgroup will use the information gained from the speaker at the May quarterly meeting, Steve Corsi, and from the subsequent discussion to determine how to move forward on road salts. There was a meeting in June of the Washington and Baltimore council of governments to discuss joint procurement of road salt alternatives. This could be an opportunity to expand the use of alternatives to other counties and states. Utilities might look into what products are used on their own sites and use it as a way to set an example for using environmentally friendly products.

The workgroup will hold its next call on September 30 at 1 pm.

## **Information Session**

### **Water quality monitoring in Maryland**

Dan Boward, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

[Presentation slides are posted to the website.](#)

The [Maryland Water Monitoring Council](#)'s annual meeting is on November 13. The meeting's theme is [Protecting the Source - Sustaining Maryland's Waters](#).

## **Issue Updates**

Harmful Algal Blooms: L. Ragain provided an update on COG's efforts to track which utilities are conducting HAB monitoring, engage health officials, and develop messages for use in the event of a bloom. The regional talking points can be shared with the Partnership.

ICPRB conducts algae monitoring in upstream tributaries in Virginia and West Virginia. Their focus is on ecological and recreational impacts rather than algal toxins in drinking water.

WRF/U.S. Endowment forest project: The funding for this project has been approved and contracting is underway with WRF. Work is set to begin on October 1 and last 2 years.

## **2016 Planning**

Budget: A draft budget for the year was circulated. No comments were received following the meeting. The document was finalized and circulated to members.

Work Plan: A new process and format for the annual work plan was discussed. It has been suggested that a small number of priority issues be identified and worked on by all members instead of the smaller issues being taken on by the workgroups. Workgroups could nominate issues for the year and then all members can vote. Workgroups would continue their efforts to track related research and policy. K. Bencala will work with the workgroup chairs to define a process for the 2016 work plan.

## **Announcements**

C. Burrell recently met with the Potomac Riverkeeper and discussed how our groups could leverage one another to get priority issues addressed.

Roy Soto will be presenting the evolution of the VDH source water program at the [Virginia AWWA Water Jam](#) on September 15.

**Annual Meeting:  
November 18, 2015**