



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for May 12, 2015

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

DC Water:
Nicole Kaiser
Maureen Schmelling

Fairfax Water:
Mishelle Noble-Blair
Greg Prelewicz
Niffy Saji
Joel Thompson

Hagerstown:
Nancy Hausrath

Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Loudoun Water:
Susan Crosby
Beate Wright

Rockville:
Judy Ding
Heather Gewandter

Washington Aqueduct:
Jude McKenna
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Priscilla To

State and Local Government

DDOE:
Collin Burrell
Shah Nawaz

MDE:
John Grace

Pa. DEP:
Patrick Bowling

VDH:
Roy Soto

WV DHHR:
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Amie Howell

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Curtis Dalpra
Carlton Haywood

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber

USGS:
Cheryl Dieter
Elizabeth Shipley

Other Interested Parties

Maryland Rural Water:
Ginny Siemer

Montgomery County:
Dave Lake

Information Session

River Chloride Trends in Snow-Affected Urban Watersheds: Increasing Concentrations Outpace Urban Growth Rate and Are Common Among All Seasons

Steve Corsi, USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center

Paper in Science of the Total Environment

Presentation slides will be posted to www.PotomacDWSPP.org as soon as they are available.

Following the presentation there was a discussion of what is being experienced in the region related to road salts and what DWSPP's role on the topic should be.

- MDE has found increased radionuclide in the same aquifers where chloride is increasing.
- WSSC noted the secondary consequences of increased chlorides, such as changes in the treatment process.
- Fairfax Water has to raise pH during the treatment process in the winter.
- DC Water's cast iron mains are corroding. Thought it could be related to road salts because of the related change in the chloride-sulfate ratio.
- Information on the impacts to water utilities could be collected and used to help make the case for reduced application.
- To know how significant of a reduction in road salts is needed to reduce complications at treatment plants, changes would need to be modeled. There is enough data in the region to put together a pretty good model.
- It would be helpful to know how long the current applications of road salts will continue to affect trends.
- Need to change the behavior of the state governments.
- Interesting article on the issue, "[How America got addicted to road salt — and why it's a problem.](#)"
- The Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team for the Baltimore and Washington regions has a Green Purchasing program. They are developing an RFP for alternative deicing products. They are looking for volunteers to comment on the specifications to go into the RFP and then for volunteers to review the proposals. A forum for vendors was held subsequent to this meeting on June 16.
- Both Maryland and DC are working on water quality standards for chloride.
- The Maryland Water Monitoring Council is planning a workshop on road salts this fall
- The focus of the workgroup should be on training and education in the basin.
 - o Could work with the Maryland Transportation Technology Center at UMD, which educates transportation agencies on a variety of issues including winter operations.
 - o Partner with Baltimore Metro COG since they are also working on the issue.
 - o Advocate for training and certification programs for operators as is done in other regions.
 - o Hold a conference to engage other communities.
 - o Need to reach out to elected officials since they direct the activities of the public works departments.
 - o MS4 permit holders could be a good partner.

Workgroup and Committee Reports

Urban Issues – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

The survey to gauge water utilities' understanding of Water Quality Standards is ready for distribution to utilities in the basin.

EPA R3 provided an updated list of NPDES permits in the basin. The workgroup will take a look at this new list for potential permits of interest. In the past quarter, two facilities came up for review: George's Chicken and Cascades Canada. The George's Chicken permit was discussed with the Emerging Contaminants workgroup; it was decided not to comment on the permit. Cascades Canada is an inactive paper and pulp plant. The facility has been gutted but the owners are keeping the permits up to date for potential future buyers. There is a possibility that the water appropriations permit has already been lost due to non-use.

Agricultural Issues – Karin Bencala, ICPRB

Since no workgroup chair has been identified, it was decided that Ag workgroup would cease activities for the time being. This will be revisited in the fall during the annual planning work plan process. There was a suggestion that instead of focusing on specific tasks for the workgroups, we focus on the priority tasks we would like to accomplish and figure out the best way to do so.

Water Quality Data – Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

The [inventory of water quality monitoring efforts and an associated map](#) are now available through ICPRB.

In conjunction with the other workgroup chairs looking into HAB issues, the workgroup has been gathering information cyanotoxins.

An information session will be held at the summer meeting on water quality monitoring efforts in Maryland.

Emerging Contaminants – Martin Chandler, WSSC

The workgroup continues to track UCMR3 data and circulate results to members

Fairfax Water was interested in comparing EC data with other utilities, but it doesn't look like the data match up well. If utilities are interested in discussing this, contact Joel Thompson.

Early Warning and Emergency Response – Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

Exercise with Colonial Pipeline:

The table-top exercise was held following this meeting on June 3. The focus was on communications and determining agency roles and responsibilities. It was widely attended by utilities, Colonial Pipeline, first responders, and federal and state response agencies.

Source Water Assessment update:

COG/Corona Environmental Consulting, Steve Bieber, COG – A kick-off meeting was held on April 22. Project participants and members of the EW/ER workgroup met separately to discuss possible extents for the zone of critical concern. Once defined, Corona will use this area to bound its detailed aerial review of storage tanks. Monthly conference calls are being held to keep the project on track. Updates will be provided at quarterly DWSPP meetings.

DC Source Water Assessment Update, Amie Howell, EPA R3 – This effort is being put on hold while the Corona project is getting underway. The goal is to have one effort supported by all members. Once data gaps and additional needs can be identified from the Corona project, EPA will work with the Partnership to provide additional technical support. To avoid duplication, piloting DWMAPS for this effort is no longer being considered at this time. However, it may still be a resource in the future and should be valuable to states and utilities outside of the DC metropolitan area. A test version of DWMAPS is expected to be available in July/August and to go live this fall. EPA is still looking for state and utility volunteers to participate in the testing.

Other issues:

COG real-time monitors – Utilities are interested to know the levels at which others set alarms for the monitors. COG has guidelines for a regional alert process, but it is up to each utility to decide how to fold the information into their own emergency response plans. The COG monitoring group could look into these issues.

Reaching Out – Nicole Kaiser, DC Water

The draft annual report will be circulated to workgroup chairs for comment soon.

There is a lot of overlap between DWSPP’s interests and those of COG’s Community Engagement Campaign. Since Nicole has a role in both groups, she will help to coordinate efforts. The CEC can be particularly helpful in getting information out to the public. One possible project is to develop a graphic explaining unregulated contaminant monitoring and findings.

Government Committee – Collin Burrell, District Department of the Environment

Subsequent to this meeting, an initial meeting to discuss an effort in the Monocacy was held on May 13 at the Frederick County Health Department. In attendance were planners from Frederick and Carroll counties and the City of Frederick, Maryland, and Adams County, Pennsylvania. Participants discussed water quality issues and current efforts to address them. As follow up, the participants will help gather feedback from water systems on their water quality concerns.

WV DHHR is developing a series of Source Water Protection Table Top Emergency Exercises to be held in several areas within the state. An exercise for the Potomac region may be held sometime in fall 2015 to bring these surface systems together and to discuss the Potomac Partnership. These Potomac systems are included in the next round of state funding grants that will fund part of the WV SWAP plans. Monica Whyte continues to visit systems in the region.

Issue Updates

Harmful Algal Blooms – The EPA held a public meeting to discuss the recently published health advisory. [Learn more about EPA’s work on HABs.](#)

Ad hoc workgroup members drafted an HAB monitoring proposal in response to potential funding from EPA R3. It does not appear that this funding will come through, but looking for other funding sources is a possibility.

HABs were discussed at the recent EPA R3 water directors meeting. There will likely be a meeting on the topic this fall in Virginia for the state agencies to discuss common concerns and interests.

Administration

ICPRB's role in the Partnership – C. Haywood provided background information on ICPRB's role in the basin and staff technical capabilities. ICPRB's role as the Partnership's coordinator was also discussed. To learn more about ICPRB, visit. www.PotomacRiver.org.

Announcements

The USGS is working to improve its water use data. It will be providing grants to states in order to get better data related to withdrawals and consumptive uses. The details are still being worked out, but there will be a focus on collaboration between states so watersheds can be the area of interest. There will be up to \$250,000 in total grant funding available in the region.

Rick Rogers is EPA R3's new Associate Director of Drinking Water and Source Water Protection, filling Vicky Binetti's role.

**Next Quarterly Meeting:
August 26, 2015**