



Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Quarterly Meeting Summary for May 16, 2018
Location: ICPRB Office, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

Berkeley County:
Briana Caison
Steve DeRidder

City of Rockville:
Judy Ding

DC Water:
Kailoon Chen
John Deignan
Saul Kinter
Matt Ries

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

Loudoun Water:
Pam Kenel

Washington Aqueduct:
Alexander Gorzalski
Anna Hayden
Margaret Sharkey
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Robin Forte
Julie Karceski
Jin Shin
Priscilla To

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Collin Burrell

MDE:
John Grace
Jonathan Rice
Michael Richardson

PA DEP:
Patrick Bowling
Kristina Peacock-Jones

WV BPH:
Monica Whyte

VDH:
Aaron Moses

Va. DEQ:
Sarah Sivers

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Beth Garcia
Cathy Magliocchetti
Rick Rogers

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Renee Bourassa
Curtis Dalpra
Carlton Haywood
Heidi Moltz
Jim Palmer
Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Matthew Pajerowski

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Rick Rogers, EPA Region 3

Business Meeting

1. Staff Changes

Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

Jim Palmer of ICPRB will be retiring this summer. His role as DWSPP facilitator will be filled by Renee Bourassa. She has been working with DWSPP behind-the-scenes for about a year, sending out the biweekly newsletter, attending meetings, and creating the meeting minutes.

2. Schuylkill Action Network Ag Work Group

Beth Garcia, EPA Region 3 ([Presentation](#))

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) formed in 2003. The group provides funds for many on-the-ground watershed projects, including acid mine drainage, agricultural remediation, and stormwater runoff improvements. SAN is a partnership of over 150 organizations, including utilities, government agencies, non-profits, and businesses.

Looking at the land use and the source water assessment in different areas of the watershed helps formulate how SAN moves forward. Threats to the watershed include mining, agriculture, and development. SAN chose workgroup (WG) hubs in the areas most affected by that workgroup issue. For example, the Agriculture WG hub is based in the most agriculturally-intense area of the watershed.

The Agricultural Workgroup was able to identify mutually beneficial goals so they could work together and get more done. Farmers, non-profits, water utilities, ag restoration technicians, and regulatory agencies are all part of the agricultural WG. It is vital to have people familiar with the agricultural community in order to be successful. Everyone may not have identical goals, but they do have parallel goals. Collaboration and prioritization are important for success. The Ag WG goals are: (1) Support implementation of projects that demonstrate Ag BMPs in priority areas, (2) provide a forum for partner and agency communication around Ag impacts, (3) promote Ag BMPs via education and outreach, and (4) Monitor impacts of Ag BMPs on water quality. [A Farmer's Guide for Healthy Communities](#) is part of the outreach material.

SAN took a "Whole Farm Approach" with farms, which involves applying BMPs to the entire farm. This includes liquid manure storage, buffered streams, stream crossings, dry manure storage, cisterns and rain barrels, and downspouts and gutters on buildings.

Water quality monitoring initiatives give tangible results for BMP projects. In order to show improvement, it is important to have historical, longitudinal data before implementing BMPs.

Large funding opportunities are great, but small, local grants can help fill the gaps for project funds. The Bay is considered a Critical Conservation Area which allows for funds from NRCS.

Monocacy/Catoctin in the Potomac watershed has been identified as an Area of Interest for the National Water Quality Initiative which makes it a priority for funding. Possible next steps could include identifying priority watersheds, establish relationships with key partners, identify WG members, create a work plan that identifies goals and actions, target sub-watersheds, identify utilities common regulatory requirements, and identify funding resources. There are a lot of national source water collaborative tools: [How to Build and Maintain Effective Partnerships to Protect Sources of Drinking Water](#), [Protecting Drinking Water Sources through Ag Conservation](#), and [CWA/DSWA Integration Toolkit](#).

Pam Kenel raised a question about 319 funds in Virginia and Maryland. She suggested a focus group with the conservation districts to figure out the best ways to engage. It was also suggested to invite NRCS to the table as well as someone from the nonpoint source program in Virginia.

Patrick Bowling noted that the [Mason-Dixon Working Lands Partnership](#) is an existing USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project which includes the Monocacy catchment in Maryland along with [Franklin County, PA](#). Also, water suppliers may be partners in RCPP projects.

POST NOTE:

John Grace, MDE, provided the name of the MDE 319 Grant Coordinator, Eric Ruby. In addition, there are 3 Maryland watersheds (Aaron Run, Lower Monocacy, and Antietam) within the Potomac Basin that already have approved plans. More information about the 319 program including the watershed plans can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

3. Virginia Salt Management Strategy

Sarah Sivers, Va. DEQ ([Presentation](#))

The Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) project stemmed from the chloride TMDL in the Accotink Creek watershed. The Accotink watershed is over 50 square miles, 28% impervious, and has poor biological health. Water quality monitoring identified exceedences of the water quality criteria for chloride, and that spikes were typically seen following winter storm events. The scope of the project is larger than Accotink Creek's watershed to apply the strategy proactively to the Northern Virginia area due to similar issues in neighboring watersheds. The boundaries correspond with VDOT's Northern Virginia District and the Virginia State Police Division 7.

Deicing materials have a myriad of public safety benefits, including slip and fall reduction, crash reduction, and maintaining economic activity during storms. However, it is also toxic to aquatic life, corrosive to infrastructure, and affects public health. This project aims to find the balance between the positive and the negative impacts of deicing materials, while maintaining high standards for public safety.

SaMS has a strong focus on implementation. What are we doing and how can we do it better? This includes improved BMP awareness and implementation. There is also a strong stakeholder-driven focus.

This strategy addresses both regulated and non-regulated sources within the Accotink Creek watershed. It will be a resource to permittees to address requirements as well as for entities who are voluntarily reducing use. This could lead to deferring or avoiding additional TMDLs outside the Accotink Watershed and potential cost-savings.

Stakeholder engagement is key to the project. Engaging a wide variety of stakeholders increases awareness and viability of the project. Stakeholders include MS4 Permittees, environmental groups, commissions/governments, universities, HOAs, property owners, winter maintenance services, water purveyors, and public safety employees. Stakeholder outreach efforts have included contacting potential interested parties, giving presentations, stakeholder survey, and a dedicated webpage.

Objectives (still in draft form) for development of the SaMS include:

- Comprehensively describe the effects of deicing/anti-icing salt use and identify and summarize the costs and benefits of winter storm operations.
- Collaboratively develop a suite of best practices to minimize the negative effects of deicing/anti-icing salts.
- Develop a comprehensive education and outreach plan to increase awareness of the benefits and impacts of winter salt use for both the public and political leaders to promote positive behavioral changes.
- Explore funding opportunities, operational cost savings, and broader incentives, such as certification requirements/tort reform, to support implementation.
- Develop recommendations for a monitoring and research program to better understand water quality patterns related to salt application throughout Northern Virginia.
- Develop options to assess effectiveness and methods to track and report salt usage.

A large Stakeholder Advisory Committee is broken up into Work Groups. Each WG is anticipated to meet 3 times. The anticipated Work Group topics are: Traditional BMPs, Non-Traditional Practices, Education and Outreach, Monitoring, Salt Tracking and Reporting, and Government Coordination.

4. WV Source Water Protection Outreach

Monica Whyte, WVBPH

As part of the SWP outreach, there was a workshop on Source Water Protection Outreach Funding on March 28 in West Virginia. Officials from WVBPH, BCPSWD, Harpers Ferry Water Commission, Berkeley Springs Water Works, City of Martinsburg, WVPSC, WVDEP, EPA Region 3, Region 8 Planning and Development Council, and others attended. Jim and Renee of ICPRB talked about DWSPP, Groups.io, and table-top exercises. A panel discussed Federal, State, and local funding opportunities, including financing law. The attendees had a lot of great questions, including prioritizing SW funding with what the PSC allows. Megan Keegan from EPA talked about WIFIA funds. David Lillard from West Virginia Rivers Coalition gave a talk on Private Lands, Public Waters. Alana Hartman of WV DEP and Matt Pennington of Region 9 RP&D Council presented on 319 locations, on-going projects and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

When discussing the next steps, the group seemed very interested in holding a table-top exercise specifically for the Upper Potomac.

The WV Outreach Funding meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

5. Draft Final Dickerson NPDES Permit Q&A

Michael Richardson, MDE, and Jonathan Rice, MDE ([Presentation](#))

An NPDES permit is a surface water discharge permit. This permit is not for a municipal discharge, but for an industrial discharge. Industrial just means non-residential wastewater and includes discharges like power plants like the NRG Power Plant in Dickerson, MD. The permits must be renewed every 5 years.

The NRG NPDES permit is up for renewal. A public meeting was held in September 2017. The Potomac waters suppliers made comments on spill preventing/monitoring, spill notification, discharge of bromides, and hexavalent chromium.

One of the main comments from the drinking water suppliers stemmed from the delayed notification from the sheen event in 2016. During the permit renewal process, MDE requested information from NRG on all spill detection equipment, any changes since 2016, etc. The Spills Prevention Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements cover much of the spill detection protocols and MDE found that many of the public suggestions were already in place. The plant has secondary containment on oil tanks and equipment. NRG staff have done a complete pipe inventory and sealed unused pipes. A boom is in place at White's Ferry. MDE will add a requirement into the final permit that NRG staff perform a visual monitoring requirement of the outflow more than once a day.

Additional notification requirements will also be added to the permit. These are: notifying authorities within 4 hours of a spill, notifying ICPRB, and notifying MDE's water supply program directly.

Treatment additives could contribute to bromide discharge. Monitoring for bromides found no significant increase in bromides from intake to discharge of the cooling water. A small amount might be added from other sources though. MDE believes a recent addition of ultra-filtration has promise to reduce bromide to low or undetectable levels. MDE will continue to monitor bromide loading monthly. The issue will be revisited after one year. Their discharge average has been 87,000 gallons/day out of the flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater treatment plant.

The original permit draft did not require hexavalent chromium (Cr-VI) monitoring. Cr-VI is in solid form and removed with other solids. The draft and the final permit will have limits on solids. The levels of Cr-VI were at less than the detection level at all internal outfalls except for the FGD outfall. At the FGD outfall it is 3.4% of the MCL. At discharge (after uniting with the much larger cooling water stream) it is diluted 3,200:1.

Carlton Haywood asked if there was a requirement to test the boom at White's Ferry. It was not known how often it was tested. Testing of the boom is not required by the NPDES permit, but it may be required by the SPCC permit.

6. EPA Region 3 SWP Leadership Forum

Beth Garcia, EPA Region 3 ([Presentation](#))

The forum was held on March 6, 2018, with 80 attendees representing federal, state, and local organizations, academia, drinking water utilities, environmental organizations, and others.

The two salient themes throughout the sessions were partnerships and communication is essential, and identifying shared goals leads to results. The agenda included emerging challenges, source water collaboratives, messaging and branding, SWP tools, leveraging funding, early warning systems, and more. These were based on suggestions made through a survey from the previous forum.

Presentations and materials from the forum are available on the Sharepoint site, Mid-Atlantic Drinking Water Source Protection Network. This network is utilized as a virtual forum to share information and connect with other SWP professionals. For access, contact [Cathy Magliocchetti](#) of EPA Region 3.

Feedback from the survey sent after the forum will be used to plan future events. As long as there is interest, these events will most likely be planned every 18 months or so.

7. Strategic Plan/Work Groups Update

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water ([Presentation](#))

DWSPP organizational documents are being updated as the current documents don't capture key operational details. Specifically, Priorities, Work Groups, and Priority Projects need to be redefined. A planning survey was completed to help inform the process.

Four activities need to be accomplished this year: (1) Refresh WG-leadership and members, update scope of issues and priority projects, (2) [current phase] Develop a work plan template with a 2-year outlook, (3) Establish a web-based tool for WG's to work efficiently, and (4) edit the governing documents.

The next steps involve creating a work plan template to be shared with the WGs. WG's need to convene to redo their documents and work plan. The August DWSPP meeting will most likely involve a WG report-out and Priority Project discussion. ICPRB staff will develop ideas for an online platform for the WGs to utilize.

WG Chairs will contact their members (collected from the [Doodle Poll](#)) to start this process.

Chairs are:

1. Agricultural issues: Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
2. Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Co-Chairs: Martin Chandler, WSSC, and Pat Bowling, Pa. DEP. (Algae Workgroup is a sub-group, with Cathy Magliocchetti as Chair)
3. Early Warning/Emergency Response: Carlton Haywood, ICPRB
4. Reaching Out: Co-Chairs: Lisa Ragain, MWCOG, and John Deignan, DC Water.
5. Urban Issues: Mishelle Noble-Blair, Fairfax Water
6. Water Quality Monitoring & Data: Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

Rick Rogers made a comment that he will be working on a more formal process for DWSPP meeting attendance. A conference call will be held to discuss this issue. It will also be brought to the Partnership for further discussion.

8. Potomac Spill Exercise Planning Update

Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water

The last meeting was in April, the next meeting will be next week. The event will most likely be held in September and include a pre-exercise seminar in July or August. Part of the exercise will be to use the Spill Response Plan that the DWSPP WQ WG has been working on.

A consultant, Horsley Witten Group, has been obtained to help facilitate. The first conference call with them was held recently.

9. U.S. Endowment Collaboration Update

Alex Gorzalski, USACE

The utilities are looking at the next steps as a followup from the Forestry Project. How can they collaborate to protect forests? A recent conference call with the U.S. Endowment, ICPRB, and the utilities explored the options. The U.S. Endowment for Forestry wants to see forested areas protected throughout the United States.

Before making any decisions, the utilities want to know more about what other utilities are doing. The U.S. Endowment is looking to set up that webinar/conference call. Gorzalski will touch base with U.S. Endowment to see about setting this up.

Karin Bencala asked about the wider interest of the DWSPP members (beyond the utilities) in going forward with a forestry project. There seemed to be general consensus of the Partnership that this work is worthwhile.

10. Open Discussion

Rick Rogers, EPA Region 3 – EPA has enlisted assistance from Horsley Witten to redo the Source Water Assessment from the Potomac River basin. The members will be kept informed about the process.

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB – Draft text has been created for the Forestry Project pages on the websites of ICPRB and DWSPP. A short, general description will be on ICPRB's page while a longer, more technical version will be on DWSPP's page. [Contact her](#) to see a copy of the draft.

Saul Kinter, DC Water – DC Water has announced their new general manager, David Gadis. The transition will happen soon.

Alex Gorzalski, USACE – An op-ed for the AWWA journal is being drafted by the utilities for the Forestry Project.

Rick Rogers, EPA Region 3 – PFAS/PFOAs are being phased out, but they (and others) can still be found in the environment. EPA is working to come up with a specific health value for drinking water and contamination sites. A [PFAS National Leadership Summit](#) is being held May 22-23. The first part of the summit will be webcast. Lisa Ragain, MWCOG, noted that there are BMPs for PFAS/PFOAs available for distribution. Pat Bowling, PaDEP, noted that a chemist provided a presentation on the analytical methods and challenges associated with PFASs for the Region III Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Workgroup last fall. The presentation is posted on the Region III CEC Workgroup Sharepoint site.

Upcoming Events Mentioned in the Meeting

[PFAS National Leadership Summit](#): May 22-23
Potomac DWSPP Quarterly Meetings: August 15
Potomac DWSPP Annual Meeting: November 7