



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for February 24, 2015

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

DC Water:
Nicole Condon
Jessica Edwards-Brandt
Andy Le
Fikremariam Tesfai

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

Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell
Mark Peterson

Rockville:
Judy Ding
Glenn Maggard

Washington Aqueduct:
Shabir Choudhary
Alex Gorzalski
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Priscilla To

State and Local Government

DDOE:
Collin Burrell
Shah Nawaz

MDE:
Robert Peoples
Lyn Poorman

VDH:
Roy Soto

WV DHHR:
Scott Rodeheaver
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Bill Arguto
Michelle Hoover
Amie Howell
Susan Yi

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Curtis Dalpra
Carlton Haywood

MWCOG:
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Cheryl Dieter

Other Interested Parties

Hazen & Sawyer:
Erik Rosenfeldt

Maryland Rural Water:
Ginny Siemer

Information Session

UCMR3 – What has been found in the water? Update on Chlorate!

- WSSC’s Dr. Martin Chandler reviewed the regulatory background of the UCMR3 monitoring, the type of monitoring being conducted, and provisional occurrence results. [View slides.](#)
- Washington Aqueduct’s Alex Gorzalski presented on chlorate health concerns and guidelines, sources of chlorate in drinking water disinfectants, operational controls to reduce chlorate formation, and source water components of chlorate occurrence. *Slides not yet available.*

Workgroup and Committee Reports

Government Committee – Collin Burrell, District Department of the Environment

Since the annual meeting, the committee has been discussing two outreach meetings: one in the Monocacy watershed and one in conjunction with WV DHHR.

The Monocacy meeting will be held on May 13 at the Frederick County Health Department. The group is in the process of gathering information about the watershed and determining what to present at the meeting. Work has been done on many issues in the watershed, including groundwater, wellhead protection, and land conservation (specifically in the Marsh and Rock creek watersheds). Presentations will likely include information on agriculture and green infrastructure in the watershed. It is anticipated that there will be 25 to 30 participants.

A bill, [HB 326](#), has been introduced by Delegate Krimm in the Maryland House for the completion of a comprehensive water resources plan for the Monocacy. In its current form, the bill states, “For the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to engage with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin on the development and implementation of a certain water resources plan for a certain portion of the Monocacy River watershed; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Monocacy River watershed.” An amendment will likely be proposed that shifts the responsibility of producing an annual report from MDE to ICPRB. There are currently no funds for the effort.

The West Virginia outreach meeting will likely be held in the area of the North Branch or South Branch. The group is aiming to hold the meeting in September or October. Its structure will be similar to the Monocacy meeting.

The workgroup has also been tracking the efforts to update the region’s source water assessments and discussing its role in the various projects.

Reaching Out – Nicole Condon, DC Water

Nicole’s communication role at DC Water and with the COG Community Engagement Campaign will help the Partnership make connections with communications staff at the region’s utilities and to develop source water outreach materials.

A goal this year is to revamp the annual report into a two-page document that is more visually appealing. It will focus on highlighting the value of the Partnership and why utilities should consider joining. A key part of this will be the message from the co-chairs. 2014 accomplishments and upcoming

efforts will be highlighted. The workgroup chairs will be asked to review the draft document. If anyone else wants to be involved, contact Nicole – nicole.condon@dcwater.com. The draft should be completed by mid-March and the final version by the end of the month.

The forest proposal was submitted to the Water Research Foundation (WRF) at the end of January, following the earlier approval of the pre-proposal. It is hoped that funding from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the participating utilities will be matched by WRF. The participating utilities include Fairfax Water, WSSC, Washington Aqueduct, and DC Water. Once the project is underway, regular updates will be provided at Partnership meetings. We might consider forming an interest group to solicit and incorporate feedback from other members. Separately, WRF will hold a workshop on forests later in the year and would like representation from our region.

Urban Issues – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

The survey to gauge water utilities' understanding of Water Quality Standards and to identify contaminants of concern is being put into an online format. It should be ready for distribution soon.

Five NPDES permits up for renewal have been identified that may be of interest to the Partnership. The workgroup will ask to be added to the list of interested parties to receive updates on draft permits. The five facilities are Allegheny Energy Supply, Luke Paper, Cascades Canada, George's Chicken, and Mirant Dickerson. The workgroup requests help from the EPA to get an updated list of all NPDES permits in the basin.

An information session on the impact road salts are having on urban streams is being planned for the spring meeting. The authors of a recent USGS study, [River chloride trends in snow-affected urban watersheds: increasing concentrations outpace urban growth rate and are common among all seasons](#), have been invited to participate. The lead author is able to participate remotely and another may be able to participate in person.

As the snow melts, please take pictures of bad salt application and send them to Greg, gprelewicz@fairfaxwater.org, for use on our website and in publications. The website will be updated soon with recent road salt research and articles. Lisa Ragain, MWCOG noted that DC Water has great [information for customers on winter weather issues](#).

The EPA is holding a series of webinars on integrating Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act activities. They will cover Water Quality Standards, monitoring, assessment and impaired waters; TMDLs and NPDES; and non-point sources. Information will be circulated as it becomes available.

Early Warning and Emergency Response – Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

Source Water Assessment update:

DWMAAPS, Bill Arguto, EPA R3 – All of the recent spills remind us that the threats are real and that we need to be prepared to handle a wide range of incidents. EPA organized a meeting on February 4 with DDOE, Washington Aqueduct, DC Water, and ICPRB to discuss what an update to the DC source water assessment should look like. Conclusions were that it should be a model for how to update an assessment, it should assess both acute and chronic threats, and it should include climate change and resiliency. The first step will be to update the contaminant inventory. ICPRB is helping by providing the GIS files from the 2002 assessment. The databases in DWMAAPS will be compared to those used in 2002 and any necessary additional ones will be added. EPA is determining whether to use a contractor or staff to get a Potomac version of DWMAAPS up and running.

COG/Corona Environmental Consulting, Lisa Ragain, COG – The goal is to recreate the 2002 source water assessment as much as possible, addressing both acute and chronic threats. Data from the Chesapeake Bay Program will be used to evaluate the chronic threats. An updated contaminant inventory will be completed for the entire basin. Identification of potential storage containers using aerial photography and inclusion of utility-specific data will only be done for participating utilities. The basic layers of data will be available to other partners. Sensitive data and utility-specific data can be shared as each utility deems appropriate. The tool will be stored in the cloud and uses all open source software. Risk ranking will be completed in a similar manner to what was done in the 2002 report. C. Haywood noted that he hopes something more sophisticated can be completed. Scott Rodeheaver, WV DHHR, will share what he can on how West Virginia is attempting to rank threats. A kick-off meeting will be held in March. L. Ragain provided two handouts: [NCR Source Water Project Matrix](#), [COG/Corona Source Water Scope of Work](#).

Principals in each project will look for ways that they can work together to better coordinate efforts.

Exercise with Colonial Pipeline:

The exercise will be held on June 3. It will be a table-top exercise held at a hotel near Reston. A planning committee has been formed and will have their next meeting in March.

Other issues:

COG has renewed their outreach efforts to CSX following the recent accident in West Virginia. The hope is to hold a meeting with them sometime in the future. COG has developed a [briefing](#) on the February Fayette, W.Va., train derailment.

Emerging Contaminants – Martin Chandler, WSSC

A recent USGS study may be of interest to members: [Concentrations of hormones, pharmaceuticals and other micropollutants in groundwater affected by septic systems in New England and New York](#). While it focuses on groundwater, this could be an issue for surface waters influenced by groundwater.

The [CCL 4 list](#) was release a couple of weeks ago. There are 100 chemicals or chemical groups and 12 biological contaminants, including three cyanotoxins. The comment period is open until April 4.

The Drug Enforcement Administration issued its final rule on drug take-backs in September 2014. The nationally coordinated drug take-back events have been discontinued, and future events would be conducted at the local or state level. Pharmacies, hospitals and certain health care facilities are now authorized to collect and dispose of controlled substances, but some states don't yet have the regulations in place to make this possible. The workgroup will track the efforts of the Potomac basin states.

Erik Rosenfeldt with Hazen and Sawyer presented an overview of a project getting underway with DC Water to assess discharges of endocrine disruptors in the Potomac River. The project objectives are to 1) evaluate the upstream and downstream impacts from nutrient control, agriculture management, stormwater management and wastewater treatment strategies, and 2) evaluate EDC impact in receiving waters attributed to point versus non-point sources.

Ag Issues – Karin Bencala, ICPRB

The workgroup is looking for a co-chair. Monica Whyte with WV DHHR will serve as a co-chair and at least one other person is needed to help. Please contact Karin if you are interested – kbencala@icprb.org.

Once the new co-chairs are in place they will review the 2015 work plan to decide if all proposed tasks can be accomplished. Some minor changes to the plan might be made.

The workgroup will hear from the Schuylkill Action Network's Ag Workgroup to learn what they are doing related to source water. All are welcome to listen in; details will be circulated soon.

Water Quality Data – Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

ICPRB is using the inventory of water quality monitoring efforts to create a map that can be used in conjunction with the inventory spreadsheet. The workgroup is helping to track down monitoring sites for the map. The aim is to have it completed and available on the ICPRB and DWSPP websites this spring.

The workgroup continues to participate with the other workgroup chairs looking into how to best address the threat of harmful algal blooms.

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

Issue Updates

Harmful Algal Blooms – An ad hoc group of workgroup chairs continues to gather information about state monitoring programs, and findings will be added to the inventory spreadsheet maintained by the Water Quality Data workgroup. The group is tracking federal legislation H.R. 212 (Drinking Water Protection Act), which would provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water.

Marcellus Shale –

- Scott Rodeheaver, WV DHHR – Horizontal drilling activity continues in the state. 84 wells have been drilled so far this year.
- Lyn Poorman, MDE – Since the annual meeting the final version of the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative Study Final Report has been issued, regulations have been proposed, and a final draft of the Marcellus Risk Assessment was released. [These and other related documents are all available from MDE](#). Four bills related to Marcellus Shale drilling have been introduced in the House. They relate to issues such as wastewater, liability, prohibitions on permits, chemical information, and fees.

WV SB 373 – It appears that basically what was originally passed will be included in the regulations. DHHR is requesting funds for implementation. They have a draft template systems can use to update their source water plans. This will be shared with the Partnership.

Administration

Utility invoices were sent via mail in January. Please let Karin know if you haven't seen yours.

**Next Quarterly Meeting:
May 12, 2015**