



Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Quarterly Meeting Summary for May 16, 2017
Location: ICPRB Office, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

Berkeley County:
Steve DeRidder

DC Water:
Saul Kinter

City of Rockville:
Judy Ding

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

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell
Pam Kenel
Mark Peterson

Washington Aqueduct:
Alex Gorzalski
Margaret Sharkey

WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Julie Karceski
Priscilla To

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Collin Burrell
Joshua Rodriguez

MDE:
John Grace
Robert Peoples

PA DEP:
Patrick Bowling
Lisa Daniels

VDH:
Aaron Moses

WV BPH:
Monica Whyte

WV Rural Water Association:
Ginny Siemer

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Sherri Comerford
Karrie Crumlish
Amie Howell
Cathy Magliocchetti

ICPRB:
Renee Bourassa
Claire Buchanan
Carlton Haywood
Heidi Moltz
Jim Palmer

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Cheryl Dieter
Curtis Schreffler

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Daniels, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Business Meeting

Priority Projects

Implementing Improvements to Regional, Cooperative Spill Response

Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

Lessons are still being learned from the November sheen event. A draft after action report was completed following a March 17th meeting with stakeholders. Major recommendations include:

- Utility representation is needed on, or close to, Unified Command
- Non-tidal Potomac River geographical response plan is necessary (it was noted that Colonial has a Potomac-specific geographical response plan that might be helpful as a starting point).

A Potomac River spill drill is being planned for this summer. Charlie Fitzsimmons of EPA Region 3 is the lead on the project. NRG may be involved in the project.

EPA Region 3 and DWSPP members have been working with Frederick County, Pa. and Adams County, Pa. to plan a tabletop spill exercise on the Monocacy River. It is in the beginning stages of planning. Cathy Magliocchetti stated there has been some exploratory conversation about funding from EPA Water Securities Division.

Source Water Protection Activities Related to Algae

Cathy Magliocchetti, EPA Region 3

The group continues to run Sharepoint as a repository for information for the group, including upcoming events. See the Upcoming Events section below for the events mentioned. More information on these can be found on the Sharepoint site.

The EPA's Freshwater HABs newsletter is out. The most recent one, as well as an archive, can be found [online](#).

An algae identification workshop is being planned for later this year. A Doodle Poll will be sent out in the future to assess dates and interest. The number of microscopes may limit the number of attendants. The Hood College algae identification workshop is rescheduled for September 8. More information can be found in the Upcoming Events section below.

Enhancing Chemical Contaminant Knowledge in our Watershed (WaterSuite)

Mishelle Noble-Blair, Fairfax Water

WaterSuite is a cloud-based geospatial information platform used for source water protection assessment activities. Developed by Corona Environmental Consulting, it has been populated and configured to include source water assessment data for the Potomac region. It can be used for source water protection and spill events.

WaterSuite includes tools identifying source water contaminants in areas of highest importance, called the Zone of Critical Concern, which is defined as the area upstream of the DC Metro area intakes, within a 24-hour travel time, and within a 1,000 foot buffer of the streams within this zone.

It is a dynamic program, which allows for a depository of institutional knowledge that can be shared quickly and efficiently on a geospatial platform. The local/regional data is most valuable and is not available in other formats.

Benefits of WaterSuite:

- Source Water Assessments & Planning
- Replaces 2002 static reports
- Regular updates to hundreds of data sets
- Succession Planning – Maintain and pass down vital information
- Communicates critical information – share regionally, quick access, maps and reports
- Long term facilities of interest tracking in the watershed
- Main local, state and regional data and information not available on any other GIS platform
- Identified Sites: State and Federal Data

Specified “Super Users” can upload data and documents to the system such as building plans, spill after action notes, and more. This same group of people will be responsible for adding new information and data as it becomes available. A support system of large, national utilities is available to help problem-solve and provide support to enhance the usability of the platform.

Regional governments are in the process of defining Critical Urban Freight Corridors and Critical Rural Freight Corridors in their transportation plans. This data may be added to the program in the future.

Significant time and money has been invested into this project. The end of the current free trial subscription is coming up. A new contract will need to be established by July 1st to maintain access to the program. Lisa Ragain stated that MWCOG is willing to sign the new contract if the utilities agree to pay a fee to MWCOG to cover the cost. The proposed preliminary fee structure is based on population served. The contract is for one-year with the option to extend to 5 years. The fee is based on the base level of access and support for WaterSuite. Additional consulting services (if needed) may cost more.

If the contract is not renewed, alternatives include each utility maintaining an individual GIS platform, ICPRB maintains a regional GIS platform, re-developing a new system, or return to the old, static system.

The concern was brought up that WaterSuite works best on the Google Chrome web browser but some organizations cannot access Google Chrome.

There is a regional WaterSuite meeting to finalize the details on June 8th, 10-2pm, at MWCOG offices in Washington, D.C.

Strategic Plan Update

Jim Palmer

Jim Palmer asks the members if the 2005 Strategic Plan or the 2011 Update/Addendum need to be updated. Jim suggests that a draft be available by the August meeting so edits can be made. The document can be finalized at the November Annual meeting. This deadline was chosen as a goal but some members of the group indicated that more time to develop the Plan may be necessary.

The group has new activities and goals that are not being addressed in the current documents. Members agree that an update is needed, but there is discussion as to which documents and how they should be updated. Priority Projects are not mentioned in the current documents but are being used as the guiding force for activities in the group.

The question was raised about current work groups, who are the members and which still need a chairperson. Palmer is going to send out the most updated list of work groups.

It was agreed that a face-to-face meeting is important since we are looking at restructuring the document. Palmer will send out a Doodle Poll for dates in the end of June. The meeting will look at what modifications are needed to the 2005 Strategic Plan document. A facilitator will be needed for this meeting. Each organization should have a representative at the meeting that has read the framework document, the current Strategic Plan and the Update and brings a draft strategic goals/objectives for their organization to the meeting.

John Grace suggested that part of the Plan should be a basin-wide assessment every 5 years. Collin Burrell suggested using 305(b) report for information.

DWMAPS 2.0

Sherrí Comerford, EPA Region 3 (James “Bo” Williams, EPA Region 3, on the phone)

[DWMAPS](#) is an online mapping tool, developed by the EPA, for data and critical drinking water source protection. It is based on the ESRI ArcGIS platform.

It is a dynamic, real-time database with data layers from across the internet that are publicly available. It includes point source data, non-point source data, and facility information. Query tools (also known as widgets) include nearby discharges (1-30 mile radius), potential sources of contamination (upstream 1-10 miles), and source water collaboratives.

Monocacy-Catoctin Outreach

John Grace

EPA is helping coordinate a table top exercise on the Monocacy River with Frederick County, Md. and Adams County, Pa. organizations. Exploratory conversations are in the process regarding funding from EPA Headquarters for the current fiscal year.

West Virginia System Outreach

Monica Whyte

A March 9 meeting involved 10 participants, representing 8 of the West Virginia systems. Members can contact Whyte for a copy of the charts showcasing the areas of concern and pollutants of concern that were addressed at that meeting. The group would like to see another meeting planned for August that will focus on funding opportunities.

Four systems have received grants for early warning systems. One has already started working on the system, the other three are still in the grant application process. They would like to speak to someone with experience with the systems. Steve Bieber suggested checking with Philadelphia Water Department and Lisa Ragain of MWCOG. Carlton Haywood asked that ICPRB have access to the real-time data.

Whyte was in contact with a professor from West Virginia Bureau of Public Health Sciences who brings his students to Verso as part of a course. He inquired if we were interested in touring the facility. Whyte has started discussions about a possible tour in the future.

Spill Monitoring Plan Development

Niffy Saji

The group has met twice, once as a conference call and once in-person. The group is teasing out the details of the plan. This includes what information ICPRB needs to run the model, how the model is run, and how ICPRB sends out the spill notification. Based on the information provided, what is the response by the utilities? How do they determine if the contaminant is a threat? What do the utilities need based on that information? For example, do they need an emergency sampling kit? The group is also compiling a list of in-house capabilities of each utility as well as the available regional resources. The group is developing an efficient framework for the information.

The group's next conference call will be in 6 weeks.

Spill Response Outreach Effort

Mishelle Noble-Blair

The group has decided to alter their tactic to a more personal approach. Noble-Blair had a great meeting with NRG in which they found a lot of common ground between the water utility and the energy facility, opening the possibility for future collaboration.

Forest Cover/Treatment Cost Study Update

Heidi Moltz, ICPRB

Phase 2 of the study started in October. Since then an assessment of current land cover conditions in the basin and a geospatial risk analyses to prioritize forest protection opportunities has been completed.

Land use scenarios have been developed for 2030. These scenarios include a baseline scenario, two land use change scenarios and two BMP scenarios. The ultimate result is asking what are the changes in water treatment costs based on water quality changes simulated in these various scenarios.

The results from the model execution are being analyzed. Results will be ready soon. A draft report is due October. Moltz will plan on presenting at the August DWSPP meeting and welcomes comments on the study.

An in-person team meeting will take place at the ICPRB office on June 9th. The methods, results, and presentation of the results will be discussed at that meeting.

Outreach Project Targeting Small Utilities Throughout the Basin

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB

A few questions were raised to the group in regards to the DWSPP membership “sales piece” for small utilities:

- In the past, the group has targeted specific utilities to join. Do we want to send the piece with an introductory letter to all the small utilities in the basin or continue to target specific operations?
- Many small utilities only have one or two employees. If we decide to send a letter, do we send it to the operator or the regional government?
- Is it important to the group to increase the membership? Small utilities are more likely to draw from groundwater. How will they benefit from DWSPP? Will they have different needs than surface water systems?

Any input or questions regarding these answers can be sent to Curtis Dalpra at cdalpra@icprb.org.

Jim Palmer asked if the group wants to focus specifically on ground water or surface water systems, what are the requirements for each system? He also noted that Lisa Ragain has agreed to be the lead for the Reaching Out workgroup.

Alex Gorzalski commented that if we are moving to a “one water” framework, then we should not differentiate between surface or groundwater systems. They have similar issues and concerns, including source water protection. Groundwater systems can be an asset to the group.

Lisa Daniels noted the DWSPP membership fee structure will need to be revisited as small utilities look to join.

Additional Notes

Steve Bieber noted that the 2017 Triennial Review for the Water Quality Standards is coming up. The public comment period begins May 26. If there are things the group is concerned about, this is an opportunity to comment.

Upcoming Events Mentioned in the Meeting

May 23rd: Inland HABs Webinar: [Success Stories of HABs: Prevention Control and Management Techniques](#). Presentations will include “Mitigation of Maryland Cyanobacteria Blooms”.

June 6th: Steve Bieber of MWCOG will be presenting a webinar entitled “[Linking Source Water Protection and Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)”, sponsored by the Source Water Collaborative Learning Exchange. It will cover after action from the sheen event and how it relates to source water protection efforts. DWSPP will be covered in the webinar as well.

September 8th: [Cyanobacteria Identification Workshop](#), Hood College, Frederick, Md.

November 11-17: 9th Annual Symposium on Harmful Algal Blooms in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Todd Miller will talk about cyanobacteria in lakes and drinking water impacts. The application deadline for travel grants is June 24th.