



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for May 25, 2016

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

Berkeley County:
Steve DeRidder
Anthony Johnson

DC Water:
Melanie Mason

Fairfax Water:
Mishelle Noble-Blair
Greg Prelewicz
Niffy Saji

Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell

Hagerstown:
Nancy Hausrath

Rockville:
Glenn Maggard

Washington Aqueduct:
Shabir Choudhary
Alex Gorzalski
Anna Hayden
Tom Jacobus
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Martin Chandler

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Collin Burrell
Shah Nawaz
Joshua Rodriguez

MDE:
John Grace

VDH:
Roy Soto (phone)

WV DHHR:
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Amie Howell
Meg Keegan
Cathy Magliocchetti

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Curtis Dalpra
Carlton Haywood
Scott Kaiser
Heidi Moltz
Jim Palmer
Alimatou Seck
Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Melanie Mathesz

Other Interested Parties

Hazen and Sawyer:
Erik Rosenfeldt (phone)

Updates on 2016 Priority Projects

Enhancing chemical contaminant knowledge in our watershed

Mishelle Noble-Blair, Fairfax Water

[Overview of the release of Corona's WaterSuite tool:](#)

In early May, Corona and COG hosted a training workshop for participating utilities to use WaterSuite for the first time. Possible uses of the tool are for continuous assessment of contamination risks and for the identification of spill materials and possible origins during an event. An overwhelming amount of information was compiled from local, regional, state, and federal sources; however, lingering data gaps were discovered. In particular, Tier II data is incomplete and only includes data from Loudoun County, Va., and Fairfax County, Va. Moreover, caution needs to be taken when reviewing sites with no available data. This does not mean there is no information available elsewhere or that the site does not pose a risk. Corona is incorporating user feedback to improve both the tool's content and functionality. Participating utilities will have free access to the tool until July 2017 as part of the original contract.

Corona developed a set of [FAQs](#) to explain the tool and its functionalities.

Fairfax Water will host a work session in July, facilitated by ICPRB, to:

- Collaborate on potential applications of the WaterSuite tool
- Determine how to best identify sites of concern
- Identify those sites
- Identify remaining critical data gaps
- Summarize how the tool works to meet needs and remaining challenges
- Discuss how the tool can support regional source water protection

Session invitees include those organizations which have volunteered to help with this 2016 priority effort. The means for providing access to government agencies during this session will need to be discussed with Corona. Future activities for the group could include the following:

- Prioritize data gaps and create process by which to fill data gaps
- Develop annual review process
- Create internal user guide
- Determine the role of WaterSuite in DWSPP activities beyond summer 2017
- Develop facility outreach and engagement strategy

Discussion centered on several topics:

- Intellectual property rights and data ownership after the initial contract with Corona concludes
 - Should we make edits directly into WaterSuite or into the GIS files with the data provided by Corona?
- Need to establish a protocol and possible gatekeeper for data editing and additions to the database
 - Can we see a list of changes? Can we revert to a previous version? Can we search by recent changes?
 - Some utilities may not want to be users of the tool, but will instead want someone to digest the information for them and provide them with a list of priority concerns.
- Determination of how WaterSuite fits with other source water protection tools available through EPA, etc.
- Tool functionality and features

- WaterSuite is an evolving web-based tool and the current version has shortcomings and bugs. What is Corona’s commitment to improving and extending the functionality of the tool through future subscriptions? How long will the web service be supported?
- Expansion of the information in the database to be useful for utilities outside of the existing Zone of Critical Concern and state agencies
- EPA Region 3 may be able to provide contractor support to address data gaps
- Ongoing access/subscription structure for water systems and government agencies
 - COG will reach out to systems across the basin to gauge interest in the tool. By the Partnership’s August meeting, COG hopes to have additional information from Corona about a membership fee structure and tool access.
 - One possible structure is to have a set number of regional licenses that can be allocated as needed.
 - Governance structure will be needed.

Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response

Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

- The project team is reviewing the list of action items from previous spill exercise after action reports and from actual spill events in order to identify one to three priorities to improve on this year. The group will update the Partnership on these priorities at the August meeting.
- EPA Region 3 is supporting an NCR WARN exercise in September, through its consultant Horsley Witten. The exercise will focus on how the WARN system can be used during an incident and the benefits of membership.
- ICPRB is having on-going conversations with state agencies about ICPRB’s role in regional response procedures and ICS.
 - West Virginia is interested in a spill exercise with utilities in WV, VA, and western MD
- DC recently held an emergency exercise with CSX to determine the District’s ability to respond to a large-scale rail incident. DOEE will share the public version of the after action report once it becomes available. The Partnership would like to learn more about what materials CSX carries through the region and invite them to participate in a joint exercise with members. DOEE has volunteered to facilitate this request. In general, the goal would be to get CSX more engaged in source water protection and learn more about water supply concerns.
- The Government Committee plans to explore a multi-state MOU for data sharing during spill events.
- ICPRB’s Alimatou Seck presented NOAA’s GNOME model and how it is being adapted for the Rocky Gorge and Occoquan reservoirs. The model has potential to be used by WSSC and Fairfax Water for their respective reservoirs. There is application potential in the Potomac River above Chain Bridge but bathymetry data is required and is not currently available.

Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae

Cathy Magliocchetti, EPA Region 3

Toxic and non-toxic algae are an increasing area of concern in the region. Algae events are becoming more frequent as a result of warmer summers. Events are generally associated with high spring-time flows that are followed by hot, dry summers.

EPA Region 3 hosted an algal summit this past April. There were two main takeaways:

- Recreational use concerns: States are refining their monitoring methods and applications of citizen science—recreational users reporting algae sightings while out on the water (for

example, see [ICPRB's reporting app](#)). NOAA's phytoplankton monitoring network is exploring expanding to include freshwater (currently the program concentrates on marine environments) and is particularly interested in expanding these efforts in the Potomac.

- Drinking water concerns: There is an increasing awareness of algae events amongst utilities and increased attention on monitoring and treatment at treatment plants. Of particular interest are detection limits and treatment costs.

Region 3 is interested in identifying source water protection options to limit and control outbreaks, like addressing nutrient loads. They are also interested in looking at data availability to study links between algae and public health.

On-going Efforts

DC Water Potomac EDC Project

Erik Rosenfeldt provided an [update](#) on a collaborative effort to assess the impact of wastewater treatment plant discharges on endocrine disruption in the Potomac basin:

- Project funded by DOEE.
- Project team includes DC Water, USGS, and researchers from universities and consulting firms.
- Data are preliminary but the project team is working to finalize the analysis this summer.
- Project will initially study Bens Run, Great Seneca Creek, Paint Branch, and Brier Ditch before scaling up to the entire basin.
- It will evaluate upstream and downstream impacts from nutrient control, agriculture management, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment strategies and the impacts of EDCs in receiving waters from point versus non-point sources.
- A technical advisory workshop will be held in June.
- Final report due out at the end of the summer.

Preliminary data show interesting results between sites with BMPs and those without. In many instances there is a reduction in nutrients when BMPs are present.

A second project recently received funding from the EPA STAR program to study ways improvements in water reuse can help improve water quality in the Potomac. This is a three year study to kick off at the end of May.

2015 Annual Report

Hard copies of the annual report were distributed. The report is available for download on the [DWSPP website](#).

Monocacy-Catoctin Outreach

John Grace, MDE, provided an update on the Government Committee's outreach effort in the Monocacy and Catoctin watersheds. The committee developed and distributed a short survey to 33 entities in the two watersheds. Thus far only a handful of responses have been received. A majority of responses identified stream bank erosion as a primary concern. Adams County Planning Department just distributed the surveys on behalf of the committee to Pennsylvania water systems; responses are anticipated in the next week or two. A meeting with interested parties is being organized for the summer. An update on these activities will be provided at the August meeting.

Water Quality Data Workgroup

The work group has been busy pulling together information on cyanotoxin monitoring in the basin. Information came from state agencies on long-term and event response monitoring locations. A web map and spreadsheet were created from this information and is available at <http://skaiser443.github.io/HAB-Project/>. The web map will be moved to the Partnership website this summer. Adding utility monitoring sites to the map will be considered.

West Virginia Source Water Assessments

Drinking water utilities in West Virginia Region 9 have posted their draft Source Water Protection Plans for [public comment](#). Tier II information was not originally part of the source water protection plan framework but later amended to recommend utilities report the number of facilities located within their zone of critical concern. The [protection plan template](#) used by all systems is available from WV DHHR.

Forest cover/treatment cost study update

The goal of this study is to explore the links between treatment costs, water quality, and forest cover in the basin. In this first year of the project, ICPRB is calibrating the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model for TOC and to identify relationships, if any, between water quality and chemical dosage at the metro area's water treatment plants. Work with the participating utilities to develop a methodology for linking water treatment with water quality is on-going. A more detailed review of the project's findings and progress can be provided at a future meeting. A [summary](#) of the first six months of work and additional [background information](#) on the study are available from ICPRB.

2016 Contributions

All contributions from water systems have been received. Most state agencies have contributed as well. The remaining ones will be sent in toward the end of the fiscal year. Thank you!

2017 Budget

A proposed budget for fiscal year 2017 will be distributed ahead of the August meeting for member review.

2016 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held this November in West Virginia. Suggestions for meeting topics are requested.

Announcements

- The Virginia section of AWWA is hosting a seminar, [Water Resources: Protection, Monitoring, & Emergency Response](#). The meeting will focus on source water protection, featuring Roy Soto from VDH and a presentation from Corona Environmental Consulting on their WaterSuite tool. The meeting will be held on June 9th at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Kelly Education Center in Richmond, Virginia.
- COG is hosting a workshop on [water quality trends in the Potomac](#) on June 7th. The workshop will feature presentations by the USGS and Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Lab.
- COG is hosting a workshop on the [impact of road salts to water quality](#) on June 27th. The discussion will center on using BMPs to reduce impact on water quality.
- EPA's [DWMAPS](#) is now live.
- The Source Water Collaborative released a new [interactive infographic](#) on source water protection and the Clean Water Act.

- EPA Region 3's annual meeting on source water protection will be held on June 16-17th.