



## POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2010

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

### Attendees

#### Utilities

DC WASA:

Maureen Schmelling

Fairfax Water:

Traci Goldberg

Greg Prelewicz

Niffy Saji

Frederick County DUSWM:

Mark Schweitzer

Loudoun Water:

Tom Bonacquisti

Beate Wright

Washington Aqueduct:

Miranda Brown

Shabir Choudhary

Tom Jacobus

WSSC:

Martin Chandler

Plato Chen

Teresa Daniell (Chair)

Mohammad Habibian

Jim Neustadt

#### State and Local Government

MDE:

Lyn Poorman

PADEP:

Patrick Bowling

VADEQ:

Jason Ericson

WVDHHR:

Dave Smith

#### Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:

Chuck Kanetsky

Ellen Schmitt

EPA HQ:

Marjorie Copeland

ICPRB:

Karin Bencala

Curtis Dalpra

Olivia Devereux

Carlton Haywood

Joe Hoffman

Mid-Atlantic Water Program:

Daphne Pee

## **Reports from Workgroups:**

### 1. Ag Workgroup – Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct

Miranda Brown and Ellen Schmitt (EPA R3) met with the Maryland State Technical Committee (STAC) on November 4, 2009. This opportunity was facilitated by Mark Dubin of the University of Maryland and Daphne Pee of the Mid-Atlantic Water Program. They presented the work of the Partnership and our efforts related to reduce the risk of *Cryptosporidium* entering our source waters. At the meeting they asked for feedback on the message developed by the workgroup and for advice on how to engage the agriculture community. The main audience for this message will be people who already work directly with farmers.

In addition to meeting with the Maryland STAC, the workgroup has made contact with experts at Pennsylvania State University. The main recommendations from both groups have been to work with the conservation districts, local extension specialists, and veterinarians; form an advisory committee; and make the message less technical and add more information on herd health.

E. Schmitt and D. Pee are working to set up the advisory committee. Current members are listed below. They are looking for representatives from West Virginia, NRCS, and soil and conservation districts. The first meeting of the committee is currently being planned.

- Dr. Ronald Fayer, USDA (pathogen specialist)
- Dr. John Currin, VA Tech (veterinarian and extension faculty working with cattle and dairies)
- Sarah Dinh, Penn State University (extension agent working with dairies)
- Dr. Rob Atwill, UC-Davis (veterinarian and extension faculty working on Crypto with farms in CA)
- Ed Blouin, NYC Watershed
- Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, MD Department of Agriculture (state veterinarian)
- John Rhoderick, MD Department of Agriculture with Dwight Dotterer as back up

### 2. Disinfectant By-product Precursor – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

Dr. Habibian described the changes in DBPs regulation that will become effective by 2012, including the need for water utilities to meet the DBP criteria at every sampling point, instead of using the average across the entire system to determine compliance. Current practice for meeting the DBP regulation is limited to treatment options. However, source control to reduce DBPs precursors could potentially provide another option. The Water Research Foundation is currently sponsoring two case studies to investigate this option, one in a watershed located in Colorado and one in Oregon.

### 3. Early Warning/Emergency Response – Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

C. Haywood is working with MWCOG to improve the communications between ICPRB and MWCOG in the event of a hazardous spill. The organizations are exploring the different kinds of messages that could go out through the RICCS system for a variety of potential situations. A notification exercise will be organized for this year.

Some concerns remain about the role the utilities will play in the event of a spill and to what extent the area's intake locations have been incorporated into Colonial Pipeline's risk models. C. Haywood will follow up with Colonial Pipeline to determine the extent to which the intake locations have been incorporated and to ask for an update on spill response procedures.

4. Urban Issues – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

With all the snow this year road salts and their impacts have received a lot of media attention. There have been some developments in the region in the use of alternative deicing methods. The Maryland State Highway Department has expanded their use of natural products (molasses in Howard County and beets in Frederick County), DC has used some alternative products, and Virginia is testing the use of alternatives. All three jurisdictions have expanded their pre-treatment operations.

As the snow melts there are likely to be discussions about the impact the salt is having on our waterways. Some Maryland streams may be listed as impaired for chlorides as a result. WSSC was recently contacted regarding the needs of dialysis centers to have water with less than 70 mg/L of sodium chloride. They are looking into working with these centers to more closely track the salt content of the water. This spring might be a good time to follow up with the region's transportation agencies to learn about their use of alternative chemicals.

The workgroup continues to develop the concept and agenda for a conference to look at water quality standards from a source water protection perspective. A main goal of the conference would be to help shape changes to basin state water quality standards as they come up for their triennial review. The conference is tentatively scheduled for early summer and is likely to be held at either ICPRB or MWCOG. A draft agenda for comment is forthcoming. If you have comments, questions, or speaker ideas, contact Greg Prelewicz ([gprelewicz@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:gprelewicz@fairfaxwater.org)).

Fairfax Water worked very closely with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) and American Water Works Association (AWWA) to draft comments on EPA's proposed airport deicing effluent guidelines. A copy of their comments follows the meeting minutes.

5. Reaching Out – Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB

The storms provided an opportunity to talk with the media about the impact of road salts and the work of the Partnership. C. Dalpra spoke with both the local NPR station and with the Maryland Gazette about stormwater and road salts, using last year's opinion piece for background information. He referred various reporters to both the DWSPP website and to the Annual Report. His general feeling is that many reporters do not have a good understanding of stormwater systems or how water is, or is not, filtered. The DWSPP website will be updated with information on the true cost of road salt application, which includes additional PR responsibilities.

6. Emerging Contaminants – Pat Bowling, PADEP

Anne Spiesman (Washington Aqueduct) found the EPA's responses to the Metro Area Utility Committee's comments on Questionnaire for Drinking Water Utilities Participating in Emerging Contaminant Sampling Program (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2009-0114). The response noted that all of the comments included some remarks on the sampling project itself, but that these were outside of the scope of the request for comments. The EPA's response to all comments follows the minutes.

The workgroup is thinking about organizing an informational session for an upcoming meeting to learn how EPA targets contaminants for regulation in drinking water (CCL, UCMR, etc.), how the Emerging Contaminant Sampling Program relates to the process, and how the results of the sampling program will be used. Getting a better understanding of how the EPA decides which chemicals to target and determining how DWSPP and/or individual members could be a part of the dialogue will be a main outcome of this session. Potential speakers would be Dr. Glassmeyer and a USGS representative. During discussion, Tom Bonacquisti suggested Alan Roberson from AWWA as

a possible speaker and Mohammad Habibian wondered if it would be better to have the session after the workshop for Water Research Foundation Project 4169.

P. Bowling has been watching for activity on changing how chemicals are regulated. There is currently no major movement on reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act, although some groups are pushing the Kids-Safe Chemical Act. The workgroup will continue to monitor the situation. Given the increasing attention that these issues are receiving, it may be a good time for the workgroup to draft a statement on how the regulation of new chemicals should be approached.

The House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment held a hearing entitled, "[Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Drinking Water: Risks to Human Health and the Environment](#)," on February 25, 2010. M. Habibian attended the hearing and reported that the panel members pushed for regulating these chemicals and enhancing water treatment to remove them from drinking water. He noted that there was no representation from water utilities on the panel and that it might be beneficial to find a way to be involved in these discussions.

As a follow-on to the proper drug disposal education campaign that was piloted last year in Frederick County, MD, EPA Headquarters and Region 3 are looking to expand the effort to a one-day take-back event throughout the Potomac basin with associated outreach to those holding the events or wishing to do so in the future. This may be an opportunity for DWSPP to send a unified message and gain some visibility on the issue. The Emerging Contaminants workgroup will remain involved, but will now pass the project on to the Government Committee to get the states and local governments involved.

7. Government Committee – Jason Ericson, VA DEQ

The Government Committee is getting involved with the proposed drug take-back program. The plan is to coordinate three take-back events throughout the basin to take place on the same day. Committee members are asked to take the proposal to the appropriate office(s) in their state to start figuring out how to construct a legal and successful program. To put on this event many partners may be needed – from law enforcement to pharmacists. The event is likely to take place in early summer, with education and training events taking place beforehand. An EPA-developed template of an educational handout will be distributed to those holding events for dissemination. If you have comments on the program, partner ideas, or would like to become involved, contact EPA R3's Ellen Schmitt ([schmitt.ellen@epa.gov](mailto:schmitt.ellen@epa.gov)). The draft proposal follows the minutes.

8. Utility Committee – Teresa Daniell, WSSC

T. Daniell (Partnership Chair) asked the membership to think about new way to let the public know that the Partnership exists and that we have an important message. She specifically asked participants to think about what we want the public to know and who might not know about Partnership activities that should.

**Water Research Foundation Project 4169 Update** – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

Work by consultants on the project, *Water Utility Framework for Responding to Emerging Contaminant Issues*, continues. An extensive literature review has been completed and a draft framework for how utilities could address emerging contaminants has been drafted. The workshop that was to be held this February to review the framework as been postponed to allow for further development and improvement of the framework.

**Budget Update** – Karin Bencala, ICPRB

A summary of the year-to-date revenues and expenses was distributed and follows the meeting minutes. A reallocation of funds between budget categories was proposed. There is no change to the total amount budgeted for activities this year. If you are a member of the Partnership, please contact Karin Bencala ([kbencala@icprb.org](mailto:kbencala@icprb.org)) with your organization's approval/disapproval of these changes by March 15, 2010. Also contact Karin with any questions regarding your organization's annual contribution.

**MD Road Salt Management Bill (House Bill 903)** – Lyn Poorman, MDE

A bill that would require local jurisdictions with highway maintenance responsibilities to establish a best practices road salt management program has been introduced into the Maryland House of Delegates ([HB903](#)). A similar bill has been introduced into the Senate ([SB775](#)). As written, the House bill makes no mention of the impacts on drinking water or public health that can come from road salt application. Hearings for both bills are scheduled for early March. Together, the Urban Issues and Reaching Out workgroups will draft language that the Metro Area Utility Committee or individual members can submit for comment as appropriate.

**Nutrient Trading in Basin States** – Olivia Devereux, ICPRB

O. Devereux provided a brief overview of the current status the basin states' progress on developing a nutrient trading program. Pennsylvania and Virginia have established programs, though few trades have occurred. Maryland and West Virginia are finalizing their programs. The main impediments to the success of these programs thus far have been a lack of demand to drive the market and state regulations that constrain the market. ICPRB is exploring some pilot projects that may show a benefit for drinking water utilities to pay for source water protection on agricultural land. Additionally, ICPRB recently held the Mid-Atlantic Symposium on Carbon where the benefit of carbon sequestration for water quality was discussed. Carbon is a greenhouse gas and is primarily an air quality issue. However, the best management practices that sequester carbon are primarily the same as those that prevent nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, *E.Coli*, and Cryptosporidium from entering our waterways. Since the carbon markets are more mature than the nutrient trading options, there may be more potential for progress by engaging in these markets. Attendance at the Mid-Atlantic Carbon Symposium was strong with representatives from all basin states. Many important issues were raised and some actions were proposed. The presentations are now available on ICPRB's website at <http://tinyurl.com/ICPRB-C-Symposium>. A factsheet on trading follows the minutes.

**Upcoming Partnership meetings:**

April 28, 2010

July 21, 2010

Annual Meeting - October 12, 2010