



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Summary for July 21, 2010

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

Attendees

Utilities

City of Rockville:

Judy Ding

DC Water:

Rich Giani

Fairfax Water:

Melissa Billman

Chuck Murray

Greg Prelewicz

Niffy Saji

Loudoun Water:

Tom Bonacquisti

Beate Wright

Washington Aqueduct:

Shabir Choudhary

Tom Jacobus

WSSC:

Martin Chandler

Plato Chen

Mohammad Habibian

State and Local Government

DDOE:

Shaw Nawaz

Jefferson County PSD (WV):

Susanne Lawton

MDE:

John Backus

Adam Rettig

PADEP:

Tom Barron

Patrick Bowling

Joe Lee

Shenandoah County Water Resources Advisory
Committee:

Dennis Atwood

VADEQ:

Jason Ericson

David Whitehurst

VDH:

Barry Matthews

WVDHHR:

Dave Smith

Bill Toomey

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:

Vicky Binetti

Ellen Schmitt

EPA HQ:

Marjorie Copeland

Sylvia Malm

ICPRB:

Karin Bencala

Curtis Dalpra

Joe Hoffman

MWCOG:

Steve Bieber

Heidi Bonnaffon

Mid-Atlantic Water Program:

Daphne Pee

National Park Service:

Doug Curtis

University of the District of Columbia:

Tolessa Deksissa

Workgroup and Committee Reports

1. Emerging Contaminants – Pat Bowling, PADEP

Safe Chemicals Act of 2010 letter

After consulting with a few national organizations (American Water Works Association and National Association of Clean Water Agencies) on the Safe Chemicals Act of 2010 introduced by Senator Lautenberg in April, the workgroup has decided not to submit a letter in support of the legislation at this time. The national organizations currently have no position on this specific legislation and do not think that the issue will be taken up in Congress in the current session. The workgroup will continue to monitor the legislation and consult with the national organizations to comment on proposed legislation as appropriate.

Listening session on EPA's new drinking water strategy

The EPA is holding a small number of listening sessions on their new strategy for protecting public health as it relates to drinking water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/dwstrategy.html>). The workgroup would like to organize a session in mid-August to provide feedback to the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water on two elements of the proposed strategy – “address contaminants as groups rather than one at a time so that enhancement of drinking water protection can be achieved cost-effectively” and “foster development of new drinking water technologies to address health risks posed by a broad array of contaminants.” This would provide Partnership members the opportunity to share their thoughts directly with the EPA before the strategy is finalized. The meeting must be held in August to provide the EPA feedback before they start working on the details of the framework in the fall.

Questions raised at the meeting were where the meeting should be held, to whom the meeting should be open, and how to prepare ourselves to provide the type of feedback the EPA wants. Concerns were raised by members regarding the open-ended nature of a listening session that requires participants to come prepared with ideas for how the EPA should implement the strategy. Some felt as though they did not have the knowledge or expertise to adequately address the EPA's questions. To address this concern, it was suggested that members participate in or read summaries of the upcoming (July 28 and 29) EPA-sponsored Web Dialogue – Drinking Water Strategy: A New Framework for Addressing Contaminants as Group(s) (<http://www.webdialogues.net/cs/epa-dwcontaminantgroups-home/view/di/223?x-t=home.view>; click on “Discussions”).

At the meeting, MWCOG offered to hold the listening session in their training room as it can accommodate the expected number of people. The meeting has to be open to the general public as it will be an official listening session for the EPA. Those present also agreed that the audience should not be limited to the Partnership nor only to utilities. The Partnership will specifically reach out to members, basin utilities, national associations (including AWWA, NACWA, and state Rural Water Associations), and researchers with expertise on this issue. The EPA will publicize the event likely through a link on their website and the Federal Register. Others are welcome to pass along the information as they see fit. EPA Region 3 is looking into using an EPA contractor to facilitate the meeting and to handle the registration responsibilities for the meeting.

Following the Partnership meeting, the listening session has been scheduled for Monday, August 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at MWCOG. A formal announcement will be emailed as soon as the details are finalized.

Water Research Foundation Project 4261 - "Building a National Utility Network to Address EDC/PPCP Issues" workshop – Martin Chandler, WSSC

M. Chandler attended a meeting for WRF project 4261 "Building a National Utility Network to Address EDC/PPCP Issues" workshop held in conjunction with the June American Water Works Annual Conference and Exposition in Chicago. This session was convened by project consultant Malcolm Pirnie and brought together utility representatives from around the country, including Fairfax Water, Washington Aqueduct, and WSSC, for a brainstorming session. The session centered on a series of questions that need to be answered before a network can be developed. Examples of such questions are: what is an EDC knowledge network, who should participate, and how would the network be governed and operated? The consultant is now sorting through the information and feedback received at the meeting.

Emerging Contaminant-Related Announcements

A consensus statement on pharmaceuticals in drinking water from the Environmental Health Summit held in November 2008 in North Carolina was recently published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. The article "Pharmaceuticals in Water — an Interdisciplinary Approach to a Public Health Challenge" is available here: <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/info:doi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.0901532>.

2. Urban Issues – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Information session: Leveraging Water Quality Standards for Source Water Protection

This past quarter the workgroup focused on organizing the information session held in conjunction with this meeting. Information on the session is available on the DWSP website:

http://www.potomacdwsp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76-leveragingwqs2010&catid=39-meetings.

Update on regional initiatives with source water protection implications

Chesapeake Bay TMDL: EPA released draft nitrogen and phosphorus allocations on July 1. Draft sediment allocations will be available on August 15. The states and the District of Columbia are to submit draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plans on September 1 and their final plans by November 29. The workgroup is interested in reviewing these plans for source water protection entry points. The next webinar update on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on August 19 (follow this link to register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/241843475f>). For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl>.

3. Early Warning/Emergency Response – Karin Bencala, ICPRB (for Carlton Haywood, ICPRB)

Fall 2008 Spill Exercise After Action Report

Following the fall 2008 spill exercise with Colonial Pipeline an After Action Report with recommended activities was drafted by the exercise's consultant Horsley Witten. A spreadsheet was created to track progress on the recommendations. There are still potentially funds available through EPA to conduct a spill-related exercise. One idea for the funds is to address one or more issues addressed in the After Action Report.

NCR WARN update – Steve Bieber, MWCOG

The National Capital Region Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (<http://www.ncwarn.org>) has updated their website to track emergency events and the response to them. This version allows members to post documents (maps, data sheets, etc.) to a password protected website that will chronologically track the response to an emergency event. This project is in addition to the RICCS system already used for regional emergency communications. S. Bieber suggested that the tool be used as part

of a Potomac spill table-top exercise to demonstrate its capabilities. Members thought that a demonstration would be valuable activity for the Annual Meeting.

Emergency Response-Related Announcements

Pat Bowling, PADEP: Northeast Regional Water Security seminar: September 30, 2010, Philadelphia:
<http://www.wradrb.org/events.asp>

Water Security Congress 2010, September 19 -22, 2010 (National Harbor, MD):
<http://www.awwa.org/Conferences/securityconf.cfm?ItemNumber=753&navItemNumber=3543&showLogin=N>

4. Ag Issues – Ellen Schmitt, EPA Region 3

Crypto webinar

The Ag Issues workgroup with input from the Ag Advisory Committee organized a webinar entitled, “*Cryptosporidium*, Cattle & Drinking Water: Critical linkages between BMPs and safe drinking water.” This ran live on July 22 as part of the Penn State University Agriculture and Environment Center's Manure du jour webinar series. WSSC's Plato Chen and Mid-Atlantic Water Program's Daphne Pee presented on the Partnership's behalf. Information on the webinar is available on the Partnership's website: http://www.potomacdwsp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=77-cryptowebinar&catid=39-meetings. It will be archived soon at the Penn State webinar library - www.aec.cas.psu.edu.

Ag Advisory Committee meeting

The schedule for holding an in-house meeting with the workgroup's advisory committee has changed. The workgroup's revised schedule is to 1) solicit feedback on the Crypto message from both webinar participants and the advisory committee members, 2) develop an outreach strategy, 3) hold in-house meeting with advisory committee to get feedback on strategy. Members requested that information on the advisory committee be made available on the Partnership's website.

Ag-Related Announcements

Sylvia Malm, EPA HQ: Two EPA projects of interest – EPA and USDA have an interagency agreement to sponsor the Future Farmers of America to develop a high school training program focused on water and EPA Region 5 has a pilot project where the Farm Services Agency is using wellhead delineation areas as a basis for funding.

5. Disinfectant By-product Precursors – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

Water Research Foundation Project Updates

One project is analyzing contaminant precursors on a watershed scale to look for ways to reduce their presence in the first place so they do not have to be addressed at treatment plants. The project has started and is set to finish in 2013.

M. Habibian has previously reported on the disagreement regarding the approach developed for Project 4169 - “Water Utility Framework for Responding to Emerging Contaminant Issues.” The scope of work has changed and the consultant has a new team working on the project. The hope is that there will be a draft report in approximately 18 months. WSSC is still hoping that the Potomac region will serve as a case study for implementing the framework that is developed.

Related to this, EPA Region 3's Vicky Binetti thought members might be interested in the work of a 2008 collaborative effort between state and EPA water quality and drinking water directors and national program managers. The State-EPA Nutrient Innovations Task Group formalized its findings and recommendations for nutrient pollution prevention and pollution in this report:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/nitgreport.pdf>. A summary of this work is attached separately.

6. Reaching Out – Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB

MWCOG Water Blogs

C. Dalpra has been following the MWCOG water blogging effort.

Mom Blog - Includes tips and stories for DC, VA, and MD Moms: <http://www.metro-dc-mom-blog.com/>

Lawn & Garden Blog - The source for all things green in Washington, DC and surrounding areas:

<http://www.metro-dc-lawn-garden-blog.com>

Annual Meeting

The time has arrived to select a location for the Annual Meeting. West Virginia was suggested as the general location since the meeting has not been held in the state yet (past meeting locations: 2004 – MD-Black Hill Regional Park/Little Seneca Reservoir, hosted by ICPRB; 2005 – MD-WSSC headquarters; 2006 – PA-Gettysburg/PA DEP; 2007 – DC-Dalecarlia Plant/WAD; 2008 – MD-Mt. Aetna Camp, Hagerstown/MDE; 2009 – VA-Loudon Water).

Cacapon State Park was suggested as one option. Bill Toomey, WVDHHR, will look into some options for both a facility and for a field trip. Field trip suggestions were an area with good stormwater management practices, a small public water provider (Jefferson County?), CAFO, or a community with model source water protection efforts. Other general ideas for topics were Montgomery County's MS4, nutrient reduction approaches, and a session on the state Watershed Implementation Plans that are required by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL process. Members like the idea of a NCR WARN demonstration at the meeting as previously mentioned.

If you are interested in helping to plan the Annual Meeting please contact Curtis Dalpra (cdalpra@icprb.org).

Workgroup and committee chairs are reminded that 2010 activity summaries and 2011 workplans will be needed in September. An email will be sent out in August with the details and deadlines.

Annual Report

C. Dalpra is planning to have the final draft of the Annual Report completed by the Annual Meeting. If you have ideas for this year's report, contact Curtis (cdalpra@icprb.org).

EPA Region 3 Blog

Ellen Schmitt, EPA Region 3, has been asked to write a post for the region's water blog Healthy Waters for EPA Mid-Atlantic Region (<http://blog.epa.gov/healthywaters/>). The focus would be on source water protection, using the Partnership as an example. There were no objections to this by those attending the meeting. The text of the post will be distributed to members for approval.

7. Government Committee – Jason Ericson, VA DEQ

Potomac Pharmaceutical Take-Back event

DEA is planning a nationwide take-bake event on September 25. While the details are still being worked out, the plan is to get involved with this effort and then plan a Potomac-specific event for another time. For the DEA event, the Partnership can help with marketing and outreach and by attending events in the basin. This would give the Partnership the opportunity to add a source water protection message on to the DEA's message. Meeting participants determined that it was alright to have the DWSPP name and logo appear on materials associated with the event. Once locations are determined, a list of those in the Potomac basin will be posted to the DWSPP website.

Highlights from the State Source Water Meeting

The EPA Region 3 annual state source water meeting was held in State College, PA at the beginning of June. Highlights of the meeting included a tour of a Marcellus Shale drilling site, an overview of the River Alert Information Network (RAIN; <http://www.3rain.org>) on the Monongahela River, and an update on the Delaware River Basin Forum/Source Water Collaborative event to be held this March in Philadelphia and at a number of satellite meeting locations. A factsheet on shale drilling that was distributed at the site visit is attached separately.

Announcements

U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Seminar: From the Forest to the Faucet – Al Todd and Emily Weidner, Cooperative Forestry, USFS

This session highlighted the findings from an analysis done by the Forest Service to update the 2009 report "Forests, Water and People: Drinking water supply and forest lands in the Northeast and Midwest United States" (http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/fwp_preview.shtm). The update is done at the HUC 12 level instead of at the HUC 8 level and uses new land cover data. The goal of the project is to prioritize the protection of forest land for drinking water purposes. Land for protection is ranked on three factors: the ability of a watershed to produce clean water (as based on the presence of forest cover), the location of surface water intakes and the number of people they serve, and on the threats a forest faces from insects and disease and development pressures. Data from this analysis should be available on the Cooperative Forestry website this summer with a final report to be completed this winter.

This UMass-Amherst/USFS partnership might also be of interest to members: Forest-to-Faucet Partnership - <http://www.forest-to-faucet.org>.