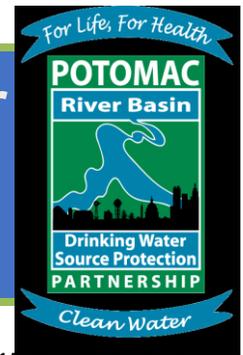


# Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

2015 Annual Report

www.PotomacDWSP.org



## Note from the Co-chairs

Since 2004, the Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSP or Partnership) has brought drinking water systems, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders together to undertake source water protection within the Potomac River basin. This collaborative effort allows those concerned with water quality in the basin to speak with a unified voice, identify significant challenges, and build the relationships needed to find solutions. In the past year, this cooperation has led to new projects to better understand potential risks, determine the role of forests in maintaining water quality, and bring new participants to the table.

The role of leading these and other efforts rotates each year between the Government Committee and the Metro Area Water Utility Committee. These governing bodies are led by member

organizations on a two-year rotation. In 2015, the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and Washington Aqueduct led the Government and Utility committees, respectively, with DOEE conducting the quarterly business meetings. Washington Aqueduct assumes the chair role in 2016, and Lisa Daniels with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will rotate in to lead the Government Committee. This structure allows all members to play a leadership role and brings diverse perspectives to source water protection in the basin.

**Collin Burrell**, Associate Director, Water Quality Division, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment

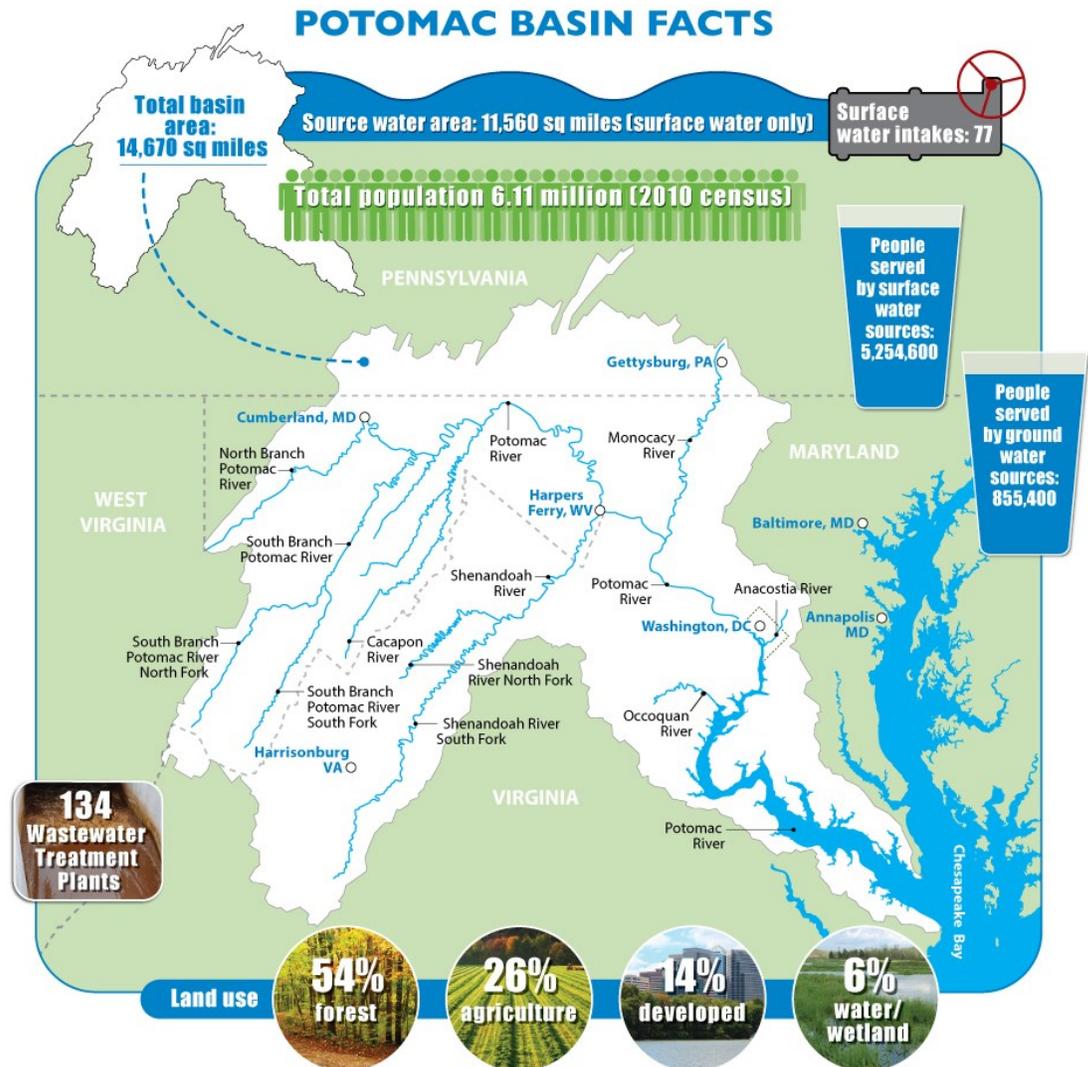
**Tom Jacobus**, General Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Aqueduct Division

## About the Partnership

Established in 2004, DWSP is a coalition of water utilities and state, interstate, and federal authorities. Twenty organizations are official members, with others participating in Partnership meetings, workshops, and activities.

## Mission Statement

DWSP serves as a cooperative, voluntary partnership working toward the goal of improved source water protection for the Potomac River basin in recognition of the vital role of the river and its tributaries in supplying drinking water to millions of people, and in support of the multi-barrier approach to safeguarding the public drinking water supply.



## 2015 in Review

The Partnership's work groups continued to be the center of activity for source water protection in 2015. Organized around priority issues, their efforts focus on the most pressing issues in the basin. Here is a summary of the 2015 activities:

- Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) monitoring data from Potomac basin utilities were reviewed by members of the Emerging Contaminants Work Group. The group also sponsored a session on chlorate detection, toxicology, formation, and operational controls.
- The Urban Issues Work Group surveyed utilities' understanding of the Water Quality Standards program; participated in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) public review process for several permits; and sponsored an information session on chloride trends in snow-affected urban watersheds.
- Members of the Early Warning and Emergency Response Work Group participated in an exercise with Colonial Pipeline to practice cooperative spill response and identified needed improvements for regional response.
- The Government Committee held a meeting with stakeholders in the Monocacy watershed and participated in meetings with West Virginia systems to discuss potential collaborative source water protection efforts.
- The Water Quality Data Work Group learned about Maryland agencies' monitoring programs and provided input to the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's (ICPRB) water quality data inventory and web map.
- Utility members and ICPRB successfully worked to obtain funding from the Water Research Foundation and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities to assess forest protection opportunities in the watershed.
- Members considered options to update the original source water assessments. A subset of utilities chose to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Corona Environmental Consulting on a web-based GIS tool for identifying potential sources of contamination.

## Looking Ahead to 2016

2016 will see fewer but more significant priority projects to better meet members' needs. The Partnership identified the following priority projects:

- Enhance knowledge of chemical contaminants in the Potomac basin using Corona Environmental Consulting's WaterSuite™ tool to assess risk and vulnerability to drinking water intakes.
- Implement recommended improvements to regional, cooperative spill response including information sharing and conduct a spill response exercise.
- Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae and produce communication resources as needed.

Work also will continue on a number of on-going efforts:

- The Water Quality Data Work Group will develop a web map to identify harmful algal bloom monitoring locations in the basin.
- The Government Committee will explore the creation of source water committees with water systems and county planners upstream of the D.C. region to pursue collaborative source water protection.
- The work groups will continue to monitor and report on research and legislation related to topics of interest including emerging contaminants, pipeline safety, road salts, water quality standards, and stormwater.
- With funding from the Water Research Foundation, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, and a few Partnership utility members, ICPRB will begin a two-year research effort to determine future water quality changes near drinking water intakes by preserving varying degrees of forested lands; assess water quality changes on treatment costs; and develop recommendations for source water protection activities.

### For More Information:

Visit [www.PotomacDWSPP.org](http://www.PotomacDWSPP.org) or contact Jim Palmer, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; 301-274-8104; [jpalmer@icprb.org](mailto:jpalmer@icprb.org).

**Member Organizations:** Berkeley County, W.Va. – City of Frederick, Md. – City of Hagerstown, Md. – City of Rockville, Md. – District Department of Energy & Environment – DC Water – Fairfax Water, Va. – Frederick County, Md. – Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin – Loudoun Water, Va. – Md. Department of the Environment – Pa. Department of Environmental Protection – Town of Leesburg, Va. – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 – U.S. Geological Survey – Va. Department of Environmental Quality – Va. Department of Health – Washington Aqueduct Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Washington County, Md. – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Md. – W.Va. Department of Health and Human Resources – W.Va. Department of Environmental Protection