



## POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

### Meeting Notes for November 2, 2007

**Location:** Washington Aqueduct, Washington, DC

#### **Attendees:**

##### Utilities

Arlington County  
David Hundelt

City of Rockville – Member:  
Vernon Simmons  
Susan Straus

DCWASA:  
Jerry Johnson  
Charles Kiely  
Kamlesh Parekh  
Lee Tanner

Fairfax Water - Member:  
Traci Kammer Goldberg  
Charles Murray  
Mishelle Noble-Blair

Frederick County DUSWM - Member  
Ken Orndorff  
Mark Schweitzer

LCSA - Member  
Tom Bonacquisti  
Beate Wright

Maryland Rural Water Assoc.  
David Swain

Washington Aqueduct - Member:  
Miranda Brown  
Thomas Jacobus

DCWASA:  
Louis Jarvis  
Jerry Johnson  
Parekh Kam  
Charles Kiely  
Lee Tanner

WSSC – Member:  
Andrew Brunhart  
Martin Chandler  
M. T. Habibian

##### State and Local Government

DDOE – Member:  
Monir Chowdhury

MDE – Member:  
John Grace

Montgomery County DEP:  
Nasser Kamazani

PADEP – Member:  
Patrick Bowling  
John Hines  
Joe Lee

VADEQ – Member:  
Scott Kudlas

VDH – Member:  
Hugh Eggborn

WVDHHR – Member:  
Jason Lucey

##### Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA – Member:  
Vicki Binetti  
Jon Capacasa  
David Hrdy  
Chuck Kanetsky  
Suzanne Rudzinski  
Ellen Schmitt  
KR Young

*Meeting Notes for DWSPP Annual Meeting, November 2, 2007*

ICPRB – Member:

Robert Bolle  
Curtis Dalpra  
Joseph Hoffman  
Cherie Schultz  
Jennifer Willoughby  
Sherri Zandieh

Other organizations:

AwwaRF:

Kim Linton

Clean Water Action:

Andrew Fellows

MWCOG:

Steve Bieber  
Tanya Spano

Potomac Conservancy:

Heather Montgomery

National Park Service

Doug Curtis

Trust for Public Land:

Kelly Hart

USACE:

Robert Pace

USDA:

Terry Councell

USGS – Member:

Scott Ator  
Brad Garner

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***Luncheon talk by Suzanne Rudzinski, Deputy Director, EPA Office of Science & Technology (OST):***

Suzanne Rudzinski spoke about OST's program on emerging contaminants (ECs), which include a wide range of substances such as endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs), pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), nanomaterials, flame retardants, and prions. This issue is receiving increasing attention because more and more chemicals are being introduced into the environment, and also, because our ability to detect these chemicals is improving.

OST is working to improve understanding of EDCs, and in cases where there is enough information, is helping to initiate stewardship activities. In an effort to reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals in our waters, OST is working with the White House to develop guidelines for proper disposal. It is also funding pilot projects and has recently issued two grants, one for a mail-back program and one for a grocery store take-back program.

OST is also looking at water quality criteria and evaluating whether the methodology used to develop criteria is appropriate for EDCs. The Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances is conducting an EDC screening program. There is also the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program which collects data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. OST is coordinating its efforts on EDCs and PPCPs

with other Federal agencies through the Endocrine Disruptor in the Environment Workgroup.

OST is focusing much of its effort on identifying potential contaminants of concern and trying to fill some of the knowledge gaps. The National Pilot Study of PPCPs in Fish Tissue is sampling for PPCPs in fish tissue in effluent-dominated streams. The Publically Owned Treatment Works Study is sampling for PPCPs in influent, effluent and sludge. The National Targeted Biosolids Survey is sampling for metals, priority pollutants, PPCPs, and flame retardants in sewage sludge. The Health Services Industry study will focus on EDCs and mercury discharges.

***Welcome and Opening Remarks by the 2007 Chair, Jon Capacasa, EPA Region 3:***

Jon Capacasa reviewed Partnership accomplishments in 2007. In the area of emerging contaminants and pathogens, the Partnership held a mini-workshop on ECs, conducted the crypto source tracking study, and participated in EPA's perchlorate monitoring study. To foster interagency coordination and strengthen Federal support for the Partnership, EPA organized a meeting on the Partnership in May, which was attended by over 20 Federal agencies. The Partnership also conducted preliminary GIS mapping and analysis of conservation lands in the Potomac basin.

***Strategic Initiative on EDCs, Kim Linton, American Water Works Research Foundation (AwwaRF):***

Kim Linton gave a presentation on AwwaRF-supported research on endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) and pharmaceutically active compounds. AwwaRF has provided support for projects on occurrence of these compounds, effectiveness of treatment processes, toxicological relevance, determination of research needs, and communication of risk. Kim described AwwaRF's new Strategic Initiative on EDCs, which includes a research project idea planning workshop which took place in September 2007, and \$1 million per year funding for research for five years. The final agenda for 2008 funding is to be announced in January 2008.

***Passing of the gavel to the new Chair, Thomas Jacobus, Washington Aqueduct:***

Tom Jacobus expressed his appreciation of the job done in the past year by the outgoing Chair, Jon Capacasa, including his efforts to increase the role of Federal agencies in the Partnership, and to reach out to other organizations with an interest in source water protection. Jacobus said that in 2008 the Partnership would build on the work done in 2007, and would try to enhance the role of governmental side of the Partnership, and also reach out to the broader environmental community.

***Reports on Accomplishments for 2007:***

**Emerging Contaminants Workgroup** (Martin Chandler, WSSC): Martin gave a summary of workgroup activities in 2007, which included tracking current research and organizing a mini-workshop entitled “Emerging Contaminant Challenges – Alternative Approaches for Water Utilities”. Kim Linton encouraged the Partnership to take advantage of opportunities to participate in AwwaRF-funded projects related to its strategic initiative on ECs. Tom Jacobus commented that ECs is complex issue, and the AwwaRF strategic initiative will provide resources to allow for a concerted effort for a period of time sufficient to get some meaningful answers.

**Pathogens Workgroup** (Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct): It is anticipated that the crypto source tracking study funded by the RARE grant will be completed by early summer of 2008. Because the preliminary results of this study suggest that agriculture is a significant source of cryptosporidium in the basin, Miranda intends to establish a dialog between the Partnership and the agricultural community on best management practices and other related issues. AwwaRF’s assistance on communication strategies may be helpful. Joe Hoffman said that the Partnership might find opportunities to work with particular segments of the farm community, such as the Amish, to implement BMPs in the basin. Vicki Binetti commented that work with the agricultural community might help us broaden participation in the Partnership. Tanya Spano noted that the recent Chesapeake Bay Program reorganization has shifted focus to implementation.

**Disinfection By-Product Precursors Workgroup** (Mohammad Habibian, WSSC): Partnership members are continuing to pursue research funding through AwwaRF. WSSC staff have outlined a proposal, *Contributions of Watershed Vegetation and Algae to Disinfection By-Product Levels in Finished Water*, which may be developed and submitted by the Partnership to AwwaRF as a Tailored Collaboration project.

**Urban Issues Workgroup** (Traci Kammer-Goldberg, Fairfax Water): The Urban Issues Workgroup focused its attention this year on roadway salts and deicers. Workgroup members met with staff from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to discuss their snow and ice management operations, and made presentations on the importance of this issue to water suppliers. Chuck Murray commented that most social-political forces drive society toward overuse of deicers, so it’s important for the Partnership to provide a counter-balance.

**Early Warning/Emergency Response Workgroup** (Cherie Schultz, ICPRB): The Workgroup continued to track progress and receive updates on water security-related projects and regional early warning monitoring systems, and also initiated a pipeline safety review for the Potomac River basin. Chuck Murray

thanked Dr. Habibian and WSSC for refocusing attention on this issue. Assurances were made at the time of the 1993 Colonial Pipeline spill that additional precautionary measures would be put into place, but with the passage of time, institutional memory of that event is fading, and it is important to refresh that memory.

**Reaching-Out Workgroup** (KR Young): The Reaching-Out Workgroup prepared a draft Partnership position statement on ECs. KR gave a presentation in August to their August at the Southeast Watershed Forum's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundtable, "Sustaining our Water Infrastructure through Watershed-Based Approaches". There was great interest in this presentation because no organization comparable to the Partnership seems to exist in this region.

***Discussion of Strategy/Goals for 2008*** (discussion lead: Joe Hoffman, ICPRB):

Related to the topic of land conservation in the Potomac basin, Joe Hoffman reported on the recent Congressional staff briefing on water supply held by Congressman Gilchrist, that he attended along with Tom Jacobus and others. Hoffman sees a potential for some Federal dollars to assist in land conservation efforts. Vicki Binetti added that we need to reach out more broadly and partner with non-governmental organizations involved in land conservation. Joe Hoffman commended the Potomac Conservancy on its successes in preserving land in the basin. Jon Capacasa stressed that we need to continue discussions on funding strategies for land conservation.

On the topic of early warning/emergency response, John Grace suggested that the Partnership devise a protocol for responding to incidents. He also suggested that the Partnership consider collaborating with researchers at local universities on studies and projects.

Chuck Murray commented that the water utilities may have a communication issue related to the perchlorate monitoring study currently being conducted in the Potomac, and suggested that the Partnership may be able to assist in preparing a common message on the topic of perchlorate in source water. KR Young gave an update on the study, saying that eight utilities are monitoring monthly, and the first results should be available in several days. All study participants have received a fact sheet on perchlorate from EPA. The EPA has established a "reference dose" for perchlorate of 24 ppb, and Maryland has set an advisory level of 1 ppb.

Joe Hoffman commented that ICPRB has just completed work on the PCB TMDL for the Potomac estuary. He suggested that the Partnership coordinate efforts to implement BMPs in the Potomac watershed to address drinking water concerns with TMDL implementation efforts. Hoffman encouraged the Partnership to find creative and synergistic ways to fund activities that we want to see undertaken in watershed, such as agricultural BMPs and land conservation, and find ways to coordinate with Chesapeake Bay Program tributary strategies.