



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Notes for May 15, 2008

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

Attendees

Utilities

City of Rockville:
Vernon Simmons

Town of Leesburg
Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:
Miranda Brown
Hannah Holsinger (EPA Fellow)
Tom Jacobus
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Plato Chen

State and Local Government

MDE:
John Grace

Mongomery Co. DEP
Nassar Kamazani

PADEP:
Patrick Bowling

VADEQ:
Andrea Putscher

WVDHHR
Jason Lucy

Federal and Regional Agencies:

EPA Region 3:
Vicki Binetti
Ellen Schmitt
Emily Weidner
KR Young

ICPRB:
Joe Hoffman
Cherie Schultz

Mid-Atlantic Water Program
Daphne Pee

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber

USGS:
Scott Ator
Cherie Miller

Reports from Workgroups

- a. Pathogens Workgroup:** Miranda Brown is initiating an effort to address sources of pathogens in the Potomac basin, and has been contacting agencies that work with the agricultural community. Daphne Pee of the Mid-Atlantic Water Program has kindly offered to assist the Partnership in putting together a series of workshops on agricultural issues.

Plato Chen reported that the RARE *crypto* source tracking project is essentially done. The project's final report has been completed and is undergoing final review at EPA, and project results will also be written up for publication in a journal. Plato said that the final report can be posted on DWSPP's web-site, and that it would be appropriate for Partnership members to make project results available via presentations at workshops or conferences. Vicki Binetti said that EPA may revisit analytical methods for *crypto* monitoring before the next round of required sampling related to the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, and that Partnership members may be asked to participate in this dialog.

b. Disinfection By-Products Workgroup: WSSC staff members have been talking with DBP researcher, Dave Reckhow of the University of Massachusetts about pursuing a Tailored Collaboration grant from AwwaRF to investigate the relative contributions to DBP precursors from land-based and water-based sources. This project would be a follow-up to a recently completed AwwaRF study. They have now decided to try to get this project funded via an AwwaRF solicited project for 2009.

c. Emergency Response Workgroup: The workgroup is planning a pipeline spill exercise to simulate a release of petroleum product into the Potomac River upstream of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. EPA Region 3 is providing funding from their Superfund program to contract with TetraTech to help organize and facilitate the exercise. The contract is now at a point that we can start choosing a set of dates for the exercise.

[ACTION ITEM:](#) Cherie Schultz will send out an e-mail to identify dates in which Partnership members are available to participate in the exercise.

d. Urban Issues Workgroup: Greg Prelewicz sent a written report, which was read at the meeting. Greg attended the 2-day American Public Works Association SNOW Conference in Louisville in April. He learned a lot about deicing operations and chemicals. Decision-making is often difficult for transportation officials, but Greg feels that he learned a lot about the new techniques and chemicals on the marketplace. He hasn't had a chance to prepare a summary report yet, but this information will be useful in putting together a regional workshop on deicing issues. He is still trying to drum up support for the workshop among transportation folks and other organizations that the Partnership hasn't typically worked with. No date is set yet.

If you are interested in participating in the Urban Issues workgroup, please contact Greg for more information – the workgroup is looking for additional folks.

e. Reaching Out Workgroup: KR Young reported that printed copies of the 2007 *DWSPP Annual Report* are now available. (Contact Cherie Schultz if you'd like copies mailed to you.)

[ACTION ITEM:](#) The Reaching Out Workgroup will prepare material for the DWSPP website on proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

f. Emerging Contaminants Workgroup: Martin Chandler reported on the Workgroup's recent efforts related to AwwaRF's RFP for a project to develop a framework for water utilities to address ECs. This is one of three projects to be funded this year as part of AwwaRF's three-year strategic initiative on emerging contaminants. Partnership utility members first considered responding to the RFP as a contractor, but decided on an alternative approach: to establish contact with consulting firms responding to the RFP and to ask that the Potomac be used as a project case study. Five Partnership utilities added their names to the project "utility volunteer list", Fairfax Water, Washington Aqueduct, WSSC, Loudoun Water, and Frederick County Department of Utilities and Solid Waste Management. Partnership members made contact with three groups submitting proposals: CDM & Michigan State, Carollo Engineers & Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Intertox. Letters of commitment were sent to these three groups by the five Partnership utilities on the volunteer list, and Tom Jacobus sent an additional letter on behalf of the Partnership.

KR Young gave an update on EPA's Potomac River perchlorate monitoring study. During the past 2 months, all samples had perchlorate concentrations well below the EPA's 24.5 ppb drinking water equivalent level, and WSSC and Hagerstown levels were below MD's 1 ppb advisory level. The only known source of perchlorate in the river is a manufacturing facility whose discharge permit is up for renewal. EPA and WVDEP are working to establish a perchlorate concentration limit in the new permit, and also a notification requirement to downstream water utilities in case of problems with the treatment process. MDE may revise its perchlorate advisory level in the future.

g. Other business: The Source Water Collaborative has a customizable version of its new brochure, *Your Water. Your Decision*. Vicki Binetti has put together a "straw" version of the brochure for possible use by Partnership members. Under "5 Ways You Can Act Now", she has provided information on the topics:

- 1** Become familiar with the Source Water Assessment completed for your community's water supply ...
- 2** Confirm that your local planning efforts adequately address your water supply needs ...
- 3** Use Green Infrastructure techniques in your stormwater management program ...
- 4** Confirm that your Local Emergency Response Plan includes procedures to safeguard important water resources ...
- 5** Learn more about the Potomac River Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership ...

ACTION ITEM: It was agreed that the Government Committee will finalize the brochure at their meeting in June. It will then be available to be sent out by Partnership state water supply agencies or by ICPRB.

Plato Chen will speak at the July 22 seminar on EDCs sponsored by the Chesapeake Chapter of AWWA. His presentation will describe Partnership activities related to EDCs.

Financial report: Joe Hoffman reported on the efforts of the three Mid-Atlantic river basin commissions to restore their Federal funding by gaining authorization in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which passed last October. Working closely with USACE, ICPRB is now trying to get funding included in the 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. Ten senators and five representatives are supporting ICPRB's request of \$650,000, which includes approximately \$125,000 for projects related to DWSPP. Joe suggested that certain Partnership members could contact their representatives to encourage them to support this funding.

The DWSPP 2009 annual workplan, budgeted expenses, and requested funding for coordination/administrative/technical support from ICPRB were approved.

Discussion on potential Partnership involvement in agricultural BMPs

Dahpne Pee of the Mid-Atlantic Water Program (MAWP) spoke to the group about her organization, and about how MAWP can assist the Partnership in organizing a set of workshops on agricultural issues. The goal of the workshops will be to educate Partnership members on agricultural regulations, policies, politics and players, to provide a knowledge base that will allow us to develop a strategy for partnering with other organizations to promote agricultural BMPs. Mark Dubin of MAWP will help select speakers. Daphne suggested that NYC activities related to agricultural BMPs might serve as a case study for the Partnership. Joe Hoffman noted that Daphne is also involved with nutrient trading, and that these programs may provide opportunities for Partnership involvement. Cherie Schultz suggested that since agriculture is also a source of ECs in the basin, it might be worthwhile to look at BMPs that address ECs as well as pathogens. It was agreed that some of the upcoming events should include farm tours.

Discussion on EDCs

- a. Presentation on Pennsylvania's EDC monitoring study:** Pat Bowling of PADEP gave a presentation, "An Overview of Pennsylvania's Emerging Contaminant Study". Pat noted that an initial joint PA DEP/USGS study of select pharmaceuticals and antibiotics in streams and wells in the Lower Susquehanna River basin has been completed (low levels of pharms and antibiotics were detected, mostly in association with municipal wastewater discharges; report available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/300/>). A statewide phase of the study is now underway that includes sampling water and streambed sediments for pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, hormones and wastewater compounds from two streams in the Potomac basin (Rock Creek in Adams County and East Branch Antietam Creek in Franklin County.)
- b. Upcoming monitoring by Partnership utilities:** Tom Jacobus discussed the recent MWCOG resolution and workshop concerning EC's. In response to community and political interest, WA, WSSC, and Fairfax Water gathered together at MWCOG and

reviewed existing data on ECs and the recent recommendations by Intertox on the list of compounds that should be analyzed for. The three utilities agreed to cooperate and coordinate sampling on a one-time basis. After the results of this sampling event are available, a decision will be made on further action. The list of analytes and the existing and upcoming data will be made available to other Partnership members. Tom noted that Fairfax Water will be participating in a USDA monitoring study for the next 2 years.

- c. Status of DWSPP position statement/outreach material:** It was agreed that the Partnership will take another stab at developing a position statement and/or outreach material on emerging contaminants. Cherie Schultz suggested that this be done via a web-based shared document tool such as GoogleDocs.

ACTION ITEM: The Emerging Contaminants Workgroup will take the lead on developing the statement.

ACTION ITEM: Cherie Schultz will research web-based shared document tools and report her findings to the Emerging Contaminants Workgroup.

The tentative date for the next DWSPP Quarterly Meeting is July 31.