



**POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP
Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2009
ICPRB, Rockville, MD**

Attendees:

Utilities

Town of Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:
Miranda Brown
Shabir Choudhary
Tom Jacobus (Co-chair)
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Plato Chen
Mohammad Habibian

Fairfax Water:
Melissa Billman
Traci Goldberg
Greg Prelewicz
Niffy Saji

State and Local Government

MDE:
John Grace
Bob Summers (Chair)

PADEP:
Patrick Bowling

WVDHHR:
Dave Smith

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Bill Arguto
Chuck Kanetsky
Ellen Schmitt

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Curtis Dalpra
Cherie Schultz

Mid-Atlantic Water Program:
Mark Dubin
Daphne Pee

USGS:
Scott Ator
Cherie Miller

UDC:
Tolessa Deksissa

*A number of people attempted to participate via conference call, including VA DEQ, but were unable to do so due to a problem with the phone. ICPRB is working on a solution for the next meeting.

Reports from Workgroups:

1. Ag Workgroup – Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct
A literature review on BMPs to address Cryptosporidium was conducted. In summary, there is a lot of information, but little specific to evaluation of BMPs in the field. Miranda Brown has begun contacting researchers on the topic for additional information. She attended a BMP conference where she made numerous contacts in the field, though the focus of the conference was not on Crypto. The Ag Workgroup had a conference call with representatives from the [Watershed Agricultural Council](#) and NYCDEP to learn about their efforts to address Crypto. They implement many BMP projects, but do not monitor so it's hard to know how effective their efforts are for addressing Crypto. The workgroup hopes to have someone come down from New York for a quarterly meeting in the future. Members of the Partnership have also been invited to go up to New York to learn more about their efforts.
2. Pathogens – Plato Chen, WSSC
The workgroup will support the work of the Ag Workgroup on the Crypto initiatives this year.
3. Disinfectant By-product Precursor – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC
Dr. Habibian reported that the proposed DBP project on land versus water sources was approved by the Water Research Foundation (Foundation) board. However, funding for the project is on hold until June of this year because of Foundation concerns about subscriber support given the current economic conditions. This project looks at treated as well as raw water in order to assess the importance of the two types of DBP precursors to treatment plant operations.
4. Early Warning/Emergency Response – Cherie Schultz, ICPRB
The workgroup is following up on the spill exercise that was conducted last fall. ICPRB's Carlton Haywood is working to improve travel time communications with the utilities. Cherie Schultz is working to get Colonial Pipeline Company an accurate list of intakes downstream from their pipeline. The issue of who makes decisions during a spill event was raised. The utilities would like to play a larger role and it is not clear what their role is. The federal agencies view the utilities playing an advisory role, but not being included on the unified command. Those in attendance would like the issue to be discussed further. Cherie will follow up with Charlie Fitzsimmons, the EPA Region 3 on-scene coordinator, and schedule a workgroup meeting soon.
5. Urban Issues – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
The priorities of the workgroup this year will be the intersection of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and NPDES permits. A subset of the workgroup will look further into the NPDES permits with the goal of crafting a whitepaper that can be used to talk with states about language the Partnership would like to see in future permits. The group is currently looking into the language each state uses and the existing permits throughout the basin. The group will also look at stormwater as it relates to NPDES permits. They are

hoping to hold a session on the MS4 permits at the next quarterly meeting. The workgroup also plans to look into wastewater treatment starting with gathering information on the baseline requirements in the basin. The goal is to draft a set of recommendations for future wastewater treatment plants.

Greg discussed the progress on the de-icing/road salt article. Bob Summers is still willing to sign the letter, and Joe Hoffman is as well. The ultimate goal of the workgroup's effort on this issue is to work with the highway departments to reduce salt application in source water areas or in areas where water is quickly conveyed from streets, as is already done in Massachusetts.

A number of people had suggestions for ways to frame the article and issues to be raised:

- Quantify local impacts of salt use
 - WSSC sees a clear impact from salt, after storms the demand at treatment plants for chlorine increases to offset the spike in ammonia that salt displaces in the environment – they get some complaints about taste from this, but would get more if they didn't do it.
 - USGS sampling at Little Falls shows a spike in conductivity after storms
 - If salinity continues to increase (as has been the trend for local water sources for the past several decades including WSSC's Patuxent reservoirs, FW's Occoquan reservoir, and Baltimore's reservoirs), there might be a problem in the future of corrosion in the distribution system.
- Quantify the costs and benefits of changing the way things are done
- Note what state highway departments are doing/how they are altering practices
- Share our concerns with the SHA and invite them to a partnership meeting to hear their perspective
- Include data from the Patuxent reservoirs
- Cite the need for research
- Offer alternatives
- Public safety is the priority, how do we balance this with wanting less salt to be applied?, how do we gain public support?, who do we want to do what?

6. Emerging Contaminants – Pat Bowling, PADEP

The workgroup was unable to draft a position statement that suited everyone's needs. The emerging contaminants page on the Partnership website now has links to additional information and resources. A factsheet from the USGS was passed around on the sampling project that was done with Washington Aqueduct. The Drug Enforcement Agency's proposed rule on "[Disposal of Controlled Substances by Persons Not Registered With the Drug Enforcement Administration](#)" was discussed. The workgroup will coordinate the drafting of comments to be submitted by the Partnership. Some groups in the Partnership will send in their own comments in addition to those sent in by the Partnership. The EPA's proposed rule change to [adding hazardous pharmaceutical waste to the Universal Waste Rule](#) was raised as an additional place to comment. WVDHHR provided copies of an ORSANCO [pamphlet](#) on pharmaceutical disposal.

Upcoming EC conference:

International meeting on occurrence and treatment of pharmaceuticals and EDCs
[7th International Conference on Pharmaceuticals and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Water \(#5013\)](#)

September 22, 2009 - September 23, 2009, Baltimore, MD

Update on Water Resources Foundation Project 4169 on Emerging Contaminants – Pat Bowling, PADEP and Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

This project will develop a framework for water utilities to use in responding to emerging contaminants, particularly endocrine disrupting compounds and pharmaceuticals/personal care products. Based on sound science, the framework will present best practices for water systems to follow including public health risk communication. The Potomac River will be a case study for applying the developed framework for addressing emerging contaminants. Work on the project should begin soon. CDM is the consultant and Dr. Irene Xagorarakis of Michigan State University is the principal investigator. Dr. Habibian will keep us updated on the related workshops, one of which will be held at WSSC.

Draft Annual Report – Cherie Schultz, ICPRB

This year it will most likely be 4 pages instead of 8 and fewer will be printed. It should be completed by the end of February or early March.

Revisions to 2009 Workplan – Cherie Schultz, ICPRB

A slight change was made to the agricultural BMP implementation strategy. Comments should be in and the finalized version will be posted to the website.

Announcements

Ellen Schmitt invited everyone to join the EPA's [WaterSense](#) program.

There is a proposition to align the Partnership's planning year and fiscal year. To this end, we propose holding the annual meeting during the summer quarter as the first meeting of a fiscal year. Please send any comments to Karin – kbencala@icprb.org.

Presentation:

Presentation: [Selecting Priority Agricultural Watersheds: Implementing agricultural conservation practices that benefit the Chesapeake Bay](#)

[Mark Dubin](#), Agricultural Technical Coordinator, PA Chesapeake Bay Program Office & SDA-CSREES Mid-Atlantic Water Program, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland

Upcoming Partnership meetings:

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Tuesday, October 20, 2009