

DWSPP August 16 Meeting Notes

**POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP**

Meeting Notes for August 16, 2006

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

Attendees

Utilities

Sandy August, WSSC
Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct
Russell Chambers, Town of Leesburg
Plato Chen, WSSC
Mike Chicoine, Washington Aqueduct
Todd Danielson, LCSA
Dawn Forsythe, WSSC
M. T. Habibian, WSSC
Ken Orndorff, Frederick County DUSWM
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

State and Local Government

Patrick Bowling, PADEP
Monir Chowdhury, DCDOE
Sue Cipperly, Adams County Office of Planning
Sidney Kuhn, Land Conservancy of Adams County
Andy Putscher, VADEQ
Larry Taylor, Town of Leesburg

Federal and Regional Agencies

Scott Ator, USGS
Vicki Benetti, EPA Region 3
Steve Bieber, MWCOG
Joseph Hoffman, ICPRB
Cherie Schultz, ICPRB
K.R. Young, EPA Region 3

Other Organizations

Bill Samuels, SAIC

Reports from Workgroups

Pathogens Workgroup (Plato Chen, WSSC):

The RARE Grant *Cryptosporidium* source tracking project is moving along and monitoring is scheduled to begin in October. Partnership members met with Ken Orndorf from Frederick County and Karen Andersen of Friends of the Shenandoah River (FOSR) on July 26 to view potential monitoring sites on the Monocacy and North Fork Shenandoah rivers. All sample collection on the Monocacy River will be done by Frederick County staff. On the NF Shenandoah, monthly baseflow samples will be collected by FOSR, and the six storm flow samples will be collected by an EPA Region 3 subcontractor.

Emerging Contaminants Workgroup/Disinfection By-Products Workgroup (Mohammad Habibian, WSSC):

Two DWSPP workgroup proposals are included in a set of about 30 projects short-listed by the AwwaRF Research Advisory Council: *Understanding Sources of DBP Precursors to Target Watershed Management* proposes to differentiate classes of DBP precursors (e.g., vegetation, decay, algae) to better understand origins and treatability, and *Source Water Protection Research Planning Workshop* proposes to develop a five-year research agenda for AwwaRF to help drinking water suppliers design and implement effective source water protection programs. (More proposal details are attached at the end of these meeting minutes.) AwwaRF has decided to wait until results are in from several current projects before funding any new projects on emerging contaminants.

Partnership members are encouraged to respond to AwwaRF's September 6 survey and to give high priority to the two DWSPP proposals, and to contact their Congresspersons to communicate the importance AwwaRC's work in supporting source water protection.

Emergency Response Workgroup

(Joseph Hoffman, ICPRB) ICPRB's review of the RiverSpill model is complete, and some discrepancies have been found between time of travel and peak concentration predictions of RiverSpill and previous models. Bill Samuels of SAIC, the developer of RiverSpill, stressed the importance of devoting sufficient resources to model calibration using site-specific data. SAIC staff had funding to do some calibration of the Potomac RiverSpill model using historical data collected by the USGS, but further calibration would improve its predictive ability. RiverSpill is now being supplanted by SAIC's newest tool, ICWater (Incident Command Tool for Protecting Drinking Water). The Emergency Response Workgroup is developing a proposal to develop and test a version of ICWater calibrated with Potomac data, and to support additional emergency spill response training exercises.

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(Steve Bieber, MWCOG) UASIG funding has been reduced, and this may have an impact on the USGS's early warning monitoring system for Maryland water supplies. Four monitoring stations will be established between White's Ferry and the District (3 Potomac and 1 Patuxent), for real-time monitoring of chemical and physical parameters and biological sentinel organisms.

Sources of funding for continued operation and maintenance after January 31, 2008 still need to be identified.

Urban Issues Workgroup (Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water:)

The Urban Issues Workgroup is looking for new members. Please contact Greg if you are interested in participating in this workgroup.

The Urban Stormwater SOW is available for members to review and to submit to their governing boards for pre-approval.

Reaching Out Workgroup (K.R. Young, EPA)

The Reaching Out Workgroup is developing a strategy and workplan which will be made available for review at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

The Partnership's 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on October 25, 2006 at the Adams County Emergency Services Center, 230 Greenamyre Lane, Gettysburg, PA. A field trip to nearby demonstration BMP's will take place in the morning (10 am to 12 noon), and a business meeting will be held in the afternoon (1 pm to 3 pm). Ideas for agenda items include:

- Funding report (Miranda Brown)
- Demonstration of ICWater (Bill Samuels of SAIC)
- Review of strategy
- Presentation on Gettysburg as a case study
- Presentation on EPA's Potomac Source Water Assessment database

Members noted that the meeting would provide an opportunity for outreach to Gettysburg utilities and Adams County agencies.

Workgroup Chairs are asked to provide text for Annual Report/Meeting Handout by September 15.

ICPRB/CWP Proposal to OGWDW

ICPRB staff is submitting a proposal, in partnership with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP), in response to the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's "Request for Applications for a Cooperative Agreement for Integrating Clean Water, Drinking Water and Land Use Planning Efforts". Partnership members agreed that if the proposal is accepted, DWSPP could serve as a venue for discussing project results, but members were not comfortable with having DWSPP be a formal partner in the proposal.

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Presentations – Conservation Lands

(Presentations are now available at ICPRB's website at www.potomacriver.org.)

- I. Kevin Mack
Potomac Conservancy
- II. Chip Price, Director
Program Open Space
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- III. Robert Lee, Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- IV. Sidney Kuhn, Land Conservation Coordinator
Land Conservancy of Adams County
- V. Kelley Hart/Caryn Ernst
Trust for Public Lands

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DWSPP Workgroup proposals short-listed by AwwaRC (Mohammad Habibian, WSSC)

1) **Understanding Sources of DBP Precursors to Target Watershed Management**

Objective:

The research would differentiate classes of DBP precursors (e.g., vegetation, decay, algae) including their treatability to target watershed management efforts to minimize DBPs in finished water.

Background:

Source of the precursor can be categorized as either allochthonous- entering the system from watershed and includes humus, silt, organic detritus, colloidal matter, and plants and animals - or autochthonous- being derived from biota (e.g., algae, bacteria) growing within the water body. Since the source material influences the chemical characteristics of the precursor, contribution of different precursors to DBP formation could be quite different. For example, the precursors from vegetation decay may be macro-molecules larger than the precursors from algal growth. As such, they may be removed more effectively during coagulation-sedimentation processes and thus may contribute less to DBPs than precursors originated from algal growth. Similarly, the control measures for the reduction of precursors could be different depending on the source material. Limiting algal growth can be done by reducing the level of limiting nutrients. Lowering the level of precursors from vegetation decay may require alternate/special approaches in the watershed. Therefore, understanding the origin of the precursors is the key to implement effective source control management strategies to minimize DBPs in finished water.

2) **Source Water Protection Research Planning Workshop**

Objective:

The objective of the workshop is to develop a five-year research agenda for AwwaRF that would result in a source/knowledge base to help drinking water suppliers design and implement effective source water protection programs. The plan will include project objectives, preliminary description of research ideas, priorities, and budgets.

Background:

Under the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), states are required to develop and implement a source water assessment program to analyze existing and potential threats to the quality of the public drinking water. Since the amendment, many states began implementing a source water protection program.

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Last year, AwwaRF has received number of research ideas from different stakeholders related to source water protection. During the AwwaRF Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting, it was apparent that AwwaRF needed a well defined research plan to address the issues raised by the stakeholders. Such a plan can only be developed by bringing experts together to identify and discuss the issues and prioritize them. The plan developed by the experts will be shared with the RAC for funding in future years.