

**Potomac River Basin  
Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership**

**Partnership Meeting**

August 9, 2005  
10:00 am

at:  
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin  
Rockville, MD

**Meeting Notes**

1. Welcome
2. Election of officers
  - a. Utilities Chair: Fairfax Water
  - b. Government Chair: EPA

For this year's rotation, the Utilities Chair will chair the partnership meetings. ICPRB will continue to provide logistical support for partnership activities.

3. Partnership strategy document – discussion and approval

The strategy document was adopted with the modifications previously circulated by email. The final version is attached here, and will be posted to the web ([http://www.potomacriver.org/water\\_quality/safewater.htm](http://www.potomacriver.org/water_quality/safewater.htm)).

4. Reports from workgroups

- a. Pathogens (Miranda Brown, Aqueduct)

The pathogens workgroup put together an informative workshop in late June and met in late July to discuss next steps. They are putting together a proposal for a cryptosporidium sampling/monitoring program designed to identify hotspots which can then be targeted for BMPs. It is anticipated that it will be approximately a 3-year program, suggested as a minimum by some of the researchers consulted. Cost of the program is anticipated to be on the order of \$100K per year. The workgroup plans to have a proposal ready in time for the November meeting.

(Traci Goldberg filled in for Miranda Brown.)

- b. Emerging contaminants (Martin Chandler, WSSC)

The emerging contaminants workgroup has been planning an all day workshop for September 19, focusing on endocrine disrupting chemicals. The workshop will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

The agenda is almost finalized, and complete information should be available within the next week (by email or our website). Please save the date and spread the word.

c. Field studies on DBP sources (Plato Chen, WSSC)

The DBP workgroup has not met, so that resources can be better focused on pathogens and emerging contaminants.

d. Early warning monitoring/emergency plan (Julie Kiang, ICPRB)

There is a suite of projects being managed by MWCOG, with the funds being provided by DHS and EPA. There have been some delays in getting final approval for the DHS funds. These projects will install some biomonitors and also include a component for a spill exercise. The spill exercise would be coordinated by ICPRB and would provide an opportunity to test emergency procedures. If deemed successful, it is likely to become a regular activity.

Lisa Olsen has co-authored a proposal for additional early warning capabilities in Maryland. For more information, contact Lisa at [ldolsen@usgs.gov](mailto:ldolsen@usgs.gov).

e. Urban Issues (Traci Kammer Goldberg, Fairfax Water)

The Urban Issues workgroup has not met, so that resources can be better focused on pathogens and emerging contaminants.

5. Funding

a. AWWARF research and funding opportunities – Kim Linton

Kim Linton presented information on AWWARF's awards programs. The tailored collaboration is best suited to the partnership. AWWARF could provide a 50% match, up to \$100,000 (that is, AWWARF grants would pay for one-third of the total project cost). Kim also presented an overview of AWWARF-supported research on pathogens.

b. EPA Chesapeake Targeted Watershed Grants

Kyle Zieba from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program discussed the upcoming RFP for Chesapeake Targeted Watershed grants. These grants are for implementation of on the ground projects with measurable results, and are not intended for research projects. Unlike the national solicitation, the Chesapeake grants are focused primarily on nitrogen and phosphorus removal. BMPs for nutrient removal can also reduce pathogen loads as they share many of the same sources so the partnership may still want to consider submitting a carefully tailored proposal. A total of \$7 million is expected to be distributed among 8-12 projects. A 25% cost share will be required from the grant recipient.

If the partnership chooses to pursue this funding opportunity, it may be advantageous to team up with other groups who are preparing grant applications. Marc Aveni from the VA DCR mentioned that Virginia is putting together a

proposal based on its tributary strategies. The Potomac Conservancy was also suggested as a possible partner.

c. EPA RARE grants

Chuck Kanetsky will provide information on this year's RARE program when it is announced. These grants are research oriented.

d. Long term strategy

The partnership is pursuing funding through grants. In addition, WSSC, Fairfax Water, and the Washington Aqueduct are planning to contribute some funds to support projects. ICPRB has been supported by grants from EPA to coordinate and provide support for partnership activities and is seeking funds to continue providing a high level of support.

6. Anniversary celebration – “executive meeting” involving upper management

a. Objectives, time, location

We had previously discussed conducting an anniversary celebration event to include the public. While recognizing the need for enhanced outreach, in view of our limited staff resources, we will instead put together an annual meeting for top management of partnership members. The meeting will provide an opportunity to showcase the partnership's accomplishments of the past year, and for top managers to discuss goals and strategies for the upcoming year. The meeting will include formal presentations as well as discussion and will take the place of November's regular quarterly meeting. The strategy subcommittee, and anyone interested in helping, will assist in planning the meeting.

The meeting will be scheduled in the November 7 – 18 time frame. Each partnership member should send Julie Kiang ([jkiang@icprb.org](mailto:jkiang@icprb.org)) information on the availability of your organization's management during those 2 weeks. The most suitable date will be selected on that basis. The location is as yet undetermined, but will likely be at either ICPRB or another centrally located facility.

b. Press coverage?

After some discussion about the need for enhanced outreach, it was concluded that we will prepare a press release for possible release at the conclusion of the meeting.

7. Logo

Eileen Bowling very generously volunteered her time to create a logo for the partnership. A pdf file showing the image is attached. From the artist:

“The blue in the center of the green field symbolizes the river and is actually a slightly stylized version of a tracing of the Potomac

(outside the DC Area) from an old aerial photo that I found. The silhouette of the mountains, farm, home, land and cityscape symbolize the partnership."

The logo received an enthusiastic response for both its appearance and its incorporation of partnership themes. Some minor comments were voiced, and we will see if we can work with Eileen to incorporate them into the design.

Many thanks to Eileen for her thoughtful design and for her time.

8. Next meeting

See notes under item 6.