



**POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP
Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2009
Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD**

Attendees:

Utilities

DCWASA:

Maureen Schmelling

Fairfax Water:

Traci Goldberg

Niffy Saji

Loudoun Water:

Tom Bonacquisti

Beate Wright

Town of Leesburg:

Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:

Miranda Brown

Anne Spiesman

WSSC:

Mohammad Habibian

State and Local Government

MDE:

John Grace

Lyn Poorman

DC DDOE:

Shah Nawaz

PADEP:

Patrick Bowling

Joe Lee

KR Young

VADEQ:

Mary Ann Massie

WVDHHR:

Dave Smith

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:

Bill Arguto

Vicky Binetti

Chuck Kanetsky

EPA HQ:

Marjorie Copeland

ICPRB:

Karin Bencala

Curtis Dalpra

Joe Hoffman

Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:

Steve Bieber

Mid-Atlantic Water Program:

Daphne Pee

National Park Service:

Doug Curtis

UDC:

Tolessa Deksissa

USGS:

Scott Ator

Workgroup and Committee Reports:

1. **Ag Issues** – Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct

The workgroup is developing a message on crypto and drinking water concerns with the intent of producing a “train the trainer” factsheet and/or workshop. Dr. Rob Atwill at the University of California at Davis, has agreed to review what is developed. He is also willing and interested in coming out here to conduct a workshop(s). Once the message and strategy are solidified, the workgroup will begin engaging NRCS and state technical committees. Only after this is done will the idea of a workshop be further considered. There are multiple ways that the group is exploring to get the crypto/drinking water message out. One idea is to partner with universities or other groups to do a webinar on the topic. Penn State’s [Manure Du Jour](#) is an example of an existing forum.

A website for the workgroup is being developed. Send any ideas or comments to Karin Bencala (kbencala@icprb.org).

2. **Disinfectant By-product Precursors** – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

Given that the Water Research Foundation has entered a new funding cycle, there is some hope that the project to assess the relative contributions of land-based and water-based sources to DBP precursors will receive funding.

3. **Early Warning/Emergency Response** – Cherie Schultz, ICPRB

The letter to Colonial Pipeline that was distributed at the last meeting has been reviewed and approved by the workgroup. Joe Hoffman of ICPRB will sign and send the letter. The group is now considering the best way to transfer information to the Colonial Pipeline national office.

Cherie is in the process of scheduling a meeting between state primacy agencies and utilities regarding the unified command structure and interstate communication.

The workgroup has drafted a 1-page description of interstate notification procedures and travel time estimates. Please send any comments to Cherie Schultz (cschultz@icprb.org).

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for September 22.

4. **Urban Issues** – Traci Goldberg, Fairfax Water (for Greg Prelewicz)

NPDES permit language – The group’s strategy is to focus on the principles they would like to see in permits, instead of proscribing specific language. A letter is being developed that can be sent to each state (or relevant agency with permitting authority) which outlines in general what the workgroup would like to see. The group will consider commenting on individual permits as needed.

The Montgomery County MS4 permit program appears to be moving forward. The workgroup would like to arrange for an information session at an upcoming quarterly meeting.

The workgroup is developing a workshop to address water quality standards and source water protection. One goal is to determine which standards the utilities think need to be developed. Contact Greg Prelewicz (gprelewicz@fairfaxwater.org) with ideas on topics, speakers, and/or attendees. The tentative timeframe is spring 2010.

MWCOG is holding a green transportation meeting on November 15, 2009. It will address issues such as retrofitting roads to for water quality and meeting MS4 and TMDL requirements. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

The workgroup's next conference call will be on September 15 at 2pm.

5. **Reaching Out** – KR Young, PADEP

A Partnership satisfaction survey was distributed. It also appears at the end of the meeting minutes. If you would like to submit a survey, please fill it out and send it to KR Young (c-kyoung@state.pa.us). The workgroup is also looking for guidance on a plan for the future direction of the Partnership in terms of expansion and marketing to others in the watershed.

The workgroup is starting to plan for the annual meeting that will take place on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Loudoun Water has offered to host the meeting at the Broad Run Reclamation Facility. If you have ideas for the structure of the meeting, or would like to be involved in the planning process, contact KR Young (c-kyoung@state.pa.us).

6. **Emerging Contaminants** – Pat Bowling, PADEP

The workgroup drafted [comments](#) on the Drug Enforcement Administration's [request for input](#) on the disposal of controlled substances by persons not registered with DEA in March. The comments were submitted by ICPRB on behalf of the Partnership.

Utility members of the workgroup drafted [comments](#) to an Environmental Protection Agency Information Collection Request regarding a [Questionnaire for Drinking Water Utilities Participating in Emerging Contaminant Sampling Program](#) in June. The comments were submitted by the Metropolitan Area Utility Source Water Protection Committee.

The workgroup decided not to comment on a D.C. bill regarding pharmaceutical disposal because it is not a source water issue due to the outflow location of D.C.'s wastewater below intakes. Tom Jacobus of Washington Aqueduct testified at the hearing ([video of hearing](#) – June 25, DC Council Committee on Health).

Upcoming conference:

National Ground Water Association's [7th International Conference on Pharmaceuticals and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Water](#)

September 22-23

Baltimore, MD

Sampling for the emerging contaminant study being conducted by PADEP and USGS is wrapping up. This study included two sampling sites within the Potomac River basin. The written report should be available in 2010.

A new study from the USGS, [Anthropogenic Organic Compounds in Source and Finished Groundwater of community Water Systems in the Piedmont Physiographic Province, Potomac River Basis, Maryland and Virginia, 2003-04](#), is now available. A number of Partnership members had the opportunity to review the report before it was completed. This was greatly appreciated and members hope that this sort of inter-agency communication and collaboration will continue.

The EPA, in collaboration with a number of partners, is working to develop a basin-wide program on the prudent disposal of drugs. At the moment, a pilot project is being considered for Frederick County, MD, in hope that the program can be expanded to the entire Potomac basin at some point in the future. The workgroup plans to be involved with this initiative. Marjorie Copeland (Copeland.Marjorie@epamail.epa.gov) of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water is the point of contact for the project. More information will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Project 4169 Update – Mohammad Habibian, WSSC

The final contract has been approved and the scope of the project is being finalized. There will be two upcoming workshops associated with the project.

Conflict of interest when commenting on regulations – Karin Bencala, ICPRB

This was raised to clarify procedures when the entire Partnership is unable to sign comments, letters, etc due to a conflict of interest with their agency and the issue at hand. The membership is still happy to have the government or utility committee comment when the entire Partnership is unable to do so, but everyone would still like a chance to review and comment before official documents are sent out. It was recognized that there is more weight behind what we do if we can get the whole Partnership to sign on.

Annual meeting preparation – KR Young, PADEP; Karin Bencala, ICPRB

The Reaching Out workgroup will take the lead on planning the meeting, but is looking for volunteers to assist with the planning. If you are interested, contact KR Young (c-kyoung@state.pa.us). ICPRB and the Partnership Chair (Bob Summers/John Grace) will share the responsibility for putting on the meeting with the workgroup.

Loudoun Water has offered their meeting space at the Broad Run facility for the meeting. The location will be confirmed shortly.

A number of topics and formats for the upcoming annual meeting were discussed:

- Topics
 - o Invite a group that we would like to learn from to come speak to us
 - o Bring in organizations' executives to discuss the Partnership's priorities, direction, and issues on the horizon.
 - o Executive Order on nutrient controls in the Chesapeake Bay
 - o Presentation from EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
 - o Urban issues – stormwater, BMPs, wastewater treatment
- Format
 - o Business meeting in the morning with a fieldtrip and/or celebration in the afternoon
 - o Formal gathering to attract outside groups and media
 - o Fieldtrip

As a reminder for workgroup chairs, there are a number of items that will be requested before the annual meeting: workgroup reports, articles for Annual Report, and proposals for FY2010 workplan. Karin Bencala will be in contact with you in the next month or two regarding these documents. Also at the annual meeting, the Partnership chair will rotate to the Utility Committee. Tom Jacobus, the current head of the committee has offered to serve again, if WSSC does not have a representative at that time.

Announcements

The Partnership has been recognized as a [2008 Best Practice](#) by the EPA's National Water Program.

MWCOG is looking for more partners for the Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) in the National Capital region. Contact Steve Bieber (sbieber@mwkog.org) if interested.

The [Maryland Ground Water Symposium](#) will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Registration is now open. Contact Lyn Poorman (lporman@mde.state.md.us) with questions.

EPA's [Watershed Central](#) website has information on source water that might be of interest to the Partnership.

Information session

Potomac Watershed Priority Lands Strategy: Conserving lands to benefit drinking water quality
Emily Weidner, Natural Resources Specialist, Ecosystem Services and Markets, USDA Forest Service

[Presentation](#), [Maps](#), [Paper](#)

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting – Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Survey of Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership – July 2009

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following:

1) Current activities of the Partnership

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

2) Quarterly meetings

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

3) Annual meeting

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

4) Utility committee

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

5) Government committee

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

6) Research Efforts

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

7) Internal and External Communications

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

8) Coordination by ICPRB

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

9) Participation of Federal Agencies

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

10) Overall Satisfaction with the Partnership to Date

Very Satisfied ----- Somewhat Satisfied-----Somewhat Dissatisfied--- Very Dissatisfied

I am a representative of --- Government-----Utility-----Other