

POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Notes for July 26, 2007

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

Attendees

Utilities

City of Rockville:
Mark Charles
Vernon Simmons
Fairfax Water:
Traci Goldberg
Greg Prelewicz
Maryland Rural Water Assoc.
David Swain
Washington Aqueduct:
Miranda Brown
WASA:
Jodye Russell (teleconference)
WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Plato Chen
M.T. Habibian

State and Local Government

Mont. Co. DEP
Nasser Kamazani
PADEP:
Patrick Bowling

VADEQ:

Scott Kudlas
Andrea Putscher (teleconf.)

WVDHHR:

Jason Lucey

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:

Vicki Binetti
Jessica Cockrell
KR Young

ICPRB:

Joseph Hoffman
Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:

Steve Bieber

National Park Service

Doug Curtis

USGS:

Scott Ator
Carol Boughton
Brad Garner
Cherie Miller

Reports from Workgroups

Pathogens Workgroup (Plato Chen, WSSC):

Plato reported on the RARE Grant *Cryptosporidium* source tracking project. There have been limited detects at monitoring sites from Method 1623. Storm sampling has been hampered by this summer's drought conditions, and therefore will likely continue for an additional six months, which is permissible within the RARE grant project schedule.

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

Dr. Habibian will be attending the AwwaRF workshop on source water protection held August 2-3 in Denver, Colorado. The goal of this meeting will be to develop a five year plan for research.

KR Young noted that there was a story related to DBP's last week in the Washington Post, which reported on tests for chlorinated compounds in District of Columbia tap water conducted by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG). The timing of this article may be related to debates taking place this week in Congress on the 2007 Farm Bill, which environmental groups were hoping would restructure USDA conservation programs. Miranda Brown suggested that EWG President Ken Cook be invited to an upcoming DWSPP meeting.

Emergency Response Workgroup (Cherie Schultz, ICPRB)

The Workgroup has been continuing its pipeline safety review, and recently received the copy of Colonial Pipeline's summary of their Integrity Management Plan (IMP) and permission to distribute it to Workgroup members. This document summarizes their program at a national level, with no specific information concerning the Potomac basin. The document says that 70% of Colonial's pipeline are located in or could affect High Consequence Areas (HCAs). It appears that Colonial does fairly sophisticated risk assessments and impact analyses for HCAs, and uses the results of these analyses to prioritize where they will implement "preventative and mitigative measures".

The Partnership decided that the next step in the Colonial inquiry is a meeting between Workgroup members and Colonial staff to discuss Colonial's modeling effort data needs and Potomac results, and to discuss potential preventative and mitigative measures for the Potomac pipeline crossing. It was also decided that a spill exercise simulating a release of petroleum product from Colonial's pipeline be conducted, in cooperation with the EPA Emergency Response Program and with Colonial Pipeline.

Urban Issues Workgroup (Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water:)

The Urban Issues Workgroup has prepared a draft presentation on roadway de-icers for review by Partnership members, with comments due by August 15. This presentation identifies "best practices", and will initially be given to staff at state agencies.

The Workgroup is considering whether to sponsor one or more workshops or mini-workshops on deicers, and is thinking about the appropriate target audience and partners. EPA may be able to provide contact information for the Green Highways Partnership.

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

The Reaching Out Workgroup is planning this year's DWSP Partnership Annual Meeting. The meeting tentatively will be held at Washington Aqueduct's facility on Friday, November 2, 2007. Suggestions for the keynote speaker are Representative Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, and former EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, Tracy Mehan. Other suggestions for speakers and/or guests are representatives from USDA, Trash-Free Potomac Watershed Initiative, the U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District, and other offices of the National Park Service.

Note: A draft of the updated DWSPP website is now available for review, via the link and password sent out by e-mail to Partnership members. Please send your comments to Cherie by Wednesday, August 1.

Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (Martin Chandler, WSSC)

All three presentations from the May 7 Mini-Workshop on Emerging Contaminants are now available at the new DWSPP web-site, as is an updated list of upcoming conferences, seminars, and symposia on ECs. Martin Chandler will be attending "Compounds of Emerging Concern: What's on the Horizon", sponsored by WEF, in Providence, RI on July 29-30. Pat Bowling will attend "Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products: State of the Science", by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in Portland, ME on August 8 – 9. The May 22 webcast, "Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products Symposium", held by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, www.dtsc.ca.gov/AssessingRisk/PPCP/Index.cfm.

Martin Chandler has been discussing pharmaceutical take-back programs with Dana Heriegel of EPA Region 3. A difficulty in these programs is the necessity of having the involvement of law enforcement officers to handle controlled substances. Note that the EPA has recently updated its website on PPCP's - see www.epa.gov/ppcp/.

A new AwwaRF report entitled "[Removal of EDCs and Pharmaceuticals in Drinking and Reuse Treatment Processes](#)", by Shane A. Snyder et al., has recently been released and is available for review by AwwaRF members. This study has developed an analytical method "capable of trace detection and quantification of a diverse group of EDCs and pharmaceuticals". Utility members of the EC Workgroup will review the results of this study and report back at a future DWSPP meeting.

Traci Goldberg suggested that DWSPP begin working on a scope of work for a Potomac-specific project concerning ECs. Dr. Habibian noted that AwwaRF was holding a workshop in October (EDC/PPCP Strategic Initiative Planning Workshop), and suggested that DWSPP wait until the results of this planning effort are known before discussing a research approach for the Potomac.

EPA Region 3 is sponsoring sample collection at eight water supply intakes on the Potomac River sites to measure concentrations of perchlorate in the river. The analytical method to be used in this study will detect perchlorate at levels greater than 0.1 ppb. EPA does not yet regulate perchlorate in drinking water, and is currently evaluating whether or not doing so would provide “a meaningful opportunity for reducing risks to human health” (see <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/perchlorate/perchlorate.html>).

Potomac Early Warning System Calibration Phase: Status Update (Brad Garner, USGS)

Brad Garner gave a presentation on the USGS/MDE contaminant early warning system project, which uses advanced chemical and biological monitoring technologies. Phase I of the project has been completed with the installation of three stations in the Potomac River and one station on the Patuxent. Phase II – calibration – will be conducted from July 2007 through May 2008, through an operational partnership between USGS, MWCOG, and Hach, the main vendor of the chemical monitoring systems.

Report on June 27 meeting of DWSPP Government Committee (KR Young, EPA)

The DWSPP Government Committee met on June 27 to discuss what actions the Partnership could take to assist the States in implementation of their source water protection strategies. The members decided to focus on the following two issues in the coming year:

- 1) Waste water treatment plants
- 2) Identification of useful synergies between Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act programs.

Also, the group decided to focus on two tributaries of the Potomac, Antietam Creek and Opequon Creek, to explore whether or not DWSPP could make a contribution to local efforts underway in these two watersheds.

Discussion of DWSPP Strategy updates for 2008 (KR Young, EPA)

KR Young asked that Workgroups give him updates on action items listed in the table, “Summary of Partnership Activities”, that appears at the end of the DWSPP Strategy. He also proposed drafting a description of a tentative new DWSPP workgroup to focus on watershed protection implementation activities.