



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for February 18, 2016

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

DC Water:
Jessica Edwards-Brandt
Saul Kinter

Fairfax Water:
Mishelle Noble-Blair
Greg Prelewicz
Niffy Saji
Joel Thompson

Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Rockville:
Judy Ding

Washington Aqueduct:
Tom Jacobus

WSSC:
Priscilla To

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Joshua Rodriguez

MDE:
John Grace
Robert Peoples

PA DEP:
Patrick Bowling
Lisa Daniels

WV DHHR:
Bill Toomey (phone)
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Headquarters:
Sherri Comerford
Bo Williams

EPA Region 3:
Karrie Crumlish
Amie Howell
Catherine Magliocchetti
Rick Rogers

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Curtis Dalpra
Carlton Haywood
Heidi Moltz
Alimatou Seck
Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber
Lisa Ragain

Other Interested Parties

Corona Environmental Consulting:
Tim Bartrand
Margaret Kearns
Mike Serafino
Alan Roberson (AWWA)

WaterSuite Demonstration

Margaret Kearns, Corona Environmental Consulting

Ms. Kearns provided an overview of the WaterSuite tool being developed by Corona for source water assessment and emergency response, among other possible uses. COG, through a UASI grant, is funding the development of a Potomac-specific source water tool for their member jurisdiction water suppliers (DC Water, Washington Aqueduct, WSSC, Rockville, Fairfax Water, Leesburg, and Frederick County). This version of the tool will be completed by the end of April. The presentation sought to bring all Partnership members up to speed on the project. COG will reach out to Partnership members not already involved to discuss data needs and availability plus their interest in subscribing to the WaterSuite service in the coming months. The idea of exploring MOUs to facilitate data sharing between or with states was suggested by PA DEP. A copy of the slides were sent via email.

2016 Work Plan Discussion

The three priority projects for the year are:

- 1) Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response;
- 2) Enhance chemical contaminant knowledge; and
- 3) Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae.

Those present had preliminary discussions of tasks, leaders, timelines, etc. for each project. Leaders will follow up with those who have volunteered to help with a specific project.

Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response

Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

There have been many discussions on how to improve regional cooperation both within the Partnership and at other venues. General categories that seem to be common across all discussions include:

- Information sharing between members
 - o ICS for interstate spills
- Public information
- Chemical information
- Exercises
 - o Upper Potomac – West Virginia and Maryland
 - o Unknown material(s) spilled
- Gathering monitoring data during an event
 - o Interstate MOUs for sharing information

One of the initial steps for this group will be to decide on a list of tasks appropriate for the Partnership to undertake.

Enhance chemical contaminant knowledge

Mishelle Noble-Blair, Fairfax Water

Work on this priority will get underway once members have access to the WaterSuite tool, likely in May. In general, the risk ranking results will be reviewed to determine facilities for which more information is needed and which make good candidates for an outreach effort.

Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae

EPA Region 3's Karrie Crumlish volunteered to lead this effort. Possible focus areas were suggested:

- Communications
- Detection

- Sampling methods
- Review water quality data for links between parameters DBPs
- Outreach to partners and explore grant options for an on-the-ground project
- Track UCMR 4 rule requiring monitoring for cyanotoxins beginning in 2018

On the topic of algae:

- COG continues to work on public messaging and has been talking with the CDC about their interest in the topic.
- The Region 3 algae summit will tentatively be held in Pennsylvania this April.

In addition to the priority projects for the year, there are a number of on-going efforts that will be addressed this year:

Annual Report

The 2014 version will be used as a template. We are looking for a new Reaching Out workgroup chairperson. Let Karin know if you or a colleague would be willing to help out.

System Outreach

The Government Committee will continue outreach efforts to non-member systems this year. The focus will remain on the Pennsylvania-Maryland watersheds of the Monocacy and Catoclin. The committee will also discuss an effort in West Virginia. The West Virginia systems in Shepherdstown and Charles Town have expressed interest in learning more about the Partnership. The group could consider holding a spill exercise or coordinating a demonstration of the WaterSuite tool for those systems.

Water Quality Data Workgroup

The workgroup is wrapping up efforts to gather cyanotoxin monitoring information. The next step is to turn this information into a map for the website.

Emerging Contaminants Workgroup

A number of updates were sent to the workgroup ahead of the quarterly meeting. Three highlights are:

- Chair Tom Jacobus added his name, on behalf of the Potomac Partnership's Metro Area Utility Committee, in support of a letter prepared by the [National Stewardship Action Council](#), petitioning the FDA to withdraw its drug flushing advice or make it consistent with other federal agency guidance against flushing.
- The next [DEA drug take-back event](#) is scheduled for Saturday, April 30.
- President Obama signed into law in late December the [Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015](#), which amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, by banning the manufacture and sale of personal care products that contain microbeads. Several states passed similar bans in recent months.

Fracking

- MDE continues to work on fracking regulations. They will be released for comment in the coming months.
- Not much drilling is going on in Pennsylvania right now. The state is in the midst of a contentious update of existing rules for surface activities of conventional and unconventional oil and gas wells.
- EPA Region 3 is seeing more Underground Injection Well permits.

Announcements

- The Virginia section of AWWA is hosting a seminar, [Water Resources: Protection, Monitoring, & Emergency Response](#). The meeting will feature source water-related presentations by VDH and Corona. The meeting will be held on April 12 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Kelly Education Center in Richmond, Virginia.
- Updated source water assessments for several Eastern Panhandle systems are available on [WV Region 9 Development Council's website](#).
- COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee is planning to have a workshop on road salts in the next couple of months. More information will be circulated as it becomes available.

**Next Quarterly Meeting:
May 25, 2016**