



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Annual Meeting Summary for November 9, 2016

Location: ICPRB, Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Attendees

Utilities

Berkeley County:
Steve DeRidder
Christine Thiel

DC Water:
Joshua Mazurek

City of Rockville:
Judy Ding

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

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell

Shepherdstown:
Woody Coe III
Frank Welch
Dustin Gregory

Town of Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:
Alex Gorzalski
Tom Jacobus
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:
Priscilla To
Martin Chandler
J.C. Langley

State and Local Agencies

Carroll County:
Sean Hartman

MDE:
John Grace
Saeid Kasraei
Robert Peoples

PA DEP:
Patrick Bowling
Ed Chescattie
Lisa Daniels

VDH:
Robert Edelman

WV Bureau of Public Health:
Alan Marchun

WV Environmental Health
Services:
Patrick Murphy

WV DHHR:
Bill Toomey
Monica Whyte

WV Rural Water Association:
Lewis Baker

Federal and Regional Agencies

Eastern Panhandle PDC:
Matthew Pennington

EPA Region 3:
Karrie Crumlish
Amie Howell
Meg Keegan
Cathy Magliocchetti

ICPRB:
Renee Bourassa
Carlton Haywood
Scott Kaiser
Heidi Moltz
Jim Palmer

MWCOG:
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Cheryl Dieter
Mary Kay Foley

Other Interested Parties

Chesapeake Bay Program:
Diane Cameron

Thrasher Engineering:
Logan Cooper

Welcome and Introductions

Tom Jacobus, Washington Aqueduct; Potomac DWSPP Chairman

Welcome to Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Bill Toomey, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Business Meeting

2016 Year in Review

Alex Gorzalski, Washington Aqueduct

The three priority projects in 2016 were:

- Enhance chemical contaminant knowledge in the Potomac basin
- Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response
- Explore source water protection activities related to toxic and non-toxic algae

Below is a selection of accomplishments and work completed during the year. Refer to Attachment #1 for a complete list.

Enhance chemical contaminant knowledge in the Potomac basin

The Partnership explored two GIS-based tools for identifying contaminate sources in the basin: Corona Environmental's WaterSuite and EPA's DWMAPS. WaterSuite had been developed as part of a grant through Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and was launched in early summer. Utility members participated in a training session led by Corona and hosted by MWCOG to walk users through the basic functionality of the tool. In July, utility and state members participated in a day-long WaterSuite work session led by ICPRB and hosted by Fairfax Water. During the work session, participants dove deeper into the results of the susceptibility analysis and explored the potential applications for the tool in the basin.

Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response

Three priorities were identified from previous spill events and exercises:

- Develop a monitoring plan
- Develop a secure web-portal for internal spill event communications
- Conduct outreach to potential sources of contamination to inform them of sensitive resources downstream

Progress has been made on each priority. With a set of criteria for a web communications portal, ICPRB setup the PotomacSpills@groups.io to test the use of the application during a spill event. The portal uses a blog format to share information related to a spill. This information is broadcast to pre-approved members via email. A calendar function allows ICPRB to post the results of the spill model as calendar items to communicate the approximate date and time the spill will reach each downstream intake. The tool also allows members to post files and other pertinent information directly to the site.

A draft spill monitoring plan was prepared and is currently under review and further refinement. The plan outlines steps for monitoring before, during, and after a spill event at predetermined locations.

The group working on outreach to facilities of interest upstream of drinking water intakes have identified five facilities to focus initial outreach efforts. A draft letter of invitation to tour a utility member's water treatment plant will be finalized by December 2016. The group is compiling talking points to guide discussions with facility representatives and outreach will begin in 2017.

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

EPA Region 3 setup a Microsoft SharePoint site to act as an online repository and information sharing of resources on harmful algal blooms. The Partnership has participated in multiple HAB-related webinars throughout the year. Summaries and links to recorded webinars are posted to the SharePoint site.

Government Committee

The Government Committee has been conducting outreach to drinking water stakeholders in the Monocacy and Catoctin sub-watersheds with the goal to establish a local collaborative source water protection partnership. The committee organized a meeting on August 16th in Frederick, Maryland, to discuss interest in collaborative source water protection. Stakeholders expressed interest in pursuing a collaborative approach and identified spill response as an initial priority issue. A follow-up meeting is being planned for early 2017.

Proposed 2017 Work Plan

Lisa Daniels, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The Partnership will continue to build on the excellent work on the three priority projects during 2017. Refer to Attachment #2 for the complete work plan.

Enhance chemical contaminant knowledge in the Potomac basin

The Partnership will continue to focus on chemical contaminant risks within the Potomac basin. The Partnership will define how to use the WaterSuite tool and formalize a governance structure between MWCOG and utility members. Users of the tool will continue to add appropriate data and information with a focus on collecting outstanding SARA Tier II data. Outreach to facilities upstream of drinking water intakes will begin and identifying and prioritizing risk from upstream sources will continue throughout the year.

Implement improvements to regional, cooperative spill response

The spill monitoring plan will be refined and finalized and internal communications will continue to be enhanced using the PotomacSpills @groups.io web portal. A spill exercise in the upper basin will be conducted during the year.

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

Information and resources on toxic and non-toxic algae will continue to be posted to the project SharePoint site hosted by EPA Region 3. The Partnership will continue to participate in relevant webinars. A more defined project will be identified based on the group's interests and available resources.

Government Committee

The committee will continue to build on momentum from the first Monocacy-Catoctin watersheds stakeholder meeting with a second meeting planned for early in 2017. Outreach to drinking water systems and other stakeholders in West Virginia will also begin in early 2017.

Discussion

Road salts were identified as another area of interest to the Partnership. Members of the Partnership participated in a MWCOG road salt workshop over the summer. There was agreement that this should remain a priority for the membership. In addition to monitoring road salts for water quality, it was suggested the Partnership may be uniquely positioned to consider impacts of road salts on drinking water infrastructure (e.g. corroding pipes). Alex Gorzalski, Washington Aqueduct, asked whether there is interest in conducting intensive sampling around a snow event as the Partnership has the resources to study regional impacts of road salt use on regional water quality.

In response to a recent national report on chromium-6 levels in drinking water, it was suggested that it may be worthwhile to support or conduct a study to identify the natural levels of chromium-6 in the Potomac basin. The WaterSuite tool may be helpful to identify potential man-made sources of chromium-6 in the basin too.

During the discussion on spill response, it was pointed out that there is often a delay between the start of a spill event and when facilities are required to report an incident. This delay can often have serious impacts to sensitive facilities downstream. Is there interest from the Partnership to recommend state regulators revise reporting requirements?

Lisa Ragain, MWCOG, briefly described a recent project between MWCOG and the utilities to create a harmful algal bloom communications framework. Ms. Ragain anticipates a request for feedback on the framework from the Partnership. Another potential task for the algae work group is looking into potential overlap between UCMR-3 and HABs.

Lewis Baker, West Virginia Rural Water Association, mentioned the US Department of Agriculture's Healthy Soils program and suggested the Partnership could promote this program in coordination with the on-going forestry project. Mr. Baker also suggested a project to track TOC and algae across the basin.

Anne Spiesman, Washington Aqueduct, suggested we consider ways to combine multiple monitoring efforts across the priority projects to collect multiple parameters that may be beneficial to everyone in the Partnership.

Financial Report

Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

The FY2017 budget was approved during the Summer Quarterly meeting and is included as Attachment #3.

Colonial Pipeline Spill in Alabama

Mishelle Noble-Blair, Fairfax Water

Mishelle Noble-Blair referenced the recent incidents along the Colonial Pipeline in Alabama. While investigations into each incident are on-going, they are a reminder of risks from these types of facilities. The Partnership should continue to engage and strengthen our relationship with not only Colonial Pipeline but other facilities in the basin. The Partnership should continue to monitor the events in Alabama and when the time is appropriate, work with Colonial to identify ways we can be better prepared for similar events in this region.

Committee Chair and Annual Meeting Location Rotations

Jim Palmer, ICPRB

The Partnership Committee Chair for 2017 is Lisa Daniels, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C.

Passing of the Gavel

Washington Aqueduct to Pennsylvania DEP.

Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Diane Cameron, EcoLogix Group

The Local Leadership Workgroup and the Local Government Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program are reaching out to local leaders to discuss how the Bay Program can improve communication and understanding of restoration goals and information and technical support needs of local government leaders. Ms. Cameron facilitated a discussion on a series of questions to help the Bay Program better understand the interests, concerns, and needs of local leaders. A complete list of the questions are provided in Attachment #4.

PA DEP Safe Drinking Water Response to Large Chemical Fire and Source Water Contamination

Ed Chescattie, Pennsylvania DEP

Ed Chescattie gave a presentation on Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's safe drinking water response to a recent large chemical fire and source water contamination event. Mr. Chescattie's presentation highlighted the challenges of responding to an emergency that was not classified as a chemical spill but the response to the emergency impacted local drinking water supplies.

As emergency responders worked to extinguish a structure fire at a fertilizer facility, nutrient-rich runoff flowed into a nearby creek upstream of multiple drinking water intakes. This created a situation where emergency responders had to fight the fire, contain runoff, and ensure drinking water supplies were not contaminated.

Main takeaways from the presentation:

- Do not assume emergency first responders and managers are experts in every field.
- It is critical to install a sense of awareness for downstream drinking water intakes
- Accurate contaminant time of travel information is critical for decision-making
- Make decisions based on the best information available at that particular point in time
- Document as much as possible even though dealing with the fast pace of an emergency

Lessons learned to improve acute source water protection:

- Improve source water flow modeling and time of travel to major PSOCs during high, medium, and low source water flows. Build this information into emergency response plans so drinking water suppliers have a reasonable estimate of how long it will take for an upstream contaminant release to reach their intake. This information is critical in helping decide when to shutdown intakes.
- Provide maps of drinking water intake facilities as part of emergency manager response kits; but, be very careful to protect this sensitive information.
- Ensure County EMAs have accurate emergency contact lists for drinking water facilities in proximity to an incident. A simple GIS tool can help managers quickly identify facilities within a specified radius of an event.

Additional lessons learned:

- Create and maintain emergency monitoring kits in preparation for a potential event.
- Annual training with emergency monitoring kits is very valuable and can be done when unused kits expire.
- Annual joint-training with emergency responders to teach first-responders how to take samples in the event drinking water or water quality staff are unable to access site during an on-going emergency.
- Make sure drinking water staff have the proper credentials to gain access to secure sites and passed containment lines during an emergency.
- Remember emergency response staff and drinking water staff maybe looking for different things with regard to water quality (product vs. ppm).
- During an emergency drinking water conservation notice, don't forget about large commercial users of water. May need to negotiate conservation with large industrial users to extend emergency water supplies.
- Understand what the capabilities are of private labs being used. How quickly can they return lab results during an emergency.

Discussion

Mr. Baker, West Virginia Rural Water Association, mentioned the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection developed a [web-based GIS tool](#) to identify downstream intakes from a dropped point. This application may be adapted for use in other states or agencies.

Finding surrogates to monitor during a contamination event can be an approach to receive information sooner while waiting for lab results to return. Lisa Daniels, PA DEP, provided an example of a recent gasoline spill during a freak storm event. Drinking water staff monitored for characteristics of similar storm events (e.g. turbidity) to estimate the location of potentially contaminated water.

How might on-site stormwater management facilities assist in containing contaminated runoff during a similar future event? Mr. Chescattie wasn't sure it would have made a difference in this particular event due to the volume of runoff from firefighting efforts, but it is possible stormwater management could help during smaller scale events.

Other Discussions

Members were interested in learning more about why a request from West Virginia to withdraw more water from the Potomac River was sent to Maryland for review and approval. Christine Thiel, Berkeley County PSWD, provided some background and the reason for the request is being driven by a new Proctor and Gamble manufacturing facility under construction. The facility will phase in manufacturing more water intensive products within two years.

Optional Tour of Harpers Ferry Water Works Drinking Water Treatment Plant

Brandon Chuvalas, Harpers Ferry Water Works

Brandon Chuvalas provided a very informative tour of the Harpers Ferry Water Works drinking water treatment plant. Those on the tour were very impressed with how hard the staff works to deliver clean drinking water to residents of Harpers Ferry.