



## POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for August 22, 2013

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

### Attendees

#### Utilities

City of Fairfax:  
Lauren Sufleta

City of Rockville:  
Judy Ding

DC Water:  
Ying Tan  
Fikremariam Tesfai

Fairfax Water:  
Melissa Billman  
Greg Prelewicz  
Niffy Saji  
Joel Thompson

Loudoun Water:  
Tom Bonacquisti  
Micah Vieux

Town of Leesburg:  
Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:  
Shabir Choudhary  
Alex Gorzalski  
Anne Spiesman

WSSC:  
Martin Chandler  
Mohammad Habibian

#### State and Local Government

DDOE:  
Shah Nawaz  
George Onyullo

MDE:  
Robert Peoples  
Lyn Poorman

PA DEP:  
Patrick Bowling

VDH:  
John Aulbach  
Barry Matthews

WV DHHR:  
Bill Toomey

#### Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:  
Bill Arguto

ICPRB:  
Karin Bencala  
Curtis Dalpra  
Carlton Haywood  
Heidi Moltz

MWCOG:  
Steve Bieber (phone)  
Christine Howard

USGS:  
Joseph Bell  
Cherie Miller

#### Other

Lew Baker, WV Rural Water  
Kim Linton, WaterRF

## Workgroup and Committee Reports

### **Urban Issues** – Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

- The workgroup held an in-person meeting at ICPRB before the quarterly meeting.
  - Road Salts – Workgroup members reviewed a draft strategic initiative meant to frame an effort by a group of partners to champion the issue regionally. A main interest of the group is finding a way for training to be provided to state and local entities on how to protect water quality when applying road salts and deicers. The strategic initiative will be used to engage potential partners. The workgroup is also looking into how other groups have successfully addressed the issue. Efforts in the Baltimore watershed area and by SRBC and various universities are such examples. Greg reached out to COG's transportation staff as a possible partner. He thinks that they will serve as a good contact moving forward, but that they are not quite the right partner for the type of messaging the group is interested in exploring.
  - State water quality standards – There have been a couple of recent Water Research Foundation (WaterRF) case studies done on how states are approaching this issue; the workgroup is taking a step back to see if there are lessons to be learned from this effort. The workgroup's goal for the year is to talk to two Potomac basin states about this issue. Virginia is opening its Triennial Review process this fall. The workgroup will be looking to see if there is any new action relating to water supply standards and if there is anything on which the Partnership or individual members may want to comment. The workgroup is also considering doing a survey of utility members to see what the main areas of interest or concern are. For instance, new EPA standards for perchlorate and bromide.

### **Government Committee** – Bill Toomey, WV Department of Health and Human Resources

The committee has been busy planning an outreach meeting focused on harmful algal blooms. A list of speakers and topics has been pulled together through the efforts of many members. All basin systems will be invited to attend. Continuing education units will be offered for most, if not all, basin states. A concern was raised over how close the proposed dates are for this and the UCMR3 meeting being organized by the Emerging Contaminants workgroup. It was decided that Bill would poll the committee members following the meeting to see if the workshop should be postponed. (The committee did decide to postpone the workshop until 2014.)

### **Early Warning and Emergency Response** – Carlton Haywood, ICPRB

- Karin Bencala and Steve Bieber have both reached out to Colonial Pipeline in an attempt to reschedule our meeting.
- No exercises have been conducted this year; there have been a number of small spills that have provided an opportunity to practice. (Following the meeting ICPRB and COG decided to hold a small exercise between the two organizations in October.)
- Steve provided the following update on the action items from the spill exercise for which COG has volunteered to be the lead:
  - Create Hazardous Materials List
    - Create a database which lists the "Top Twenty" hazardous materials transported by rail through the region with the greatest potential to negatively affect drinking water production. *Steve has not been able to track this down yet, although CSX told him that data regarding what they ship is publicly available.*
    - Create a list of sources of information for hazardous chemicals. *This is readily available online (MSDS for each chemical).*

- Review utility membership in RICCS System - Review and update RICCS database to ensure that the correct personnel from each agency/utility are receiving notifications. *This is updated quarterly by COG. Steve is sending out lists to all utilities as part of the recent drought exercise.*
- Alternate Communication Plans - Develop alternate/redundant methods to conduct MWCOG regional conference calls/coordination meetings if the cell phone or land line network is jammed or not available – *It appears that a regional emergency communications plan will be developed through the regional UASI program. We should be able to piggy-back on this effort. There are multiple communications platforms available, but a plan is needed to operationalize how they will be used.*
- Develop a web-based repository for sharing information during an incident - Investigate potential platforms that could support sharing of information during an incident as well as lessons learned and best practices – *The new NCRWARN website should support this. We are beta testing the site right now.*
- Create a standard monitoring sheet for compiling and distributing sampling data during an incident. – *Steve has checked with MDE, EPA, and the Coast Guard and they did not have any standard forms available.*
- Determine how Early Warning Systems (Biofish Monitors and Hach Monitors) can be used when intakes are shut. Decide if the system can be retrofitted so samples can be taken when an intake is closed – *This has been discussed with the manufacturers and utilities. The feasibility of modifying the equipment will vary by location. However, in most cases, it will probably be cheaper and easier to collect samples manually.*
- COG's water security workgroup was approached by the [Regional Resiliency Assessment Program \(RRAP\)](#) at DHS to see if there is any interest in doing an interagency review of critical regional water infrastructure. The scope of such a review would be defined by utilities and DHS to make sure it was of interest and use to the region. Steve can set up a call or meeting if anyone is interested in learning more about this or other DHS assessments.
- WaterRF is planning a meeting with the communication entities in New Jersey to discuss options during emergencies. COG is organizing similar meetings and discussions in this region. There are a number of regional and national exercises planned in the coming year. Steve has additional information on these exercises if you want to learn more.
- Lew Baker mentioned that WV WARN is working to get generators permanently installed at all key locations, including at water utilities. The NCR is talking about building microgrids with Sandia National Laboratories. FEMA would assist with the associated infrastructure, taking lessons learned from recent events on construction materials and where to site critical resources, for instance.

**Reaching Out** – Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB

- A meeting between Potomac Conservancy, Potomac Riverkeeper, Shenandoah Riverkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, and workgroup chairs was held on May 24. Participants were quite engaged in discussing current water quality protection efforts and areas where everyone's interests overlap. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 1.
- The website redesign process should get underway in September and take about 1-2 months to complete. Contact Karin if you want to weigh in on the design and/or structure of the site.
- Written reports of 2013 accomplishments will be needed from each workgroup for the annual report. A letter will also be needed from the Government and Metro Area Utilities chairs. This year's report will likely include general information on source water protection and the Potomac River basin. The Partnership might consider doing something special for the 2014 report to celebrate 10 years of effort.

### **Water Quality Data** – Nifty Saji, Fairfax Water

- ICPRB continues to catalogue sources of water quality data in the basin and will wrap up by the end of September. The product will be a spreadsheet of data sources and a list of known data and information gaps. [The most recent version is available for review and comment.](#)
- The workgroup is considering holding one or more information sessions to learn about the data collection efforts in each basin state.

### **Emerging Contaminants** – Anne Spiesman, Washington Aqueduct

- A workshop on UCMR3 risk communication will be held on October 25 at Loudoun Water. The intended audience is suppliers in the basin required to do monitoring, but is open to other suppliers and Partnership government members as well. The agenda includes the following presentations:
  - UCMR overview, applicability, monitoring schedules, CCL process for studying/ regulating trace contaminants, etc. – Presenter: William Arguto, USEPA
  - UCMR3 Contaminants/ Classes of Contaminants and their occurrence; sources within Potomac basin, fate and transport, treatability, other mitigation, and gaps in knowledge – Presenter: Michael J. Focazio, USGS
  - UCMR3 health effects, risk levels, and gaps in knowledge – Presenter: Dr. Christopher Weis, Toxicity Liaison, NIEHS

There will also be a panel discussion of how to communicate monitoring results effectively to customers and the general public. The panel will be comprised of water communication experts.

- WSSC has issued a [public release of the results from their UCMR3 monitoring.](#)
- Another nationwide drug take-back event organized by the DEA is scheduled for October 26.
- The website for the workgroup was updated with changes suggested by WSSC’s Martin Chandler.
- Dr. Habibian (WSSC) provided an update on a WaterRF project to define a new strategy for addressing emerging contaminants using a holistic approach. The project will look at topics such as how other countries are approaching the issue and, given limited funds, where money would be best spent. Once the consultant is selected a more detailed update can be provided.

### **Forestry and Source Water Protection**

The Partnership continues to explore activities related to forestry and possible ways to collaborate with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. Following the information session with Tracy Mehan at the last quarterly meeting, a call was held with Tracy and the workgroup chairs. This discussion made it clear that the Partnership is not ready to move forward with a fee-based approach to source protection in the basin. While this is the main interest of the Endowment, they may still be interested in working with us on other forest-related efforts. Before talking with them again, we need to have a better sense of our interests. From the discussion at this meeting, it seems that while we are interested in pursuing some level of engagement, we also want to remain focused on the idea that the “polluter pays” and emphasize that many interests would benefit from forest protection in the basin. Because of the overlapping interests of the Partnership, Endowment, and the watershed advocacy groups we have been meeting with, it was suggested that Tracy be invited to our October 1 meeting with them.

One idea that has come up multiple times is that of a prioritization tool that would allow us to evaluate the potential for forest land preservation or reforestation to have a source water benefit. This tool could be used to talk to others in the basin about priority protection areas. Other possible activities discussed were to review and comment on forest management plans, look at how this could fit with EPA’s goal of integrating the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, and find out what is done at the state level

to protect forests. A draft list of other initiatives we could undertake will be distributed to the workgroup chairs to review. This will serve as a starting point for future conversations with the Endowment.

## **2013 Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held on November 13 at Greenbrier State Park in Maryland. A survey was sent out to members following the meeting to determine a topic for the meeting's information session.

## **Issue Updates**

Marcellus Shale updates –

- P. Bowling – 250 additional wells have been drilled since May. As of this August, there are 6,571 active unconventional wells. Of those, 3,122 have been fracked. In addition, there are over 83,000 active conventional oil/gas wells. Pennsylvania is currently producing 10% of the nation's natural gas. A new company is being set up that will supply treated acid mine drainage and recycled water to fracking operations. The Shale Gas Roundtable recently made the recommendation to create a fund, with equal parts coming from the government and industry, for independent research that would be used to inform policy decisions.
- B. Toomey – In 2012, there were 553 applications for horizontal wells and 417 permits issued. As of May 2013, there have been 300 applications and 273 permits. A company is planning to build a pipeline to carry water from the Ohio River to West Virginia for fracking, likely opening a new area of the state for drilling.
- Lyn Poorman, MDE – Comments on Part II of the state's [Marcellus Shale Safe Drinking Initiative](#) will be taken until September 10. The final report is due in August 2014. The Appalachian Laboratory at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science recently released a report commissioned by MDE on the [best management practices for drilling](#). The state continues to [collect baseline data in the Marcellus region](#).

Uranium update – G. Prelewicz – No update at this time.

## **Information Session**

Continuous measurements of new water-quality parameters using in situ optical sensors at the Little Falls Pumping Station – Joseph Bell, USGS

**Next Meeting:  
November 13, 2013  
Greenbrier State Park, Maryland**