



## POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Meeting Summary for March 6, 2014

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, Maryland

### Attendees

#### Utilities

City of Rockville:  
Judy Ding

DC Water:  
Sudhir Murthy  
Ying Tan

Fairfax Water:  
Traci Goldberg  
Greg Prelewicz  
Niffy Saji  
Joel Thompson

Frederick County:  
Mark Schweitzer

Loudoun Water:  
Micah Vieux

Town of Leesburg:  
Russell Chambers

Washington Aqueduct:  
Shabir Choudhary  
Alex Gorzalski  
Tom Jacobus

WSSC:  
Martin Chandler  
Mohammad Habibian  
Priscilla To

#### State and Local Government

DDOE:  
Collin Burrell  
Shah Nawaz  
George Onyullo

MDE:  
Robert Peoples  
Lyn Poorman

PA DEP:  
Patrick Bowling

WV DHHR:  
Scott Rodeheaver  
Bill Toomey

#### Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:  
KR Young

ICPRB:  
Karin Bencala  
Curtis Dalpra  
Carlton Haywood  
Heidi Moltz

MWCOG:  
Steve Bieber  
Lisa Ragain (Aqua Vitae)

National Park Service:  
Doug Curtis

USGS:  
Cherie Miller

## Workgroup and Committee Reports

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

- Facts about the recent spill on the Elk River in West Virginia were reviewed to bring everyone up to speed on what occurred. Discussion focused mainly on what the Partnership should be doing in light of the event that took place.
  - The West Virginia legislature passed [Senate Bill 373](#) in response to the spill. It is similar to Pennsylvania's above ground storage tank rules.
  - One recommendation was made that utilities should review all available [Tier 2 reports](#) from upstream facilities in order to understand potential threats.
  - It was noted that there are many chemicals being used about which little to nothing is known. Attempts to revamp chemical regulations have not moved forward. Dr. Habibian, WSSC, suggested that the Partnership's utilities consider talking publically about the issue. Others feel that it is best handled by the national organizations, such as AWWA and AMWA.
  - Fairfax Water is getting questions about when it is appropriate for intakes to be shut down due to a contaminant in the river.
  - MDE is potentially holding a meeting with the state's water suppliers to discuss issues related to emergency response.
  - The workgroup should continue to try to meet with Colonial Pipeline. Topics for discussion include a better explanation of their risk model and the risk model results for this region, response plans for this region, and their regional resiliency plan.
  - WSSC is starting a study on potential impacts at their plants from a petroleum spill. It will not get into the issue of prevention. The study should be completed in approximately 6 months.
  - The workgroup has scheduled a meeting to discuss updating the source water assessments. One task that might be considered is updating maps of potential point source contaminant locations. Travel time estimates in response to a spill are currently made using a model developed by ICPRB based on USGS dye studies. ICWater is not currently being used.

### **Reaching Out** – Curtis Dalpra, ICPRB

- Forest Proposal – A small group of members has developed a proposal to be submitted to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. As written the study would look at potential future land cover scenarios and, using the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, estimate future treatment costs as a function of the land cover scenarios. The model will generate nutrient and sediment loads. The proposal includes a task that would allow total organic carbon estimates to be modeled as well. All member organizations have been invited to review and comment on the proposal. Partnership members are not being asked to contribute financially, though it is expected that the utilities will support the project by helping to develop relationships between water quality and treatment costs. (The proposal was submitted following the meeting on March 21.)
- Source water protection statement – A list of best practices for source water protection is being reviewed by each member organization. The list will be posted to the Partnership's website and may be used in other printed materials. It is anticipated that it will be finalized in the next couple of weeks.
- Annual Report – A draft version of the annual report has been circulated for comment. Please send any comments by March 14. (The report was finalized after the meeting. It is now available [online](#).)

- Website – The launch of the redesigned website has been delayed to handle the workgroup’s other priorities.

**Emerging Contaminants** – Martin Chandler, WSSC

- The workgroup continues to focus on the UCMR3 monitoring that is underway. Building on the interest generated at the October workshop, two efforts will be pursued this year. The first will focus on gathering the monitoring data submitted to the EPA for systems within the Potomac basin. From the October and January data releases, it appears that metals and chlorate are commonly being detected. The second effort will focus on gathering and/or developing messages to explain UCMR3 and the monitoring results to the general public. Messages that explain the regional nature of our water supply will also be included. The messages developed will be available for any system in the basin to use.
- DC Water is conducting a \$270,000 study on emerging contaminants in water and wastewater this year as a result of DC Council legislation in 2012.
- A map of the basin with the one pharmaceutical plant and about a dozen other locations where pharmaceuticals may be discharged has been developed for the workgroup. A map of coal-fired power plants has also been made. These plants may be a source of bromides.
- Priscilla To (WSSC) briefed members on the Water Research Foundation project, Evaluation of Current and Alternative Strategies for Managing CECs in Water (RFP 4494). A [handout](#) was provided with additional information.

**Government Committee** – Collin Burrell, District Department of the Environment

A workshop on detecting and preventing Harmful Algal Blooms will be held on May 21, at the Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. In addition to educating existing members, the goal is to reach out to systems outside of the metro area. A few West Virginia systems have recently been dealing with algae issues. An agenda and registration information will be sent out in April.

**Water Quality Data** – Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

Niffy Saji presented a trend analysis of alkalinity in raw water samples at a few member utility intakes. The workgroup also hosted the meeting’s information session with Dr. Sujay Kaushal from the University of Maryland. He presented information on the increasing alkalinity and salinity levels seen in the eastern United States. Baltimore has seen its chloride levels quadruple from the 1980s to the 2000s. Rock weathering, as well as sewerage inputs, can increase salinization. He is interested in working with the drinking water community on these issues. [His presentation is available on the Partnership’s website.](#)

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

- The workgroup is tracking NPDES permit renewals and has identified four non-municipal facilities that may be of interest to the Partnership. The permit factsheets and draft language will be posted to the Partnership’s website. Individual organizations may submit comments if they wish.
- The workgroup would like feedback on constituents for which utilities would like to see Public Water Supply Criteria set (for instance, bromide). This would help the workgroup evaluate each state’s criteria as they come up during the triennial review process. A questionnaire is being developed and will be distributed to members.
- If you took any pictures of excess road salt this winter, send them to Greg. An attempt will be made to estimate how much salt was used in the basin this winter.
- At a future meeting, it would be good to get an update from MDE on the chloride water quality criteria being developed.

**Ag Issues** – KR Young, EPA Region III

Work will again focus on the outreach strategy started a couple of years ago. A two-pronged approach might be most effective, where there is an effort to reach out to State Technical Committees, NRCS, and conservation districts using the toolkits developed by the Source Water Collaborative, and a targeted effort with stakeholders on tributaries where there is a lot of agriculture.

**Issue Updates**

Marcellus Shale updates –

- Patrick Bowling, PA DEP – In 2013, fewer than 3,000 unconventional gas wells (in terms of stratigraphy, not vertical versus horizontal well) were permitted. For comparison, approximately 2,000 wells were permitted in the first six months of 2012. In 2013, 952 conventional and 1,198 unconventional wells were drilled. In total, Pennsylvania has approximately 90,000 wells, 83,000 conventional and 6,800 unconventional. Approximately half of the unconventional wells have been hydraulically fractured. Approximately 87% of the flowback from hydraulically fractured wells in 2013 was recycled or reused. Each horizontal well produces an average of 937 tons of drill cuttings. The cuttings may be radioactive.
- Lyn Poorman, MDE – The state’s advisory committee received hundreds of comments on the BMP report and is in the process of reviewing them. Prohibiting drilling in wellhead areas or mandating setbacks from wells and surface intakes is still being discussed.

**Next Quarterly Meeting:  
May 13, 2014**