



Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Quarterly Meeting Summary for August 15, 2018
Location: ICPRB Offices, 30 West Gude Dr., Rockville, Maryland

Attendees

Utilities

Berkeley County:
Steve DeRidder

DC Water:
John Deignan
Ying Tan

Fairfax Water:
Jojean Bolton
Doug Grimes
Scott Powers
Greg Prelewicz
Niffy Saji
Joel Thompson

Frederick Co. DUSWM:
Terri Snyder-Kolovich

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell
Pam Kenel

Washington Aqueduct:
Alexander Gorzalski
Thomas Jacobus

WSSC:

Joel Caudill
Julie Karceski
Jin Shin
Priscilla To
Daniel Yuan

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Joshua Rodriguez

Fort Detrick:
Mark Lewis

MDE:
John Grace
Mahnaz Mazaheri-Assadi

PA DEP:
Kristina Peacock-Jones

Town of Leesburg:
Russell Chambers

VDH:
Mary Mahoney

WV BPH:
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Cathy Magliocchetti
Rick Rogers

ICPRB:
Karin Bencala
Renee Bourassa
Curtis Dalpra
Cherie Schultz

MWCOG:
Lisa Ragain

USGS:
Mary Kay Foley

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Rick Rogers, EPA Region 3

Business Meeting

1. Workgroup Objectives

a. Agricultural Workgroup (*Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water*): The WG has not been very active in the past few years but is now an active WG. Conversation in the recent conference call really focused on leverage. How they can leverage other organizations, how they can identify the right organizations to partner with, etc. Conservation districts, agricultural organizations, and Chesapeake Bay organizations were all identified. One of the first activities is going to be reaching out to these different organizations, attending meetings, and starting conversations.

Rick suggested reaching out to organizations that have already received funds for this type of work to see how they can collaborate.

b. Contaminants of Emerging Concern (*Priscilla To, WSSC*): The WG held a conference call to update the objectives of the group. The WG changed the name from *Emerging Contaminants* to *Contaminants of Emerging Concern* to have more flexibility in what contaminants are addressed. Currently, these contaminants include HABs and cyanotoxins, and successive UCMRs. The group removed the “short-term/long-term” designation in the objectives since all the activities are on-going. A few other resources were discussed in the call: Meg Keegan of EPA Region 3 has started a PPCP/CEC Sharepoint site for the entire region; the [Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council](#) has published a set of fact sheets for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances; EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program is planning a workshop in 2019 on management of CEC’s in Agricultural settings (Pat Bowling will keep the group updated on this).

c. Early Warning/Emergency Response (*Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water*): The WG has mainly been working on the spill exercise. The exercise is scheduled for October 4th at Loudoun Water. If interested, you can attend or call-in. Some of the issues in designing the exercise were to identify the problems that were faced during the sheen even in November 2016. Horsley Witten has been contracted by the EPA to help coordinate the event. They are developing the flyers and identifying attendees. The exercise will utilize the Incident Command/Unified Command Structure (which was an issue during the sheen event). They will identify the Spill Response Plan.

Josh suggested that anyone interested in attending the exercise should be familiar with the ICS should take the 100/800 classes online to get up to date before the event.

The pre-spill exercise is still being planned. It is expected to be in September.

There is some discussion on holding an exercise to deploy the boom at White's Ferry. The NRG Dickerson plant said they will reach out to everyone that attended the spill exercise at their facility to inform them about the event. Utilities should be able to observe the exercise. The question was raised of who can make the decision to deploy the boom since it may not always be a spill from the Dickerson plant.

Some discussion on when to report spills on the Groups.io has resulted in the decision to report all spills on the site instead of trying to identify which ones should be reported. This way everyone can know what is going on, regardless of size or location on the Potomac.

- d. Reaching Out Workgroup** (*John Deignan, DC Water*): The WG met to refine their objectives. They will be producing a draft of a promotional one-pager for recruitment of utilities. This will be especially useful at the upcoming Chesapeake Tri-Association Conference, which is a popular conference for utilities.

The WG can assist other WG's in developing messages for their outreach programs. For example, they can help craft a message to reach out to facilities upstream to help form a conversation regarding source water protection. The WG will be reaching out to other WG chairs to see how they can assist in their activities.

Lisa will be spearheading a list of PIO's and media contacts that DWSPP can utilize for outreach.

- e. Urban and Industrial Issues Workgroup** (*Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water*): The WG had two conference calls in the last quarter. The WG updated their objectives. These include:
- Investigating and reporting on trends in urban and industrial lands in the Potomac Basin: They discussed making a presentation on land use changes at the Annual Meeting in November, but the 2016 NLCD land use data will not be available until December 2019, so that might not happen. There was discussion of having a WG member do the work on that or have it as part of a larger ICPRB project.
 - Monitoring, reviewing, or commenting on NPDES permits: The WG has been making sure they have the appropriate contacts for each state and that they know the process for being contacted when a public comment period opens for a permit renewal or application.
 - Prioritizing communities or other urban stakeholders to begin a dialogue on SWP issues: The group has had successful dialogues with Colonial Pipeline and the NRG facility. A previous list of priority facilities has not changed. They include:
 - Dickerson Generation Station
 - A facility at 450005 Russell Branch Parkway
 - Elysian Heights STP
 - VERSO Paper Mill
 - Canam Steel Corporation
 - Ox Paperboard Company

MDE sent a letter to the WG saying that the comments they submitted regarding the NRG permit renewal were considered and the responses are available online. The responses can be found online by visiting MDE's Wastewater Permit's Interactive Search Portal [website](#) and searching State Number 14DP0048. The WG may have a final conference call with those who participated in the comment period to review the letter. The deadline for feedback is September 10.

- Investigating BMPs or the use of deicing in winter maintenance chemicals...: The WG is part of the Va. DEQ SaMS project. There is at least one person from the utilities on each SaMS workgroup and they will report back on that. See Karin's presentation below for more information on SaMS.
- WaterSuite: Fairfax Water has an intern this summer adding information from the Occoquan watershed but also the Potomac. Aubin Maynard at MWCOG to input information.

Fairfax Water is participating in a WRF project on risk prioritization during spills. A recent conference call asked for volunteers for a case study on a risk framework. Greg suggested the Potomac would be a good case study because of the risk prioritization work done on WaterSuite already.

Another issue discussed by the workgroup is a new gas station being installed in Lucketts, Va. The owner of the station was quoted as saying it was the most stringently regulated gas station in the nation. The WG is looking into how those regulations may be different than other regulations in the area.

A question about deicing at Dulles airport was raised. Dulles has an online monitoring system the utilities have access to. They have also reduced the amount of deicing.

Josh mentioned that the vehicles used to block roads and walkways during large events are being filled with salt to weigh them down. They are then out in the rain. This could create salt runoff in the summertime.

f. Water Quality Workgroup (*Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water*):

The WG has been working on the Spill Response Plan. It has recently been completed. See Niffy's presentation below for more information.

The WG also maintains a spreadsheet on what contaminants the utilities monitor. The WG members will be reaching out to the utilities to get updates on that.

2. Strategic Plan Update

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water

The four primary activities discussed at the last annual meeting have made progress. They are:

- Refresh workgroups (WG): Most of the WG's met over the past quarter and have updated their objectives.
- Create a workplan template: The WG's used the current Objectives document as a basis for their updates and it seemed to work well.
- Web-based process and location for storage and retrieval of WG information: See the presentation by Renee Bourassa below.
- Edit governing documents: We need to identify where there are holes in the current documents. For example, what is the process for guests at the meetings?

Some of these issues need to be discussed in a smaller group and then brought forward to the larger group.

Pam asked the group if they want to put more energy into the priority projects or into the WG's? Where do we focus our energies?

Karin mentioned that WG's tend to be focused on long-term, monitoring issues while priority projects were more of a one-off event of issues that come up. Priority projects can give more flexibility as to how things get done.

Priority Projects that stuck out during the workgroup presentations were:

- Land Prioritization GIS Project (See Alex's presentation below)
- NASA Project
- Grants development and evaluation

3. Online Platform for Workgroups

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB

The workgroups have expressed interest in an online platform to store documents, collaborate on projects, and to simplify file editing. [Samepage.io](https://www.samepage.io) is a good way to collaborate online by providing features such as chatting, file sharing, file editing, and pages for project collaboration. It is a secure platform, but WG members can see what other WG's are doing.

The free version of the software has some limits, including a limit of 10 Teams, 10 pages, and only 1 GB of storage. If WG's find the software useful, the paid version is ~\$750/year and has no limits on teams, pages, or storage.

Renee will invite each WG member to Samepage.io to see if it is something that can be useful.

4. Spill Response Plan

Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water ([Presentation](#))

The Spill Response Plan is complete after two years of work by the Water Quality Workgroup. It is a response plan specifically from the utility's perspective. The plan was developed as a result of the 2016 sheen incident. One of the hurdles during the sheen was that the utilities were not

part of the Incident Command Structure or Unified Command Structure. It is important that the Liaison Officer has the ability and the knowledge to educate the IC or UC structure that not every contaminant is treatable by the water treatment process. If it is unknown or untreatable, the intakes may have to shut down and could create a disruption in service.

The plan provides guidelines to utilities to streamline spill response, help secure water supply, and provide a list of regional resources. The plan is flexible and can be customized to different utilities. The plan will be updated as needed, but at least once a year. It will be uploaded to the Groups.io website.

The plan consists of six elements:

1) Track the contaminant: ICPRB runs the ERSM when they receive a spill notification. They provide updates to the utilities. Sampling is initiated by utilities. The plan provides some consideration for sampling, including instructions, a sampling kit, and a chain of custody form.

2) Control the source: Identify the source, stop the source, and then recovery and cleanup can happen. The plan addresses both known and unknown sources.

3) Identify the contaminant: Communication is key during this step so that information can be shared as soon as it is learned. Both type and concentration of contaminant needs to be identified.

4) Protect drinking water: This is the main focus utilities. All contaminants are considered untreatable unless treatability studies and/or identification of the contaminant(s) indicate otherwise.

5) Communications: There should be communications among involved agencies and utilities- establish liaison with the ICS/UC structure. There should also be communication with primacy agencies. The Groups.io Potomac Spills group can be used for this purpose. Also, conference calls, in-person meetings, and mailing lists.

6) End of event: There can be different end of events depending on the event and the agencies involved. The utility end of event does not need to coincide with the regional end of event. There can be an after-action response after the end of event.

Appendices in the plan include: A) Regional Utility Spill Response Framework, B) Basic Emergency Sampling Kit, C) Chain of Custody Record, D) Sample Collection Instructions, E) Regional Laboratory Capabilities, and F) Sample Naming Convention.

There was some discussion of the plan after Niffy's presentation.

Liaison officer (LO) is assigned by the Incident Commander. There is a short list of people that have trained with EPA Region 3 as a liaison. Lisa Ragain mentioned that the Water Security Workgroup is trying to identify a group of people in each utility to work with the liaison.

During the sheen event, the utilities were frustrated that the liaison did not seem to have sufficient information about the incident. They also felt a lack of communication specifically with the utilities.

Rick said EPA recently held an event to train liaison officers to focus on drinking water issues and drinking water responses. Many (but not all) liaison officers were there as well as EPA Region 3 staff.

Josh Rodriguez mentioned that the conversation is focused on the spill as being the incident, but some spills may be part of a different emergency such as a fire. In this case, the utilities may not be within the IC liaison officer command, it may be another specific designee that will be communicating with utilities. So it may not always be the IC LO, it may be someone else on the incident management team.

Tom mentioned that one of the issues with the sheen response was that it was being looked at as a CWA response and not a SDWA response.

5. Update on UCMR4 Monitoring

Daniel Yuan, WSSC

Planning for the monitoring program started in 2017 but the first official monitoring did not start until March 2018. The second quarterly monitoring was done in June. WSSC has done eight rounds of HAB sampling. WSSC has extra requirements, including a bimonthly monitoring requirement that extends UCMR4 monitoring beyond 2019. Part of the planning process was to ensure the heavy monitoring pace was sustainable.

They do Stage 2 DPP monitoring. The turnaround time for the contract lab was a little slower than what was needed for the Stage 2 DPP monitoring requirements. They had to consider if they wanted to rush the samples or duplicate sampling. WSSC decided to rush the samples back so that they could still be reported.

Some issues they came across was that the labs were not ready by their start date (originally February 2018). Operational issues at one plant prevented sampling. The second round of HAB sampling exceeded the temperature limits during transport. There were also preservative issues. The first round of SVOCs was not recorded. WSSC has the reports from their lab but there is an issue with uploading it to CDX so there is no data online right now.

There are bimonthly sampling requirements for HABs. The same considerations had to be considered. What can be done in-house? What can be contracted out?

Planning for issues ahead of time is key for successful monitoring. If issues occur, UCMR4 requirements still need to be met. Communication with primacy agency and EPA is very important. The UCMR4 Coordinator has also been very helpful.

6. Update on U.S. Endowment Collaboration

Alex Gorzalski, USACE ([Presentation](#))

Alex provided an overview of DWSPP's work with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.

The Water Research Foundation report on Forest Cover Impacts on Drinking Water Utility Treatment Costs in a Large Watershed is finished but not yet online. It should be online in 2-3 weeks. Search for "4651" on their [website](#). An op-ed on the report has been submitted to the AWWA Journal and is awaiting review. Several presentations about the report have been done at various conferences.

On August 1, several DWSPP members met with land conservation organizations: Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Potomac Conservancy, and the Conservation Fund. These groups work in the watershed on different scales. DWSPP members wanted to understand what work they are doing, give an overview of what DWSPP is doing, and discuss how our interests could overlap and where we could collaborate.

There were two issues that stood out:

- Mapping assistance, sharing GIS analyses
- Support letters—If conservation groups are seeking funding, DWSPP members might be able to provide support letters stating the importance of land protection to drinking water quality.

A proposal was prepared by ICPRB to use GIS to prioritize parcels in different subwatersheds within the basin where utilities can get the most out of source water protection work. This proposal is titled Land Prioritization Mapping for Protecting Drinking Water Quality. It is estimated to cost \$20,000. Funding possibilities will need to be discussed in the future.

Feedback on the proposal is requested.

Karin noted that the Healthy Watersheds funding from the U.S. Endowment is wrapping up in the next couple years. The Request for Funds for 2019 is due in February.

Pam noted that the WRF is still in the midst of their merger with Water Environment and Reuse Foundation (WERF). WERF may still have collaborative funds still available.

The question of whether to wait until the new NLCD data for 2016 is available, which should be December 2018. Alex noted that whatever analyses we do should be flexible enough so that new data should be easily updated with a light lift. Scoring the layers of the map will be the bulk of the project. Once that is completed, plugging in new data should not be too difficult.

There may be an opportunity to incorporate this mapping project with the DC Source Water Protection update.

7. Update on Va. DEQs Salt Management Strategy (SaMS)

Karin Bencala, ICPRB

SaMS - Salt Management Strategy - is Virginia DEQ's stakeholder process for developing recommendations to improve winter road maintenance in northern Virginia. DEQ has recently reiterated that they are not asking VDOT, private contractors, or anyone else to reduce their salt use. What they are asking is that no more salt be used than is needed to maintain health and safety.

A training was held in May to get stakeholders up to speed on current practices, impacts, and BMPs. Slides, audio recordings, and notes from this session are available on the SaMS website - search DEQ SaMs.

DEQ is finalizing workgroup membership and scheduling the first meetings. There are six workgroups: traditional BMPs, non-traditional BMPs, education & outreach, tracking & reporting, government coordination, and monitoring & research. Each workgroup has about 20 members. There are 74 total stakeholders involved. DEQ has done a lot of work to make sure VDOT and snow and ice contractors are represented. They anticipate workgroups will begin meeting in September. Fairfax Water, Loudoun Water and VDH are representing drinking water interests on the non-traditional BMPs, education and outreach, monitoring and research, and government coordination workgroups.

If you want to stay up to date, DEQ has a quarterly e-newsletter you can sign up for on the [SaMS website](#).

8. Update on Early Warning Monitoring Systems

Monica Whyte, WV BPH

Three early warning monitoring systems (EWMS) are installed and operational. They are monitoring conductivity, turbidity pH, temperature, ORP, DO, and total algae. The Romney EWMS is on the South Branch.

The town of Paw Paw has a Xylem system is struggling with installing it because it is located within a gorge and does not get a signal. It was suggested that they try using a short-wave radio signal. Also, a GOES system, which bounces off a satellite. DOD is opening access to some of their satellites as well.

Pam said that an industrial customer has reached out to Loudoun Water about a solar powered system they wanted to pilot them with Loudoun Water. The customer wanted to deploy them in rural areas. Pam will find more information about this.

Another issue with the EWMS is the ongoing costs. They can cost \$800-5000/year which can be cost prohibitive for these smaller systems. Maybe there is an opportunity for a partnership with the larger utilities downstream as they will benefit from the EWMS as well.

It was suggested that the EWMS be pulled during the winter to prevent damage from freezing temperatures.

9. Administration Updates

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB

The group unanimously approved the 2019 [Financial Work Plan](#).

WSSC will host the DWSPP Annual Meeting on November 7.

The dates for 2019 meetings are February 6, May 1, August 7, and November 6.

10. Open Discussions

It was mentioned that EOS and LEPC are having an exercise on October 26th. A portion of that is a large diesel spill on Hwy 81. Will the downstream users be notified during this event? Cherie mentioned that they should be contacted through the Groups.io site.

Renee mentioned that DWSPP members are planning on sending a survey to the Monocacy Catocin Coalition group to see what next steps they can take to assist the group.

Greg brought up the idea of how DWSPP could go about funding certain specific projects. ICPRB accounts for DWSPP money separately so it could be tracked, but ICPRB covers the remainder that is not covered by the member's dues. Rick suggested a small group could get together to discuss this further. Pam mentioned that AWWA has a summer intern that is working on a research project on nonregulatory collaborative organizations. The intern is surveying groups across the country, including questions about funding. We have the opportunity to add some questions to the survey.

Upcoming Events Mentioned in the Meeting

Sept 12, 2018: [Decision Support Tools for SWP](#) Source Water Collaborative Webinar

October 4, 2018: Spill Exercise, Loudoun Water

November 7: Potomac DWSPP Annual Meeting at WSSC, 14501 Sweitzer Ln., Laurel, Md.

Meeting Dates for 2019:

- Wednesday, February 6
- Wednesday, May 1
- Wednesday, August 7
- Wednesday, November 6