

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

A COALITION OF WATER UTILITIES AND STATE, INTERSTATE, AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO AMPLIFY REGIONAL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION EFFORTS SINCE 2005.



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Rick Rogers, Environmental Protection Agency Region III
Joel Caudill, Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission

This has been a dynamic year for the Partnership. Addressing emerging challenges and ensuring a reliable water supply for the future requires vigilance and the ability to adapt. This year the Partnership looked inward to refocus and strengthen our collaborative efforts. Our dedicated alliance of water suppliers and government agencies refreshed our core workgroups and committees. Members reorganized group structure, revisited and refined each team's mission, and produced strategic workplans to hone in on and address the multi-faceted water issues we face today.

Innovation drives progress. Technology is ever-evolving, providing individual member organizations and the united Partnership the tools to amplify the impact of our source water protection efforts. The Partnership researched, tested, and implemented several practices to harness the efficacy and efficiency of the latest in collaborative technology. The Partnership streamlined our collaboration processes, utilizing new web-based tools like Samepage to enhance communication. These tools provide digital workspaces for workgroup project files and discussion, accessible from the myriad places our jobs take us. Members also made better our existing method of interagency information sharing, the Groups.io platform, which is a critical communication tool for agencies to receive updates and stay informed about potential threats to our regional water supplies.

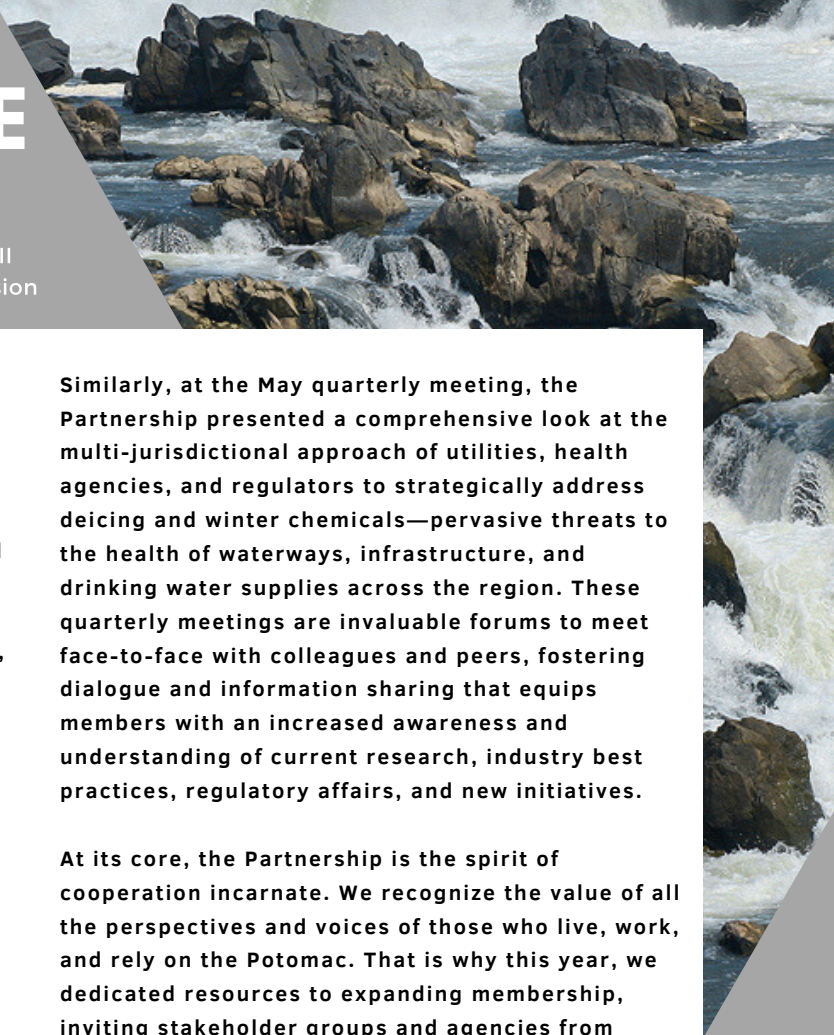
Many utilities are in the midst of the federally-mandated water quality monitoring program known as the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to determine if certain contaminants are present in drinking water. The Partnership's quarterly meeting in November provided the opportunity to hear from colleagues across the region about best practices to address unregulated contaminants like cyanotoxins, and per- and polyfluoralkyl substances. This was a vital opportunity to work directly with regulators and experts to ensure the most effective implementation of individual utility monitoring plans.

Similarly, at the May quarterly meeting, the Partnership presented a comprehensive look at the multi-jurisdictional approach of utilities, health agencies, and regulators to strategically address deicing and winter chemicals—pervasive threats to the health of waterways, infrastructure, and drinking water supplies across the region. These quarterly meetings are invaluable forums to meet face-to-face with colleagues and peers, fostering dialogue and information sharing that equips members with an increased awareness and understanding of current research, industry best practices, regulatory affairs, and new initiatives.

At its core, the Partnership is the spirit of cooperation incarnate. We recognize the value of all the perspectives and voices of those who live, work, and rely on the Potomac. That is why this year, we dedicated resources to expanding membership, inviting stakeholder groups and agencies from across the sector to join us. Membership is not contingent upon the size of the institution or the reach of its resources. For it is not the size and means of an organization that determines their value or potential to do good, but rather their passion, drive, and dedication to a shared mission. It is only by coming together that we are best equipped to ensure the longevity and health of our water supply.

We would like thank each of the 93 representatives from 27 organizations for joining us this past year in our united effort to address the current challenges to drinking water safety. Whether working with landowners to minimize the impact of agriculture on water quality, contributing to the latest environmental assessment or permit requirement, to educating city residents about the need to protect upstream drinking water sources, the payoff from your work is evident, and a testament to the enduring spirit of public service.

In the coming year, the Partnership will continue to look forward, identify key areas to focus our united efforts, and advance our mission of safeguarding the source of life and prosperity for the millions of people who rely on the waters of the Potomac.



WORKGROUP: CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN (CEC)

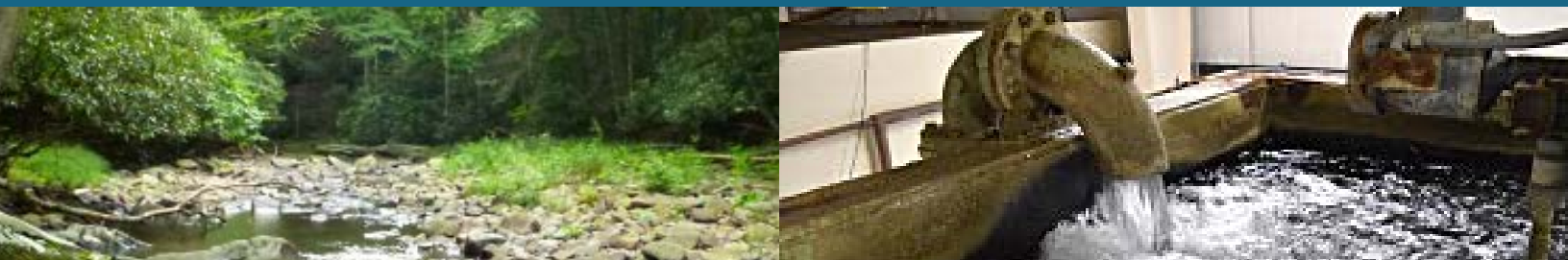
Chair: Martin Chandler, Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission (WSSC)

Co-Chair: Patrick Bowling, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Subgroup Chair, Harmful Algal Blooms: Cathy Magliocchetti, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Many water utilities are in the midst of monitoring for the contaminants required by the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4). Contaminants include cyanotoxins that are produced by harmful algal blooms, and threaten water supplies across the country. In December 2017, the EPA hosted a Nutrients and Harmful Algal Bloom Technical Workshop at EPA Region III in Philadelphia, PA. This presentation provided guidance and information critical for utilities and stakeholders to address these emerging contaminants. Alex Gorzalski, a Partnership member representing the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's Washington Aqueduct, presented data and an in-depth look at these contaminants in his study "Real-time Modeling of Cyanotoxin Oxidation." At the quarterly meeting in February 2018, speakers from EPA Region III, WSSC, and Berkeley County, West Virginia joined Mr. Gorzalski in addressing the algal toxin monitoring under UCMR4. The CEC Workgroup provides an online repository of algae and cyanotoxin resources on the Samepage platform.

Additionally, the CEC Workgroup tracked the developing regulatory landscape and emerging research of another group of contaminants that pose a threat to drinking water supplies and public health: per- and polyfluoralkyl substances. Their work is especially helpful given the differences in regulation, monitoring, and health advisories across state, regional, and national jurisdictions.



WORKGROUP: URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL ISSUES (UI)

Chair: Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Though applied during the colder months, deicing and winter chemicals applied to roads and equipment are a pervasive threat to drinking water supplies throughout the year. This workgroup worked closely with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to track and coordinate participation in the Salt Management Strategy. In order to bolster input and optimize strategy, the UI Workgroup facilitated work done by utilities across the region, the Virginia Department of Health, and ICPRB. At the quarterly meeting in May, the UI Workgroup shared this information to the Partnership.

The Partnership's access to WaterSuite has proven vital in terms of water quality monitoring—the seamless sensor agnostic platform, provides a complete view of water quality in real time, sourcing data from sensors in a network and provides instant warnings and alarms if abnormalities are detected. WaterSuite allows members to coordinate a response to an issue with immediacy and accuracy. The UI Workgroup provided new information and updates in the WaterSuite database including Tier 2 contaminant parameters and new permit and monitoring requirements.

Similar to other workgroups in the Partnership, the UI Workgroup comprises an array of different agencies with a breadth of experience and expertise. This group provided coordinated comments, response, and legal notices to the discharge permit renewal of GenOn in Dickerson, Maryland. At the May quarterly meeting, the workgroup addressed utilities' comments and provided important and timely feedback. In addition, the UI Workgroup renewed efforts to track and receive notice on upcoming NPDES permits across the Potomac River basin. These permits included those regulating the Allegany Energy coal ash pond in Maryland and West Virginia, and the Rockwool pre-treatment permit in West Virginia.

WORKGROUP: AGRICULTURAL ISSUES (AGI)

Chair: Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water

The Partnership recognizes the importance of coming together with the agricultural community to develop a cooperative approach to mitigating potential contamination of water systems, and compliance with requirements for nutrient reduction. This year the AGI Workgroup sought to understand where there was room to make a difference in these efforts, and to identify goals and talking points that are beneficial to everyone. Agricultural issues overlap with issues addressed by other workgroups, and the AGI Workgroup was able to provide support to other standing teams in these areas. In addition to supporting groups internally, the AGI Workshop researched and leveraged activities of other organizations and programs that have proven effective.

The reality of the work in our sector is that innovative projects and groundbreaking work is moot until there is funding available to getting these projects off the ground. The AGI Workgroup worked diligently to find and go after available funding sources, connecting critical financial resources to groups to execute critical activities to protect the Potomac.

WORKGROUP: WATER QUALITY (WQ)

Chair: Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

Following the 2018 Potomac River Spill Functional Exercise sponsored by EPA, the WQ Workgroup has dedicated resources to developing the Utility Spill Response Plan. The plan was finalized on July 2018 and is available on the DWSPP website. Since then, the workgroup updates a comprehensive spreadsheet containing information on utility specific water quality monitoring. The group has also participated in the US EPA's webinar, "Analysis of Online Water Quality Data" sharing best practices with a national audience.

WORKGROUP: EARLY WARNING & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (EWER)

Chair: Carlton Haywood, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Sudden events can occur which threaten the safety of our water supply, and the EWER Workgroup develops coordinated response efforts to prepare, practice, and mobilize to spills of hazardous materials. The EWER Workgroup hosted the regional Potomac River Spill Functional Exercise at Loudoun Water. The group worked closely with the WQ Workgroup to plan and develop the Utility Spill Response Plan, finalized in 2018.

WORKGROUP: REACHING OUT (RO)

Chair: Lisa Ragain, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Co-Chair: John Deignan, DC Water

The mission of the Partnership's RO Workgroup is outreach-based, focusing on engaging internal and external stakeholders. The Partnership recognizes the need to expand to fully realize its mission. To this end, the RO Workgroup has designed and produced new outreach materials that are attractive, concise and modern. These materials effectively communicate the value of the Partnership, and will be used to promote and educate outside stakeholder groups and agencies from across the sector to join in our efforts. The RO Workgroup has surveyed members to identify and access potential members strategically. This recruitment effort helps cultivate relationships throughout the watershed, and the expansion of the Partnership will widen the reach and impact of collaborative source water protection efforts. Future work of the RO Workgroup include developing emerging contaminant communication materials for regional use, and compile a directory of available experts for interviews at member organizations.

COMMITTEE: UTILITY (UC)

Chair: Priscilla To, WSSC

Co-Chair: Joel Caudill, WSSC

Protecting the future of our water supplies requires the conservation of the watershed. The UC completed and published the Water Research Foundation funded project, “Forest Cover Impacts on Drinking Water Utility Treatment Costs in a Large Watershed” in 2018. The UC conveyed the Partnership’s firm resolve to protect the watershed and the source of this region’s drinking water in a letter to the Journal of the American Water Works Association, published January 2019. The UC has been instrumental in fostering a dialogue about this aspect of drinking water protection, and Forest Land Prioritization.

Additionally, the UC provided expert guidance regarding NPDES permits, and was consulted for the final development of the GenOn Dickerson permit, and the subsequent petition filed by GenOn.

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENT (GC)

Chair: Karrie Crumlisch, EPA Region III

The GC oversees the Partnership charter, making key decisions that impact the rules and functions that comprise Partnership operations. This year, the GC conferred and made decisions affecting two important aspects of the Partnership. After facilitating dialogue regarding membership expansion, the GC was responsible for adjusting the charter to reflect the will of the Partnership. The provisions to the charter included the allowance of non-members to participate in meeting, which include an outside organization, agency, or an individual with relevance to source water and drinking water protection, or other topics deemed appropriate by the member who is inviting attendance. Partnership Committee Chairs and Working Subcommittees may also convene open meetings with non-members, engage and convene local advisory panels, and otherwise engage with non-members on an ad-hoc basis to support the Partnership’s mission.

The other key change carried out by the GC affected the Small Utility Fee Structure. To encourage participation of upstream utility within the Partnership, small utilities shall incur no fee for the initial year of membership. Based on discussions by the Partnership, it is believed that this and a reduced minimum fee of \$25 will allow more small utilities to reap the benefits of membership.



JOIN US

ADDRESSING EMERGING CHALLENGES AND ENSURING A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE FUTURE REQUIRES VIGILANCE AND COOPERATION.

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MEMBERS

The Partnership of utilities, government agencies, and regional stakeholders provides the network and resources needed to strengthen individual organizations and advance our shared mission.

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MEETINGS
SINCE 2005

Quarterly sessions educate members about current research, regulatory affairs, new initiatives, and emerging issues. Workshops have been held on emergency spill response, cryptosporidium, endocrine disrupting chemicals, harmful algal blooms, roadway deicers, urban stormwater, land conservation, beef and dairy industries, the Clean Water Act, climate change, and unregulated contaminant monitoring.

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MISSION

To serve as a cooperative and voluntary partnership working towards the goal of improved source water protection of the Potomac River in recognition of the vital role of the river in supplying drinking water to millions of people within the Potomac watershed and in support of the multi-barrier approach to safeguarding the drinking water supply for public health.