AGENDA

Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership
February 5, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Lower Level Lobby
30 West Gude Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

10:00 am - Welcome and Introductions: Steve Edgemon, Fairfax Water

10:10 am - Opportunities to Enhance a Potomac Sub-Watershed: The North Branch Potomac River: Mike Selckmann, ICPRB

10:40 am - Frederick County's Stormwater Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program: Angelia Miller, Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources

11:10 pm - Updates

- **DWSPP Land Prioritization Project:** Anne Spiesman, Washington Aqueduct
- **Salt Management Strategy**: Heidi Moltz, ICPRB
- **PFAS Response by MWCOG:** Lisa Ragain, MWCOG
- **EPA Source Water Funding through CBP:** Nick Holomuzki, EPA Region 3

11:30 pm - Workgroup updates

- **Agricultural Issues**: Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water
- **Contaminants of Emerging Concern:** Martin Chandler, WSSC Water
- **Early Warning/Emergency Response:** Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water
- **Reaching Out:** Lisa Ragain, MWCOG
- **Urban and Industrial Issues:** Gregory Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

12:00 pm - Lunch

12:30 pm - Steam Power ELGs (Bromide Discharges), Proposed Coal Ash Regulations, and AWWA's Source Water Justification Toolkit: Adam Carpenter, AWWA

1:30 pm - MDE Update on VERSO: Scott Boylan, MDE

1:45 pm - Administrative updates: Renee Bourassa, ICPRB

1:50 pm - Open discussions: Open to all

2:00 pm - Adjourn

2020 Meeting Dates:
Wednesday, May 6
Wednesday, August 5
Wednesday, November 4

The Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

Quarterly Meeting Summary for February 5, 2020
ICPRB Office, Lower Level Lobby, 30 West Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

Attendees

Water Suppliers

DC Water:
Anjuman Islam
Saul Kinter
Pamela Mooring
Matt Ries
Mary Sherrill

Fairfax Water:
Nicki Bellezza
Steve Edgemon
Doug Grimes
Susan Miller
Scott Powers
Gregory Prelewicz
Niffy Saji
Joel Thompson

Frederick County, MD:
Angelia Miller

Loudoun Water:
Cathy Cogswell
Pam Kenel

Washington Aqueduct:
Anna Hayden
Tom Jacobus
Anne Spiesman

WSSC Water:
Martin Chandler
Nicole Horvath
Priscilla To
Daniel Yuan

State and Local Agencies

DOEE:
Joshua Rodriguez

MDE:
John Anthony
Scott Boylan
Saeid Kasraei
Jonathan Leiman

PA DEP:
Patrick Bowling
Rhonda Manning

VDH:
Raven Jarvis

WV BPH:
Monica Whyte

WV DHHR:
Brian Carr*

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
James Bennett
Bette Conway
Nicholas Holomuzki

ICPRB:
Renee Bourassa
Curtis Dalpra
Rikke Jepsen
Heidi Moltz
Michael Nardolilli
Cherie Schultz
Gordon (Mike) Selckmann
Carlington Wallace

MWCOG:
Steve Bieber
Lisa Ragain*

USGS:
Cheryl Dieter

Other Organizations:

AWWA:
Adam Carpenter

*Attended via teleconference

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Steve Edgemon, Fairfax Water

Business Meeting

1. **Opportunities to Enhance a Potomac Sub-Watershed: The North Branch Potomac River**
   Mike Selckmann, ICPRB (presentation)

   Mr. Selckmann gave a presentation on the North Branch Potomac River. Beginning in 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) and ICPRB were tasked with reviewing the Jennings Randolph Lake (JRL) 1997 Water Control Plan (WCP) to determine if the needed revision.

   To address the task, the agencies focused on assessing the role of lake operations in accomplishing the lake's four authorized purposes: (1) control floods, (2) dilute downstream pollution, (3) supply drinking water to Washington, D.C. during droughts, and (4) provide recreational opportunities. Results from the scoping studies found the mainstem North Branch Potomac River and its tributaries have improved considerably since 2000, due in part to the USACE operations but primarily to watershed scale improvements. The reservoir has successfully ameliorated flooding and provided recreation. The cool water releases in summer have had a positive impact on downstream biology.

   The benefits of lake operations on downstream water quality was not as significant as the 1997 WCP suggested. While there is sufficient monitoring in tributaries of the North Branch Potomac River watershed, there are significant data gaps in the mainstem of the river. These data gaps make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the USACE operations and raised the questions, "What is JRL's downstream scope of influence?" and "Who is responsible for reporting and assessing the effectiveness of the USACE operations on downstream conditions?"

   ICPRB is currently looking for funds to coordinate with various agencies to conduct fish habitat and behavior studies downstream of the lake. The studies will inform temperature and flow models and document if trout can use the JRL-cooled mainstem in summer to move between temperature refugia in headwater streams. Improved stakeholder integration in managing the area's water resources can optimize JRL operations and lead to more economical and beneficial uses of the North Branch Potomac River.

2. **Frederick County's Stormwater Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program**
   Angelia Miller, Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Env. Resources (presentation)

   Ms. Miller's office oversees the NPDES/MS4 programs through the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program. The program identifies and eliminates potential sources of pollution through three different avenues: (1) Outfall screening, (2) Hotspot Inspections, and (3) Citizen Case Reports.

If a citizen-reported case does not fall under the jurisdiction of the IDDE program, the staff refers the case to the appropriate agency such as the Frederick County Department of Public Works. If it does fall under their jurisdiction, they initiate a spill response, which typically includes material identification and cleanup operations. Staff receives training on spill response with a special focus on unknown materials.

Covering salt piles is not part of the permit, but if it is noted that the salt is making a direct contribution to the storm sewer system the IDDE program will direct the property owner to cover the pile.

There was a recent amendment to the Frederick County Code of Ordinances that is specific to discharges to storm sewers. Some existing definitions in the existing Code were supplemented in the amendments. New sections of the Code include prohibited activities, the right of entry and inspection, prevention and control, and enforcement and penalties.

3. Updates

DWSPP Land Prioritization Project

Anne Spiesman, Washington Aqueduct (presentation)

The Land Prioritization Project was proposed to the Partnership at the 2019 annual meeting. The project would prioritize lands to protect that would be most beneficial to protecting drinking water. The work will build on prior collaborative investments such as the *Forest Cover Impacts on Drinking Water Utility Treatment Costs in a Large Watershed*.

Since the project was proposed, eight utilities have signed letters of commitment for funding (both in-kind and cash contributions) and preliminary approval for grant funds from the U.S. Endowment for Forests and Communities has been received. The next step is to reconnect with the land conservation organizations that initially helped develop this idea to better define the final product and help finalize the budget request. The timeline for the project is to start by April 1 and finish by the end of the fiscal year. The final project will most likely be presented at the DWSPP Annual Meeting in November.

Va. DEQ's Salt Management Strategy

Heidi Moltz, ICPRB

The development of the Northern Virginia Salt Management strategy is now in its second year. The process has had substantial stakeholder involvement and engaged diverse interests across the region. There have been 3 stakeholder advisory committee meetings, 22 workgroup meetings, one technical training, and one public meeting since project inception.

The final round of workgroup meetings is currently wrapping up. ICPRB and Va. DEQ are pulling together the final products and ideas from the workgroups, creating the content for the document, and developing the layout for the final document.

Completion of the initial draft of the toolkit is expected by the end of March. After a series of reviews, the final SaMS Toolkit will be completed by the end of 2020.

Sign up for the SaMS newsletter and see the project resources and meeting materials on the SaMS website.

PFAS Response by MWCOG

Steve Bieber, MWCOG

The Environmental Working Group recently came out with a report on PFAS in drinking water. MWCOG has been working with utilities and local governments to update talking points around PFAS. They have also been tracking legislation regarding the compound. MWCOG is advocating that the legislation uses sound science to make decisions.

MWCOG Water Security Working Group has been working with WaterSuite, a GIS pollutant mapping system, to create a PFAS source identification inventory. The Working Group is looking for comments on the inventory by the end of February.

It was noted that the wastewater side of the water systems is also paying close attention to PFAS due to the ramifications for biosolid applications.

EPA Source Water Funding Through CBP

Nick Holomuzki, EPA Region 3

The Chesapeake Bay Program has additional funds this year that could be used for source water protection activities. Possibilities for funding could include facilitation, education and outreach, and data collection. The funding requires a tangible outcome by the end of the fiscal year. The deadline for application is February 7.

4. Workgroup Updates

Agricultural Issues

Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water

The workgroup members continue to reach out to NRCS and Conservation Districts to see where they can contribute to source water protection efforts through funds from the Farm Bill. The Land Prioritization Project will be a good tool to provide NRCS assistance in source water protection efforts.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Martin Chandler, WSSC Water

The workgroup continues to track the UCMR4 data. The most recent data was released a week ago. Not all water systems in the basin have reported data. The substances detected included manganese and haloacetic acid; and there have not been any detections of cyanotoxins.

The workgroup continues to track PFAS legislation and regulations. The recent EWG reported that they found PFAS in at least two water suppliers in the Potomac basin. The EWG added additional PFAS substances that were not tracked in the UCMR3 and the detection limits are significantly lower than the UCMR3 tracking. EWG added the individual PFAS/PFOA compounds to come up with their final detection number.

WSSC Water continued to test PFAS substances for several years after UCMR3 ended and found no detection. The utility recently started sampling for the substances again.

P. Bowling noted that the state of Pennsylvania started PFAS sampling last June. The first round found just one of the 96 samples tested above the EPA health advisory limit of 70 ppt for PFAS/PFOA. It was a non-transient/non-community well in State College (Susquehanna River Basin). Compounds were not detected in two-thirds of the sites. The remaining sites had detections well below the EPA health advisory limit. Three sites in the Potomac basin were tested. All were ground water wells in Franklin and Adams counties. The Franklin County well had no detections. The two Adams County wells had low levels of contaminants.

It was noted that MDE is contracting with Horsley Witten on a PFAS-source GIS mapping project.

Early Warning & Emergency Response

Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water

- An initial planning call was held for a spill exercise later this year. EPA is providing funds for the 2-day event. The workgroup leaders are looking for suggestions for scenarios.
- The workgroup collaborated with the Water Quality committee to update the laboratory capabilities spreadsheet.
- There has been some initial communication on possible alarm parameters for online monitoring through a UASI grant. The MWCOG Water Security Workgroup obtained a UASI grant to purchase replacement water monitoring sensors. The group is currently deciding on what equipment will be purchased and where it will be placed. A portion of the funds will be used for modeling and data collection that will happen this fall. A Solution Development Worksheet has been put together for extra UASI grant funding for additional water monitoring capabilities in the Upper Potomac. These can supply both water quality data and spill alerts.
- The group has been in discussions with MWCOG to plan another boom exercise at White's Ferry and possibly forming a co-op to fund boom operations.

Reaching Out

Steve Bieber, MWCOG

J. Deignan has accepted another position within DC Water and will no longer co-chair the workgroup.

The workgroup has been working on the regional PFAS talking points.

Urban and Industrial Issues

Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Workgroup members held a conference call recently. They continue to monitor NPDES permits of interest, however, there were none in the past quarter. There was a discussion on several legislative initiatives, including legislation related to PFAS and above-ground storage tanks. The group continues to monitor the Proctor and Gamble facility and the new Clorox manufacturing facility in West Virginia.

Workgroup members participated in a recent stakeholder meeting on freshwater salinization syndrome (FSS) convened by Virginia Tech. The focus was on engineering water systems to address for FSS and discussed research needs around this subject. Universities, NGOs, water suppliers, and other organizations were in attendance. There were three outcomes from the workshop: (1) To submit for publication an article about the process and FSS to the Journal of Science, (2) Submit an abstract of submittal to the NSF titled *Common Pool Resource Theory as a Scalable Framework for Catalyzing Stakeholder Driven Solutions to the FSS*, and (3) submit for a large NSF funding opportunity to build an engineering research center to address FSS.

Water Quality

Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

The workgroup has updated the laboratory capabilities worksheet that is part of the Utility Spill Response Plan. The worksheet covers the lab capabilities and what online monitoring is available among the utility members of the Partnership.

A conference call will be held soon to pick tasks from the priorities set for this year.

Workgroup members have also been involved in Va. DEQ's Salt Management Strategy, including the Water Quality and Monitoring Research Workgroup. The research and report products from that group can be found on the website.

5. Steam Power ELGs (Bromide Discharges), Proposed Coal Ash Regulations, and AWWA's Source Water Justification Toolkit

Adam Carpenter, AWWA (presentation)

Bromide in raw source water can increase disinfection by-product (DBP) rates in finished drinking water. Bromide has both natural and anthropogenic sources in surface water. One source is power plant discharge. The source of bromide from coal-fired power plants can come naturally from the coal, be added for mercury control, or used as a biocide for cooling water.

When water is sprayed into the gas stream of a power plant it pulls the particulates down into a liquid waste stream. The Steam Electric Power Plant Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) were designed to reduce these toxic pollutant discharges from steam electric power plants. A 2015 ELG delegated bromide discharge regulation to the states but it was never implemented. A 2019 ELG states that facilities need to have the best available technology (BAT) for reducing pollution or technology that performs as well as the BAT. It allows for two compliance strategies: the standard program or delayed compliance with more stringent standards known as the Voluntary Incentives Program (VIP). The timeline for compliance can be as late as 2025 for facilities in the standard regulation, or 2028 for those opting-in for VIP.

To assist in determining whether an NPDES permit application or renewal should be of concern regarding bromide discharge, AWWA recently published a report to answer the following questions: (1) Which power plant permits require review to determine if bromide discharges are of concern for downstream drinking water plants? (2) How can bromide concentrations in discharges from select power plants be estimated (in the absence of measured data)? (3) Can the concentration contributions of specific discharges (from individual power plants) be quantified at drinking water intakes? (4) How can the effect of increased bromide at drinking water intakes be estimated (with respect to TTHM or risk)? The report, *Methods to Assess Anthropogenic Bromide Loads from Coal-fired Power Plants and Their Potential Effect on Downstream Drinking Water Utilities*, provides a model that can estimate ELG bromide load to assist in NPDES permit reviews.

A. Carpenter provided copies of the recent publication *AWWA Source Water Protection Justification Toolkit*. It provides case studies, methodologies, funding sources, and other tools for source water protection.

6. MDE Update on VERSO

Scott Boylan, MDE

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is actively investigating the recent seepage from VERSO Paper Mill in Luke, Maryland. It is currently in litigation with the corporation to address the spill. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and MDE are working together on the response.

In April of 2019, MDE investigated complaints regarding a black discharge behind the paper mill. At that point, MDE advised VERSO that they were out of compliance and VERSO was required to prepare a study plan.

Several large above-ground storage tanks and a coal ash pond are in the vicinity. All the tanks have been emptied. They are still working to identify the exact source of the seepage and determining the best way to remediate it. The plant is 120 years old, which adds to the complications of investigation. Additional investigation is needed, including the hydrologic flow of the area.

7. Administration Updates

Renee Bourassa, ICPRB (presentation)

DWSPP invoices were sent out in November. A reminder will be sent out in the next couple of weeks to the organizations that have not paid.

For the calendar year of 2020, the Chair of the Utility Committee is Jamie Hedges of Fairfax Water and the Chair of the Government Committee is Saeid Kasraei of MDE.

Loudoun Water has volunteered to host the DWSPP Annual Meeting in November.

R. Bourassa will be going on maternity leave in June. ICPRB will work to ensure the transition of the Partnership goes smoothly.

M. Nardolilli noted that ICPRB is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2020. The year will be commemorated with a series of social media Throwback Thursday posts covering the history of the organization and the Potomac River. Additionally, a fundraiser celebration will be held later in the year.