

# POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

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## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020

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**A coalition of water utilities and state, interstate, and federal authorities working together to amplify regional source water protection since 2005.**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



**Steve Edgemon, Fairfax Water**

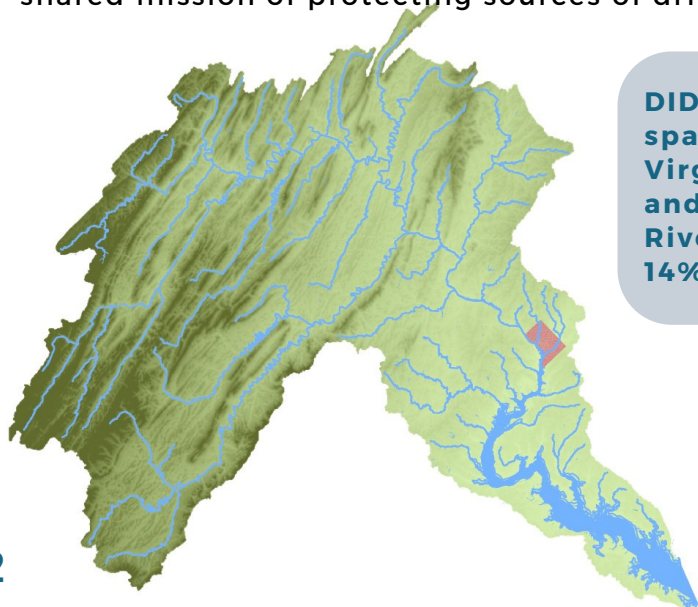


**Saeid Kasraei, Maryland Department  
of the Environment**

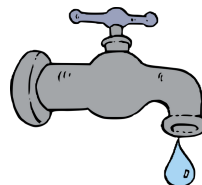
In the 2018 Annual Report, co-chairs Rick Rogers and Joel Caudill wrote, “Addressing emerging challenges and ensuring reliable water supply for the future requires vigilance and the ability to adapt.” We could never have imagined or predicted the adaptation that would be required in 2020 as we entered the global COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the important work of the Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSPP) is not something that can be put on hold. Our work, which encompasses many long-term and ongoing endeavors, requires the determined effort of many individuals to achieve the goals of the organization. The benefits of such efforts ultimately accrue to the public we serve.

The unique challenges of the last year have tested the strength of the Partnership, which relies so heavily upon collaboration. Within this report of the 16th year of operation of DWSPP, you will find how the strength of relationships built over the last 15 years has paid off. DWSPP water suppliers sponsored and supported the "Land Prioritization Mapping for Protecting Drinking Water Quality" project that is now being used to engage conservation stakeholders throughout the watershed. Virtual conferencing allowed us to continue our quarterly meetings and workgroup activities. For example, the Water Quality Workgroup organized an informative Spill Modeling Tools webinar, and Loudoun Water hosted a virtual field trip to Beaverdam Reservoir at the DWSPP Annual Meeting. Many DWSPP partners also participated in the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2020 Virtual Potomac River Spill Workshop and Functional Exercise.

Our sincere hope is that we will soon be able to gather to renew the fantastic relationships in person. However, until the pandemic ends, we will continue to strive to achieve our shared mission of protecting sources of drinking water in the Potomac River basin.



**DID YOU KNOW** that the Potomac River Watershed spans four states (Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland) and the District of Columbia, and is home to 6.17 million people? The Potomac River Watershed is 53% forest cover, 26% agriculture, 14% developed, and 7% wetlands/other.





# WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES



- Participated in many National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee activities and Source Water Protection subcommittee meetings in Maryland and Virginia
- Collaborated with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and other organizations to move forward on the Upper, Middle and Lower Little Pipe Creek watersheds in Frederick and Carroll Counties selection for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Planning/Readiness Phase funding to prepare updated watershed assessments
  - ICPRB will prepare watershed assessments needed to advance to the Implementation Phase
- Participated with EPA, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and NRCS in setting priority watersheds for Farm Bill funding
- Initiated meetings with land conservation groups in West Virginia and Virginia to make link between the DWSPP land prioritization tool and the needs of the Virginia NRCS



Chair: Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water



## CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN



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



Co-Chair: Patrick Bowling, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)\*

- Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 4: Tracked the progress of the UCMR4, providing Partnership members with pertinent updates
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Workgroup members tracked legislative efforts on PFAS and attended webinars on PFAS properties, occurrence, and remediation
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): The workgroup members assisted during a HAB event in the Potomac River in July
- Perchlorate: The workgroup members tracked government updates on perchlorate, informing Partnership members that the EPA has decided not to regulate the substance

\*Pat Bowling retired from PA DEP in 2020. He was a founding member of the Partnership and enduring advocate for the group. We thank him for his tireless work supporting source water protection in Pennsylvania and throughout the Potomac basin.

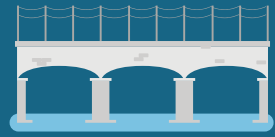


## EARLY WARNING & EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Chair: Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water

- Collaborated with the Water Quality Workgroup to review the Utility Spill Response Plan
- Coordinated with EPA and consultants to plan and execute the spill exercise on October 14-15
- Collaborated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOC) Water Security Workgroup to identify USGS sites to install multi-parameter sondes utilizing Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funds
- Worked to identify online parameters that could be alarmed without nuisances
- Provided recommendation to DWSP on the use of funds obtained by DC Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) in the settlement with GenOn



## REACHING OUT

- Developed the Annual Report and other meeting materials
- Supported DWSP members and upstream utilities in communications and policy
- Continued member recruitment for upstream utilities

# JOIN US!

EMAIL  
**PARTNERSHIP@ICPRB.ORG**  
TO JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP



Chair: Lisa Ragain, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

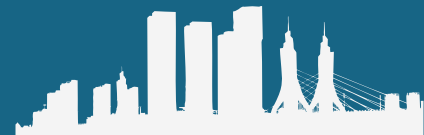


## URBAN & INDUSTRIAL ISSUES

- Monitored National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holding facility renewals or other discharge issues:
  - Requested and discussed draft permits/revisions of permit holders throughout the basin, including George's Chicken Poultry Processing facility
  - Investigated the unusual discharge issue at the Verso Luke Paper Mill Facility
  - Requested modification of the permit for the GenOn Dickerson Generating Station
- Coordinated the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Presentation on Steam Power ELGs (Bromide Discharges) and Proposed Coal Ash Regulations at the February DWSPP meeting
- Provided support/coordination for WaterSuite Sourcewater GIS Tool
  - Completed a PFAS Source Inventory Project in April
  - Renewed the contract, completed trainings, and created a workplan
- Contributed to deicing/winter chemicals projects:
  - Participated in Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Salt Management Strategy Workgroups and Toolkit development
  - Coordinated research and tracking, including National Science Foundation (NSF) funded study on the Occoquan sewershed and Metro DC regional salinization monitoring effort



Chair: Greg Prelewicz,  
Fairfax Water



## WATER QUALITY



Chair: Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water

- Coordinated an online workshop for DWSPP members on ICPRB Spill Monitoring Tools
- Tracked data resources by updating the Utility Monitoring Capabilities spreadsheet
- Continued tracking monitoring locations for salt, HABs, and submerged aquatic vegetation
- Collaborated with the Early Warning & Emergency Response Workgroup members to update the Utility Spill Response Plan based on a regional spill exercise





# ABOUT US



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.

## MEMBERS



### Water Suppliers

Berkeley County Public Service Water District, WV  
City of Frederick, MD  
City of Hagerstown, MD  
City of Rockville, MD  
Corporation of Harpers Ferry, WV  
DC Water  
Fairfax Water  
Frederick County, MD  
Loudoun Water  
Town of Leesburg, VA  
Town of Romney, WV  
Town of Shepherdstown, WV  
Washington Aqueduct  
Washington County, MD  
WSSC Water

### Government Agencies

District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment  
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
United States Geological Survey  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Virginia Department of Health  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources  
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

