



The Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership
Annual Meeting Summary held in-person and via webinar on November 2nd, 2022

In-Person Attendees

Water Suppliers

DC Water:

Maureen Holman
Anjuman Islam
Salil Kharkar
Kishia Powell
Matt Ries
Maureen Schmelling

Fairfax Water:

Niffy Saji

Washington Aqueduct:

Julia Adamiak
Mike Chicoine
Rudy Chow
Nina Hallissy
Rachel LeDonne
Audrey Litz
Anne Spiesman

WSSC Water:

Nicole Horvath
Steven Nelson
Priscilla To

State and Local Agencies

DC DOEE:

Jeffrey Seltzer

MDE:

Gregory Busch

VDH:

Raven Jarvis
Dwayne Roadcap

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:

Christopher Anderson
Elizabeth Garcia
Virginia Vassalotti
Calvin Yahn

ICPRB:

Renee Bourassa
Christina Davis
Michael Nardolilli

Other

American Water:

Ruben Rodriguez

Hazen and Sawyer:

Erik Rosenfeldt

Virtual Attendees

Water Suppliers

DC Water:
Saul Kinter

Fairfax Water:
Nicki Bellezza
John Kingsbury
Susan Miller
Gregory Prelewicz
Michele Siminari

Frederick County:
Eva Mortenson

Loudoun Water:
Thomas Barrack
Gerardo Castaneda
Jessica Edwards-Brandt
Julie Karceski
Pam Kenel
Mark Peterson
Bradley Schmitz

City of Rockville:
James Woods

Washington Aqueduct:
Joseph Adia
Mel Tesema
Rupa Lamsal

WSSC Water:
Robin Forte
Robert Hsu
Nicole Horvath
Julie Karceski
Scott Moffatt
Jin Shin
Daniel Yuan

State and Local Agencies

City of Hagerstown:
Nancy Hausrath

DOEE:
George Onyullo

MDE:
John Anthony
Robert Peoples

WVDEP:
Brian Carr

WV DHHR:
Monica Whyte

Federal and Regional Agencies

ICPRB:
Claire Buchanan
Curtis Dalpra
Rikke Jepsen
Janina Jones
Heidi Moltz
Andrea Nagel
Stephanie Nummer

MWCOG:
Lisa Ragain

Other

Martin Chandler*

*Guest Attendee

Business Meeting

Due to social distancing requirements resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, the November 2, 2022 Annual Meeting was held in-person at DC Water with a hybrid webinar available for those who could not make it in-person. There were 30 in-person attendees and 40 virtual attendees for a total of 70 attendees, including the presenters.

Presentations

PFAS One Water Risk Communication Messaging for Water Sector Professionals (WRF Project #5124)

Erik Rosenfeldt, Hazen and Sawyer & Ruben Rodriguez, American Water

The presentation by Dr. Rosenfeldt and Mr. Rodriguez frequently referenced the free PFAS communication toolkit by Water Research Foundation. It is available online at:

<https://www.waterrf.org/research/projects/pfas-one-water-risk-communication-messaging-water-sector-professionals>

DWSPP Year in Review

Virginia Vassalotti, EPA Region 3 ([presentation](#))

Ms. Vassalotti began her presentation on the past year of DWSPP activities by reviewing what DWSPP is and the goal of the partnership. DWSPP is a voluntary association of water suppliers and government agencies that focus on protecting raw sources of drinking water in the Potomac River basin. The DWSPP partnership works to identify strategies for carrying forward source water protection through quarterly meetings, focused workgroups, and topical information sessions. Through this process, DWSPP builds on the source water assessments that have already been prepared through the basin.

The DWSPP partnership is comprised of 10 different government agencies ranging from local to state to federal level and 15 different water suppliers that range from smaller utilities to larger ones such as WSSC and DC Water. The government committee is chaired by Dwayne Roadcap of Virginia Department of Health and the utility committee is chaired by Rudy Chow at the Washington Aqueduct. The various members of the DWSSP are represented by over 100 different individuals and cover 14,670 square miles across the 5 different jurisdictions that cover the Potomac basin. This includes representatives from the headwaters in Pennsylvania and West Virginia down through Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

DWSPP currently has 6 workgroups that meet quarterly to discuss source water protection issues and develop actions to address said issues. These workgroups include water quality, urban and industrial issues, contaminants of emerging concern, agricultural issues, reaching out, and early warning and emergency response. In addition DWSPP has formed ad-hoc workgroups to work on a particular issue or project as needed. One such workgroup was formed to promote, share, and utilize the land prioritization tool after the tool was developed.

Over the course of 2022, each workgroup has accomplished several tasks and created a plan for 2023. Ms. Vassalotti goes on to explain the achievements of each workgroup in 2022 and the workgroup's plan.

Water Quality Workgroup

The first workgroup presented was the Water Quality workgroup which is chaired by Niffy Saji from Fairfax Water. In 2022 the Water Quality workgroup has worked to track resources related to salt, HABs, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). Currently salt monitoring locations are being finalized, updates to the HAB monitoring locations map are ongoing based on seasonal HAB sites, and SAV information gathering is complete. The group has worked to share information. They have transferred the Spill Response Plan to the Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup but continue to coordinate efforts with them. The Water Quality workgroup has also collaborated with other workgroups and DWSPP members. In 2022, this workgroup worked with the Reaching Out workgroup to develop a PFAS monitoring map and with DC Water to hold a laboratory workshop this past June.

Looking ahead to 2023, the Water Quality workgroup will continue to track resources. This includes tracking water quality monitoring conducted by utilities, developing a story map for salt data, and collecting information on relevant water quality parameters. This coming year the Water Quality workgroup will share knowledge on emerging water quality issues and their sources, participate in webinars and workshops, and sponsor information sessions on water quality issues as appropriate. Lastly, the workgroup plans to collaborate with other workgroups and partners on related water quality issues and laboratory related exercises.

Urban and Industrial Issues

The Urban and Industrial Issues workgroup focuses on urban stormwater issues from point and non-point sources and is chaired by Greg Prelewicz of Fairfax Water. For the 2022 year, the Urban and Industrial Issues workgroup has worked on a variety of topics.

Related to NPDES permits, the workgroup has obtained the updated list of NPDES permits in the basin from EPA region 3 and frequently reviewed and commented on the NPDES permits. This includes new permits, renewals, and modifications to existing permits. Some specific NPDES permits that the group has reviewed and provided comments to include Merck, Sharp, & Dohme in Virginia, site remediation for Allegany Ballistics in West Virginia, the voluntary site remediation application for VERSO Luke Lime Kiln facility in West Virginia, underground injection permit for Island Creek Coal Company in West Virginia, and Maryland Triennial WQS Update in Maryland.

Additionally, the group continued to provide support and coordination for WaterSuite, a MWCOG Water Sector Program. In 2022, the workgroup had discussions on the use of information on PFAS for a WaterSuite GIS contamination source identification layer. Outside of WaterSuite, the Urban and Industrial Issues has focused on deicing chemicals

and participating in the NSR funded research and MWCOG's regional salinization monitoring and education efforts.

Moving forward, in 2023 the Urban and Industrial Issues workgroup plans to continue work on the goals and objectives laid out in the strategic plan. These goals include continued monitoring, review, and commenting on applicable NPDES permits, or equivalent state discharge permit renewals, to advise regulators about drinking water source water concerns and impacts. Additionally, the workgroup plans to explore ways to standardize NPDES permit language to require downstream notification of spills in the Potomac mainstem and its tributaries. The Urban and Industrial Issues workgroup also plans to continue to work on salinization issues by researching, monitoring, and promoting BMPs that reverse the long-term salinization of drinking water supplies. In 2023 the workgroup aims to prioritize urban and industrial entities with whom to begin a dialogue on source water protection issues. The identification criteria include proximity, density, potential for protection, potential for contamination, and/or other parameters. Lastly, the Urban and Industrial Issues will track all information related to facilities of significance using the WaterSuite Source Water Protection GIS tool when applicable during 2023.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Workgroup

The Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) workgroup is responsible for identifying emerging threats to source water, tracking possible human and ecological health impacts, and sharing information with the rest of DWSPP on major updates related to CECs. This workgroup is currently chaired by Bradley Schmitz from Loudoun Water after Martin Chandler retired. In 2022 this workgroup considered four CECs in the Potomac basin (microplastics, PFAS, HABs, and UCMR5) and chose to focus on Microplastics in the basin for 2022 and at least part of 2023. The workgroup is currently discussing plans to organize another webinar on microplastics in early or mid-2023.

Due to EPA's revised health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS, and final health advisories for GenX and PFAS, the team decided to wait and see what comes of the national drinking water regulations. Additionally, so many other organizations and research institutions are providing webinars and workshops regarding PFAS, the CEC workgroup decided to focus elsewhere. Even so, many DWSPP members participated in the September virtual conference on PFAS, that was hosted by ICPRB.

Agricultural Issues Workgroup

The Agricultural Issues workgroup strives to secure grant funding to benefit farmers and producers in implementing agricultural conservation practices. This process is done through collaboration with other workgroups and partner organizations. This workgroup is chaired by Pam Kenel from Loudoun Water. In 2022, the workgroup developed relationships with state Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff. Specifically, the group has a working relationship with Maryland NRCS, is beginning discussions with Virginia NRCS, and exploring project opportunities in West Virginia.

The Agricultural Issues workgroup continues to collaborate with AWWA and their efforts in advocating for source water protection in the Farm Bill.

NRCS, like other government agencies, has many funding programs and each has different program guidelines. This group has worked to learn about NRCS' various programs and which ones align best with source water protection. National Water Quality Initiative, or NWQI, is one of the programs that specifically has a source water protection component. In Maryland there is an NWQI in the Little Pipe Creek watershed, which is in the Potomac basin, that is currently in the planning stages with hopes to advance to the implementation stages. During the 2022 fiscal year the Cacapon watershed in West Virginia was selected for the planning stage of NWQI. Due to staff turnover at West Virginia NRCS, the watershed was resubmitted for planning stages in the 2023 fiscal year and the workgroup is waiting to hear back on the status. In 2022, the Agricultural Issues workgroup has maintained contact with Virginia NRCS and expressed interest in exploring funding opportunities in the Shenandoah watershed.

In 2023 the Agricultural Issues workgroup plans to continue to advance the NWQI in the Little Pipe Creek watershed by hopefully moving towards the implementation stage. The degree to which the workgroup and DWSPP is involved in the Cacapon NWQI depends on the status of the NWQI. There is great potential for DWSPP to have a very active role in the planning process thanks to the technical expertise of members. There is also multiple local partners in the Cacapon watershed that are eager to get involved in the NWQI, which is an excellent opportunity for collaboration.

Lastly, the Agricultural Issues workgroup is interested in exploring supplemental funding programs, such as the EPA's Chesapeake Bay grant funding that is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This funding is anticipated to be more accessible than previously because the EPA and NRCS signed an MOU which allows agency funds to be matched with one another. This previously acted as a barrier, especially considering the cost of supplies and contractors associated with agricultural BMPs, because the EPA and NRCS Chesapeake Bay funds could not be used as a match toward one another.

Reaching Out Workgroup (ROW)

The main goal of the Reaching Out Workgroup (ROW) is to perform outreach and communication efforts on behalf of DWSPP. It supports other workgroups by developing materials and conducting outreach activities and actively works to attract new members to DWSPP. The co-chairs of the ROW are Lisa Ragain from MWCOG and Virginia Vassalotti from EPA Region 3.

During 2022, the ROW developed the 2021 DWSPP annual report, which is available on the DWSPP website and continued to release the Member News Drop newsletter that was initially launched in 2021. The ROW has also participated in the second annual Source Water Protection Week on social media.

As an ongoing activity, this workgroup supports DWSPP members and upstream utilities in their communications and messaging.

Looking forward to 2023, the ROW will continue its collaboration with the water quality workgroup to work on the development and launching of an online StoryMap that shows where all PFAS monitoring is being conducted around the basin. The ROW will continue to support other DWSPP workgroups through assistance with communications work such as developing an event flier, translating technical materials, or sharing information on social media.

Early Warning and Emergency Response Workgroup

The Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup focuses on preparing for and responding to spills or other emergency events in the watershed that could affect source water. This workgroup is chaired by Doug Grimes from Fairfax Water. In 2022, the Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup took the lead on the Spill Response Plan and supported the new Monocacy monitoring site. In addition, 2022 was the fourth year that the Microtox CTM bioluminescence online monitor is in operation.

The Microtox CTM system measures bioluminescence of squid bacteria. Increased luminescence is indicative of increased nutrients in raw water, while a decreased luminescence indicates an increase in toxicity to the bacteria. When the system detects a substantial increase or decrease in luminescence, a report is automatically generated and sent via email. To detect overall water quality changes, the Microtox CTM system is used in conjunction with the fish monitor and other online instruments. The fish monitor and Microtox CTM system require substantial maintenance and operation expertise to keep them running properly and to diagnose data that they produce, therefore the data cannot be used directly for treatment decisions at this time. In 2023, the Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup will continue to use these devices to increase their knowledge and help improve the technologies, with the goal of ultimately using them for immediate treatment decisions.

Additional 2023 activities for the Early Warning and Emergency Response workgroup include conducting a spill exercise. One was not conducted in 2022 due to key staff turnover at the utilities. The workgroup chose to wait for 2023 to perform the spill exercise to allow staff a chance to settle into their new roles.

Ms. Vassalotti concluded her presentation by recognizing ICPRB and the ICPRB team members who provide administrative and technical support to DWSPP – Christy Davis, Renee Bourassa, and Stephanie Nummer. The staff and ICPRB work to support DWSPP by managing membership dues and grants, overseeing membership and list-servs, developing and sending email communications, and planning and facilitating DWSPP meetings. Additionally, the ICPRB DWSPP team has established the OccoquanSpills list-serv with funding from Fairfax Water and is currently researching microplastics and salinity issues with funding from EPA Region 3.

DWSPP Updates

Financial & Administrative Updates

Michael Nardolilli & Christy Davis, ICPRB

Michael Nardolilli began the Financial and Administrative Updates by presenting a brief financial report. In 2022 DWSPP received fees from the member organizations that totaled \$62,455.00. In addition, there is a pending \$12,930.00 from state grants that DWSPP expects to receive soon. These monetary contributions to DWSPP are the same as previous years. The majority of the 2022 DWSPP funds were spent on staff time, but expenses this past year also included projects and virtual meetings. ICPRB contributes to the partnership to cover expenses that exceed the revenue. Although the final spending for 2022 is not yet available, ICPRB's contributions were budgeted to be \$31,125.00.

Following the financial updates, Christy Davis presented a brief administrative update. Dr. Davis brought attention to the virtual link for individuals to look at the draft "Annual Work Plan for Coordination/Administrative/Technical Support by ICPRB" for 2023 and provide input before finalized in December of 2022. After finalization, the formal work plan and DWSPP invoices will be distributed. It was noted that DWSPP dues will not be increased for 2023.

In addition, Dr. Davis noted the Little Pipe Creek NWQI was finalized and is under review by Maryland NRCS. The soonest possible application for implementation funding would be next June. She also noted the white paper that ICPRB composed, [*Considerations for Monitoring Microplastics in the Non-Tidal Potomac River*](#).

Virtual Passing of the Gavel

Washington Aqueduct (Rudy Chow) to Virginia Department of Health (Dwayne Roadcap)

In passing the gavel to Dwayne Roadcap from the Virginia Department of Health, Rudy Chow shared some of Mr. Roadcap's history. Mr. Roadcap has been the director of the Office of Drinking Water since November 2017. In addition, he has over 25 years of experience with environmental programs in Virginia. Mr. Roadcap began his career as a water treatment plant operator with the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority in Charlottesville, Virginia and later transitioned to the Virginia Department of Health as an environmental health specialist and technical consultant with the Thomas Jefferson Health District. In 2000, he started working with the Office of Environmental Health Services and served multiple roles including Director - Division of On-site Sewage, Water Supply, Environmental Engineer, and Marina Programs and Acting Office Director. Mr. Roadcap holds an Environmental Science degree from the University of Virginia and enjoys spending time with his wife and teenage daughter. He also served as a Volunteer Reserve Deputy Sheriff for two years and has a second-degree black belt in a traditional martial art. After sharing a brief background regarding Mr. Roadcap, Mr. Chow passed the gavel to Mr. Roadcap and gave him the floor to speak.

Mr. Roadcap shared his thoughts on one of the themes of the DWSPP Annual Meeting was that the goal is to have drinking water be safe and trusted and you get there through good source water. With that, Mr. Roadcap adjourned the 2022 DWSPP Annual Meeting.