

**POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP**

JOINT MEETING

Notes

February 15, 2006

Attendees

Utilities

Miranda Brown, Washington Aqueduct
Andy Brunhart, WSSC
Russell Chambers, Town of Leesburg
Plato Chen, WSSC
Mike Chicoine, Washington Aqueduct
Traci Kammer Goldberg, Fairfax Water
M. T. Habibian, WSSC
Jamie Bain Hedges, Fairfax Water
Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water
Jodye Russell, DC WASA
Larry Taylor, Town of Leesburg

Intestate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Erik Hagen
Joseph Hoffman
Julie Kiang

State Government

Marc Aveni, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
Monir Chowdhury, DC Dept. of Health
John Grace, MDE
John Heinz, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Saeid Kasraei, MD Dept. of the Environment
Scott Kudlas, VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
Joe Lee, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Nawaz Shaw, DC Dept. of Health
Bill Toomey, WV Dept. of Health and Human Resources

Environmental Protection Agency or Other Federal Agencies

Scott Ator, USGS
Vicki Benetti, EPA Region 3
Jose Jorge Canales-Martinez, EPA Region 3
Dana Heriegal, EPA Region 3
Chuck Kanetzky, EPA Region 3

Kevin McCormack, EPA Headquarters
K.R. Young, EPA Region 3

ICPRB Staff Changes

Julie Kiang will be leaving ICPRB to accept a position with USGS. Erik Hagen, Carlton Haywood and Joseph Hoffman will cover staffing of the Partnership until a replacement is put in place.

Emergency Response

MWCOG is moving forward with installation of biomonitors at WSSC, FW, and Washington Aqueduct. WSSC recently received theirs and it should be on-line in the next 2 to 3 weeks. The monitors measure respiration rate, respiration depth, cough rate, and movement and compares it with base-line data to detect potential changes in water quality.

ICPRB is currently evaluating a RiverSpill model which has incorporated Potomac-specific parameters. ICPRB staff is comparing the application to the existing spill/time of travel model that was developed through their Cooperative Water Supply Section (CO-OP).

A spill exercise is planned for the late spring, and will provide an opportunity to test the new RiverSpill model. Various scenarios will be developed for the exercise.

USGS is working to perform dye tracing studies to supplement historic dye-tracing studies and provide data on a wider range of flows.

Trash Summit

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is holding a Trash Summit March 16. It was noted that this may provide an opportunity for outreach or communications.

RARE Grant Update

The RARE Grant was endorsed by the review panel, and it appears likely to be funded, although the amount is unclear. Monitoring would start October 1. The scope would need to be adjusted based on the funding amount. [The RARE grant was approved subsequent to the meeting.]

EPA will distribute information on an additional grant program which may be of interest to the Partnership.

USDA Grant

It is unclear when information on approval will be provided. IPCRB also suggested it may be helpful to build up the BMP density through additional funds.

Emerging Contaminants

No additional work has been conducted on emerging contaminants recently. It was noted that the next step is to work with AWWARF on a possible study.

Disinfection by-Product Precursors

No additional work has been conducted on DBPs.

Urban Issues

The Urban Issues Committee met on January 31, to review and discuss state stormwater, erosion and sediment control, and other regulations affecting urban stormwater. The group also discussed where the Partnership could fit in to this set of activities. Most agreed that the best place to start was to contact MS4 communities. The group concurred that the Urban Issues Committee could contact other groups to begin a dialogue on urban stormwater.

The Urban Subcommittee will contact 2 or 3 MS4 communities to identify opportunities to partner on urban SWM issues. Priority communities will be based on available information from the DC SWA or other existing ICPRB studies. Other groups, such as Potomac Conservancy or other conservation trusts may be contacted. The information session associated with the next meeting will be on urban stormwater.

Outreach

EPA presented ideas for several potential outreach and educational activities. A long-term proposal included a poster contest. In the short-term, Drinking Water Week, the first week in May, may provide an opportunity for outreach and education.

EPA also provided some sample book marks and coasters to illustrate how the Partnership logo might be branded. The group discussed how these might be distributed and what the implications were. The utilities agreed that building on existing outreach efforts is preferred to development of new programs due to staff limitations.

It was suggested that a workgroup be formed to address education about drinking water, getting information out about the Partnership, and possibly purchasing some reasonably-priced items to help brand the Partnership.

Another idea was to hold open houses and/or treatment plant tours during Drinking Water Week, although there are sometimes security issues associated with that.

The group agreed that a workgroup including the Public Information Officers from each utility be formed to discuss these issues and to review programs that are already in place that could be built on. EPA will coordinate a conference call to initiate this group.

The group also agreed that a direct mailing of the annual report to basin water utilities and possibly other organizations, such as soil and water conservation districts, would be helpful. Fairfax Water will coordinate the mailing.

Funding

ICPRB has developed a scope of work to detail on-going administrative and technical assistance activities associated with the Partnership. The Funding Committee held a conference call February 2 to discuss and is still working on developing a cost-sharing proposal to cover annual costs.

For the purposes of funding projects, the group supported the idea of having a pre-approved list of potential projects for which grant or other funding could be pursued. The scopes could be taken to governing bodies for review and approval to allow for submission of grant applications as they arise based on the pre-approval.

Each committee was asked to prepare a scope of work specific activities associated with that project, and present it at the next meeting. The RARE grant scope of work was cited as an example.

Source Water Collaborative

EPA provided information on the Source Water Collaborative, a consortium of organizations dedicated to protecting water resources.

EPA will bring a proposal developed by the Collaborative when it becomes available.

Presentation/Discussion: Roadway Deicers

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watershed, the City of Baltimore, and EPA Region III provided presentations on roadway deicing chemicals. A discussion was held on the topic, as laid out in the presentation materials.

EPA offered to facilitate working with their Green Highways program as an approach to dealing with roadway deicers.

The Urban Issues Committee, while contacting area MS4 communities, will inquire about how roadway deicers are handled at the local government level.