

POTOMAC RIVER BASIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Notes for May 7, 2007

Location: ICPRB, Rockville, MD

Attendees

Utilities

City of Rockville:
Mark Charles
Vernon Simmons
Fairfax Water:
Melissa Billman
Traci Goldberg
Greg Prelewicz
Frederick County DUSWM:
Ken Orndorff
Mark Sweitzer
Loudoun County SA:
Tom Bonacquisti
Maryland Rural Water Assoc.
David Swain
Washington Aqueduct:
Miranda Brown
WASA:
Kam Parekh
WSSC:
Martin Chandler
Plato Chen
M.T. Habibian

State and Local Government

DCDOE:
Monir Chowdhury
PADEP:
Patrick Bowling
VADEQ:
Andrea Putscher
WVDHHR:
Bill Toomey

Federal and Regional Agencies

EPA Region 3:
Vicki Binetti
Dana Heriegel
KR Young
ICPRB:
Joseph Hoffman
Cherie Schultz
MWCOG:
Steve Bieber,
USGS:
Scott Ator
Carol Boughton
Cherie Miller

Other Organizations

Bill Samuels, SAIC

Morning Mini-Workshop: Emerging Contaminant Challenges - Alternative Approaches for Water Utilities

Introduction and Background, Martin Chandler (WSSC), Chair, Emerging Contaminants Workgroup

REACH – The New EU Legislation on Chemicals Management, Robert H. Donkers, Counselor for Environmental Affairs, Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S.

Endocrine Disruptors as Emerging Chemicals in the Environment: Policy Approaches for Reducing the Risks, Lynn R. Goldman, Depart. of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Emerging Contaminants in U.S. Water Resources: Challenges and Potential Solutions, Rolf U. Halden, Depart. of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Copies of the above three presentations are now available at the DWSPP website.

Reports from Workgroups

Pathogens Workgroup (Plato Chen, WSSC):

Plato reported on the RARE Grant *Cryptosporidium* source tracking project. Based on the number of detects, it appears that Method 1623 is not very sensitive, but PCR is quite sensitive and is successfully detecting *Crypto* in basin streams. *C andersoni* (a bovine genotype) is most prevalent, and not generally thought to be human infectious. Not much *Crypto* has been detected at the monitoring site located downstream of a WWTP, so agricultural sources seem to be most significant in the Potomac basin. It looks like there will be no second year of funding available from EPA for this project. Some basin utilities will be participating in an upcoming AwwaRF project which will look at building genotyping analysis into regulatory process.

Emerging Contaminants Workgroup/Disinfection By-Products Workgroup

(Mohammad Habibian, WSSC):

AwwaRF plans to have a workshop on source water protection in order to try to develop a long-term plan. Dr. Habibian will attend this meeting.

Emergency Response Workgroup

KR Young (EPA Region 3) attended DRBC meeting on early warning systems.

Scott Ator (USGS – MD-DE-DC) reported on the USGS/MDE early warning system project. Three stations have been established above the fall-line for chemical and biological monitoring (at Brunswick, Williamsport, Frederick New Design, and also Duckett Reservoir). The next phase of the project will be calibration.

Cherie Schultz reported on the Workgroup's pipeline safety review. In April, a set of preliminary questions were sent to Alex Dankanich of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and to Steve Baker of Colonial Pipeline concerning what changes have taken place in pipeline safety regulations and in Colonial Pipeline's operating procedures in the DC metro area since the mid-1990s. We are waiting for a response to these questions.

Urban Issues Workgroup (Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water:)

The goals of the Workgroup this year are to put together a hand-out/presentation on de-icing agents for local highway and state officials, and to update the list of MS4 jurisdictions. The next Workgroup meeting will be on June 14. The Workgroup is also putting together new information for the DWSPP website. Vicki Binetti has been in contact with EPA's Office of Research and Development concerning the topic of deicers.

Reaching Out Workgroup (K.R. Young, EPA)

The Reaching Out Workgroup is working on developing a new DWSPP fact sheet and also a DWSPP motto. Reaching Out is also discussing developing a DVD on DWSPP, and will send out the DWSPP 2008 Annual Report

Cherie Schultz discussed the DWSPP website overhaul, and said that a password-protected draft of the website should be up in about a month for members to comment on.

Reaching Out will be spending time organizing the next Annual Meeting, and is tentatively proposing an October meeting held at Washington Aqueduct. The possibility of a keynote speaker was brought up as a means to attract more participants. Dr. Habibian noted that AwwaRF will hold workshop in EC's, and he suggested that the date of our annual meeting be some time after results of that meeting are available.

Emerging Contaminants Workgroup (Martin Chandler, WSSC)

Workgroup members attended several recent meetings, including the "ABCs of EDCs" at Hood College in November 2006, sponsored by the Chesapeake Research Consortium, the Mid-Atlantic Water Program, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the March 23rd Congressional briefing on Compounds of Emerging Concern, sponsored by WEF and USGS.

Martin noted that the California EPA will hold a web-cast on PPCPs on May 22.

The EC Workgroup is working with the Reaching Out Workgroup to develop a strategy for risk communication. Dawn Forsythe (WSSC) has been working on Partnership talking points on EDCs.

DWSPP - funding for administrative costs

DWSPP will continue with the system agreed upon last year, with costs for administrative funding being split equally between the states and the utilities. ICPRB will send invoices to the five state agency and three major utility members. The Funding Workgroup will convene to work out a few details.

DWSPP member recruitment

The possibility of expanding Partnership membership to include additional Federal agencies and to counties and other local agencies was discussed. Members recalled that membership had been originally restricted to Federal, State and Interstate agencies and to water utilities. It was suggested that members review the original framework document before making decisions on inviting new members. (Note: the April 13, 2004 Partnership Framework is now available at the DWSPP website at http://www.potomacriver.org/water_quality/safewater/DWSP/FinalFramework.pdf.)

Other Business

Traci Goldberg reported that Fairfax Water is hosting the next meeting, on June 15, of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, a government-citizen forum to promote collaboration on water quality issues in the middle and lower Potomac watershed within Virginia.

KR Young is organizing a meeting of Federal agencies on May 30. The goal of the meeting is to introduce and provide information about the Partnership, and to discuss how these agencies might contribute to source water protection efforts and how they might participate in Partnership activities.

KR Young and Cherie Schultz are organizing a meeting of the Governmental Committee in late June to discuss the results of the Source Water Assessments, and to discuss what specific activities the Partnership might initiate to assist the States in source water protection.

Vicki Binetti talked about the Source Water Collaborative (www.protectdrinkingwater.org), an alliance of fifteen national organizations dedicated to source water protection.