

# REPORTER

Vol. 67 No.1

Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Jan./Feb. 2011



C. Dalpra

In addition to its technical water quality and resources work, ICPRB works with partners to support public stewardship, such as this group who cleaned trash from the banks of the tidal Anacostia during the Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. This year's basin wide event occurs on April 9. To volunteer, visit [www.potomaccleanup.org](http://www.potomaccleanup.org).

## 2010 ICPRB Water Quality, Resources, and Outreach Projects Improve Basin's Waters

For many different reasons, 2010 was a remarkable year. It began with a frozen-over Potomac. Melting of the record snowfalls brought high flows, filled with road salt and sediment. It also saw drought conditions, and for only the third time in nearly three decades, the ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP), on behalf of the cooperating Washington, D.C., metropolitan area water suppliers, requested releases of stored water to ensure adequate metropolitan-area drinking water supplies while protecting river ecology. As the ICPRB marked its 70th anniversary, several projects focused on the issues created by the high and low flows.

The year also witnessed the beginnings of a regulatory program, the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan as an enforceable bay-wide "pollution diet." The TMDL may finally result in a restored Chesapeake Bay through more-focused efforts in its major tidal tributaries, including the Potomac. The ICPRB was involved in providing technical support for the bay effort, as well as helping the Potomac basin jurisdictions with a

wide range of supporting actions in water quality, water resources, and fisheries and habitat restoration. In concert with these efforts, ICPRB used its education and outreach programs to help empower the public to work with the jurisdictions to both improve the Potomac basin and meet the requirements of the bay cleanup.

As a nonregulatory advisory agency of the Potomac basin jurisdictions, ICPRB assists the jurisdictions in addressing many restoration issues. It also serves as a platform for the members to form partnerships and work together toward comprehensive basin management that avoids duplication of efforts and results in sustainable water resources policy for current and future generations.

### Improving Water Quality, Fisheries, and Habitat

Preserving and protecting water quality is a core value of ICPRB's mission. The ICPRB fulfills that mission through technical and outreach efforts that improve water quality and increase public and private involvement. These efforts range from researching and writing pollution control plans TMDLs required of the jurisdictions,

***Our mission is to enhance, protect, and conserve the water and associated land resources of the Potomac River and its tributaries through regional and interstate cooperation.***

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restoration of depleted fisheries and habitat that increase the river's economic value, and projects that engage the public to promote stewardship that bring added value and support for water quality improvements.

While the bay TMDL has been getting a lot of attention during the past year, TMDLs themselves are nothing new. States are required to write a TMDL for water bodies that do not meet the water quality standards designated by the state.

A TMDL plan assesses the sources and relative concentrations of the pollutant, and how and from what sources the pollutant can be reduced so the water body meets quality standards. The ICPRB has been **assisting the basin jurisdictions with TMDL plans** for several years. The ICPRB technical staff performs data collection and processing, modeling, and writing of plans.

During 2010, ICPRB submitted draft nutrient TMDLs for Catoctin and Double Pipe creeks, and the upper and lower Monocacy River in Maryland, which are under review by the state. Staff also are working to assist the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with TMDLs for the nontidal Potomac River mainstem and Rock Creek. The ICPRB also is assisting MDE with PCB TMDLs for the Anacostia and several other watersheds.

In Virginia, bacteria draft TMDLs were produced for Four Mile Run and Hunting Creek/Cameron Run, two Potomac tidal embayments.

An ICPRB team is assisting Pennsylvania in **biological stream assessments** within the Potomac basin to determine if the streams require a TMDL. The assessments focus on collection of stream inhabitants such as aquatic insects, mussels, worms, crayfish, which are then used to determine the stream's health.

In addition, ICPRB staff provide ongoing direct support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program by performing **analysis and quality control on biological and other data used in models that assist the restoration effort**. Staff also are leading the creation of a biological index that includes habitat quality and other parameters to provide a better picture of the bay for researchers. This increased understanding of the bay's biological processes and physical structure provides a more-accurate picture of the bay and improves confidence in potential management actions.

Healthy rivers beget healthy fisheries, which increase recreational opportunities and is a significant factor in local economies. The American shad fishery in the Potomac basin was historically one of the largest until pollution and habitat contraction from dams had decimated populations of the migratory fish by the mid-1970s.

**American shad** populations in the Potomac have grown thanks to an ICPRB-led coalition of agencies that began a restocking program in 1995. The stocking program reintroduced shad fry to historic spawning and nursery grounds that were re-opened by modifications to Little Falls Dam in 2000, allowing the migratory fish to re-colonize miles of river upstream. The fry "imprint" their birthplace, and attempt to return to the same area years later to spawn. Current

shad populations in the Potomac are the highest since modern record-keeping began in the 1950s. In colonial times, they represented the largest fishery on the river. Their resurgence as a sport fish can provide new economic opportunities as anglers spend dollars on tackle, boats, baits, travel, hotels, guides, and food. The fish are ecologically important to the river and serve as both predator and prey in the river's food web.

With help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia watermen, the Maryland and Virginia governments, conservation and education groups including the Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region, the migratory fish have not only staged a recovery but are serving as a focus for environmental education in area schools.

Living Classrooms coordinates the educational program, in which students receive fertilized shad eggs collected by ICPRB. The students use aquaria in their classrooms to hatch the shad fry, which are then released into the Potomac. The shad program also drives learning in biology, conservation, math and other subjects. In 2010, 57 schools participated in the program, with 80 classrooms growing fry. The program also supported the creation of new programs for schools in Allentown and Philadelphia, Pa.

Active stocking of the Potomac lasted for eight years until the population began to recover. The ICPRB and other agencies continue to monitor the population, which experienced a decent spawn in 2010 that was somewhat hampered by unfavorable weather. (Weather conditions can greatly affect the spawning success of migratory fish, which journey from the Atlantic Coast up into freshwater rivers in the spring.) The participating groups continue to collect shad eggs each spring, and those eggs now serve to **stock other river systems** in the Chesapeake. In 2010, about 4.1-million shad fry gathered from the Potomac were stocked in the Rappahannock River in Virginia. Nearly a half-million fry were stocked into the Potomac as replacement for fish taken in the program.

The ICPRB staff also has been working directly with EPA to collect Potomac field data for a **National Large River Assessment** that will provide a snapshot of the current status of the nation's large rivers. Staff performed field assessments of river segments that include biological and habitat information. Through associated research, the ICPRB staff found two species of very rare freshwater mussels during the assessment. The information can help guide future management and policy decisions.

The ICPRB's Communications Unit staff has been working directly with watershed groups and the general public to publicize opportunities to get involved in the TMDL process in ways that benefit their local waterways. That work will gain in importance as bay TMDL



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ICPRB Living Resources Director Jim Cummins and waterman Brad Harley (on left), and ICPRB Chairman Scott Kudlas (right) honor some of the Westbrooke Elementary School students who grew shad fry as part of the American Shad Restoration Program. The students were cited at the Jim Range National Casting Call event which will be held on April 14-15 2011.

implementation projects are targeted in local jurisdictions in 2011 and beyond.

### Preserving and Enhancing Water Resources

The Potomac River and its tributaries are a critical resource for the region's population and its quality of life. The basin's waters provide drinking water, accept the treated wastes from sewage plants, provide for industrial and agricultural water use, and serve as a major focus for recreation such as boating and fishing.

The purity and safety of the region's drinking water is one of the resource's highest callings. The ICPRB has partnered with basin drinking water utilities, state and local resource managers and planners, and EPA under the **Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership**. The group is a cooperative, voluntary partnership working to improve the protection of drinking water sources in the basin. Ecologically healthy source water results in better drinking water that requires less treatment.

Established in 2004, the 20 organizations involved share information on legislation and research about source water contaminants and other threats, develop strategies to minimize contaminants and their impacts on drinking water, and reach out to improve understanding of the impacts on water users. During 2010, the group, facilitated by ICPRB, focused on road salt impacts on drinking water sources, agricultural impacts such as *Cryptosporidium*, minimizing the impacts of prescription drugs and personal care products on source waters, the use of spill models and other means to protect drinking water intakes from spills of hazardous substances, and better coordination between water utilities and area emergency response networks in the event of a spill.

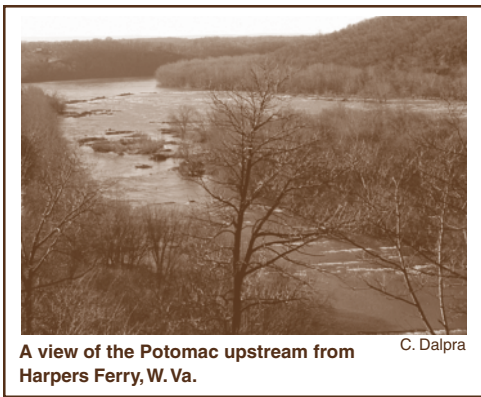
An important part of protecting the basin's water resources is in managing to protect both quality and quantity in ways that make our use of those waters sustainable. Changes in land use and levels of impervious surface cause hydrologic changes in streams. In urban and suburban areas stormwater flows cause chronically higher stream flows, and can run slower during dry times. As population increases, demands on some waterways for drinking and industrial use increase. As climate changes, demands for irrigation of agricultural lands may



increase. Some areas of the basin already are looking at a future where area streams become fully “allocated.” The ICRPB is addressing this issue on a number of fronts.

Responsible planning for sustainable water resources will require new tools that can help assess the impacts of management decision before they are made. Providing these tools is the object of an ongoing partnership among U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and ICRPB. The **Middle Potomac Watershed Assessment** is a multi-year study (2009-2012) incorporating data collection, research, and modeling of the Potomac’s water quality, biology, habitat, and flows to determine how the river’s water can serve its many uses while maintaining its ecosystem health.

Technical analyses are underway, including defining the flows necessary to sustain aquatic communities, assessing human influences on water flows, and identifying potential conflicts.



A view of the Potomac upstream from Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

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These analyses of biological and hydrological data together contribute to a regional-scale understanding of the relationship between changes in flow and the response of the river’s ecology, and will identify potential conflicts in water use.

The management tools produced by the project include a basin-wide database of biological and water quality data, a hydrologic model and database for the watershed, and development of future use projections. These efforts have led to analysis of environmental flow recommendations for the mainstem Potomac and tributary streams that can be used for management and policy decisions.

The ICRPB in 2010 **supported jurisdiction efforts to establish or strengthen water resources plans**. Staff were invited to provide training and workshops for managers, planners, and other stakeholders in several jurisdictions to assist them in the development of the plans within their jurisdictions. The educational opportunities provided some of the basics of water resources planning in the watershed, provided tools for them to assess their watersheds, and provided an opportunity for them to discuss issues in their areas.

Pennsylvania was a particular focus in 2010, as the state continued the development of its water resources plan and began to identify areas with critical water resources needs. In the Potomac basin, the watersheds of **Marsh and Rock creeks in Adams County** were

examined closely, as the area is impacted by high growth rates and limestone geology that limits the recharge areas of the streams. Partnering with the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Adams County Water Resources Advisory Committee, ICRPB has facilitated meetings, web pages, and forums to engage the public, and guided development of a monitoring network of groundwater observation wells, stream gages, and precipitation data to establish a baseline for future efforts. The program places Adams County in an advanced position to sustainably develop its water resources into the future.

The health of the watershed in Pennsylvania also is crucial to the water resources future of counties in Maryland, as the Marsh and Rock creeks meet to form the mainstem of the Monocacy River, which runs through the growing area of Frederick on its way to the Potomac. The ICRPB remains involved in efforts to increase cooperation throughout the larger Monocacy watershed to promote comprehensive management of the resources.

The **ICRPB CO-OP Section**, which works with the metropolitan area water suppliers to ensure adequate supplies, was very active this year as the heavy winter snowfall gave way to a summer drought. As Potomac River flows began to quickly drop, CO-OP staff began frequent monitoring of those levels, along with current and projected demand provided by the Washington metropolitan area’s three major water suppliers (The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), serving the Maryland suburbs, Fairfax Water, the provider for the Virginia suburbs, and the Washington Aqueduct, which wholesales water to the District of Columbia).

The CO-OP staff also monitored groundwater levels in the basin using U.S. Geological Survey observation wells, and kept track of actual and forecast precipitation levels. As river levels continued their decline, monitoring intensified to daily assessments. The data was collected and modeled to determine the need for a release of stored water from Jennings Randolph Reservoir to bolster river flows and ensure adequate supplies for the utilities.

Determining release rates is complicated by the approximately nine days that the released water will take to travel down to the intakes from the North Branch Potomac. Using the data and modeling results, CO-OP staff determines the necessary volume to release, matching it with the projected water demands supplied by the water utilities.

Another management goal is conserving the water in Jennings Randolph Reservoir, where about 13 billion gallons purchased collectively by the utilities is reserved for water supply. Releases of water need to be conservative to make the “bank” of water in the reservoir last as long as possible. During these conditions, the normally independent utilities work together closely. A series of long standing agreements allows for coordinated water withdrawals among the utilities, two of which can use off-Potomac reservoirs to meet some of the needs. CO-OP managers work with the utilities to determine the relative sources and volumes for

each to use on a daily basis. The releases also benefit the river's ecology by boosting the low flows as the water travels downriver, providing relief for some 200 miles of the river's ecology.

In 2010, stored water was released from the reservoir for 12 days in September. Monitoring ran from early in July and ceased in November. The 2010 drought marked only the third year in which releases were required since the reservoir filled in 1982. Releases were previously made in 1999 and 2002.

The complex management required to meet the drinking water demands of the metro area runs smoothly because of the dedication and close working relationships of the utility and CO-OP staffs. Most years, when releases are not needed, the CO-OP and utility staffs conduct a drought exercise. Using simulated flows, sometimes significantly worse than actual historical flows, the group spends a week simulating the daily activities and communications required to operate the system. The exercises keep staffs familiar with drought operations, familiarizes new staff with procedures, and helps to find potential weaknesses in the system that can be strengthened.

The CO-OP and utilities also are protecting the region by looking forward to plan for the water needs in the coming decades. Every five years, at the request of the metropolitan water suppliers, CO-OP staff perform a **20-Year Demand Study** to forecast future needs and suggest sources that can meet those demands. The most-recent study, completed in 2010, found that the area's existing water supply should be reliable for the next 20 years, even if the basin is confronted by conditions similar to the historical drought of record. After that period, record droughts could lead to water restrictions in the metropolitan area. Currently, a major new reservoir is not seen as a viable option because of the difficulty of siting and paying for such major infrastructure. Other options, such as the filling of old quarries with pumped water and other options are more likely to meet increasing water demands. Conservation efforts and other methods of using water more wisely can help fill gaps in the future.

On a different scale, ICPRB continues to work directly with the public to encourage water resources protection. The ICPRB's **Rainbarrel Program** has been a big success. The program promotes the use of rainbarrels by citizens as a way of teaching water conservation and reducing stormwater flows off of their property. Purchasers of rainbarrels also attend a workshop, where they learn that the barrel is just a first step in reducing their environmental footprint. Attendees are given the tools to "greenscape" their properties by constructing native plant gardens that keep stormwater on their property until it can be absorbed to feed groundwater tables. Project partners include several local governments and a commercial nursery with several branches. The program has assisted church groups, boy scout troops, and other organizations to plant native gardens appropriate for each site. Programs such as these may become parts of local implementation in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL effort. In 2010,

about 300 rainbarrels were distributed. Overall the program has distributed more than 1,000 barrels and educated more than 1,500 people on conservation landscaping.

All of these water resources efforts are focused on helping the region toward a healthy, sustainable water future. An evolving ICPRB goal is to grow these efforts toward a **basin-wide water resources plan**. Ultimately, the best way to manage a watershed is to consider it as a whole unit--and manage on that basis. A watershed-wide plan can provide comprehensive tools that the basin jurisdictions can use to inform management and policy decisions throughout the watershed, and especially on interstate waterways.

The ICPRB seeks greater public involvement in these programs as an important tool that brings its many program goals to fruition. One of the best and most rewarding ways to encourage citizen stewardship is through ICPRB's annual **Potomac River Rambles**. These multi-day canoe/camping trips are open to the public, who get to meet the river's waters, fish and sometimes muddy river campsites on a personal level.



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Beautiful (mostly) days on the river are highlighted by the biologists, planners, government officials, and other experts who either paddle or meet the group along the river to interpret the conditions the Ramblers experience.

The Ramble brings a diverse group of people together to explore the river. For many, it is their first time in a canoe or kayak, looking for insects on the river's bottom, or calling owls into the campsite. It is not uncommon for people to paddle under a bridge that they use to commute and remark that they "never knew all this was down here." These Ramblers tell us and their neighbors how the trip moved them to become better stewards of their local streams. This year's Ramble will take place on July 15-17, on the lower Shenandoah and Potomac rivers.

Other education and outreach efforts directly **support the many citizens watershed groups in the basin**. The ICPRB works with these groups to provide support through help with incorporation, organizational support, identification and assistance with grant acquisition, and networking that brings groups together to partner on common goals. Support for these established stewardship groups brings water quality and resources issues to the personal level, and lends a frame of reference for larger, basin-wide issues. In 2010, plans began for a stronger effort to empower citizens groups through better coordination and communication among these groups using social

## 2010 ICPRB Financials (unaudited)

### REVENUES

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Signatory Contributions    | \$493,130          |
| Miscellaneous revenue      | \$12,657           |
| Federal Grants/Projects    | \$1,178,967        |
| Nonfederal Grants/Projects | \$1,034,722        |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>       | <b>\$2,719,476</b> |

### EXPENSES

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel             | \$2,049,837        |
| Operations            | \$422,810          |
| Contracts/Consultants | \$268,532          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$2,741,179</b> |

attends many river-related festivals and events to promote a cleaner Potomac. The ICPRB is a partner in the annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, which attracts thousands of volunteers to clean the river every spring.

### The Future

As a small nonregulatory agency tasked with protecting and preserving the water and related land resources in the basin, the Commission continues to attain those goals by building partnerships and constituencies. The ICPRB has been important to the region in promoting its vision of watershed-based management in an area with many political jurisdictions and federal agencies involved. Through these and other ICPRB projects, the ICPRB will continue to encourage and empower the jurisdictions, the federal government, and the citizens of the watershed to work cooperatively toward a healthy, sustainable Potomac River basin. For more information, visit [www.potomacriver.org](http://www.potomacriver.org) or call us at (301) 984-1908.

media and other forums that allow groups throughout the watershed to learn from each other and build support.

The ICPRB also reaches out to grow public stewardship by working closely with the media, a critical partner in public education. Commission staff are frequently interviewed by print, television and radio media on subjects that pertain to the Potomac. The ICPRB also produces summertime public service announcements, and



## Watching the River Flow

Flow of the Potomac River measured near Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Geological Survey showed the continuing dry conditions persisting in December 2010, with very low river flows in January 2011.

In December, flow of the Potomac averaged about 5.6 billion gallons per day (bgd), or about 25.2 percent less than the long-term average of about 7.4 bgd. Daily extremes for the month ranged from a high of about 31.3 bgd on December 3, sinking to a low of about 1.9 bgd on December 28 25. Water taken from the river for drinking water supply averaged about 361 million gallons per day (mgd).

Flows tumbled again in January, with an average of about 1.9 bgd, or about 79.7 percent less than the long-term average of about 9.2 bgd. Extremes ranged from a high of about 2.1 bgd on January 3, to a low of about 1.3 bgd on January 24. About 322 mgd was taken from the river for drinking water supply.

## Executive Director Comments

*by Joseph K. Hoffman*

The media, especially in the Washington Metro area, seems to carry a lot of news about funding and financial difficulties of our federal and state governments. We are confronted with concerns for the growing federal deficit. We hear of states and local governments with serious financial constraints. The United States Congress and the Obama Administration are trying to resolve funding priorities.

In the Potomac River Basin, water resources are important for life-giving domestic water supply, for irrigation water for our crops, for industrial and commercial use, and for multiple recreation and quality of life purposes. The financial crises impact our water resources and need to be considered as decisions are made at many levels of government and within our water resources agencies and organizations.

We hear, repeatedly in the media, about water pipes bursting and spewing millions of gallons of water into the air and surface areas surrounding the break points. At the same time sewage line breaks and leaks pollute our waterways. Our entire infrastructure, not just the pipes, needs major rehabilitation. Jobs can and will be created in engineering and construction if financial commitments are made to address the infrastructure—not just in water, but in other areas such as our roads and highways. We need to find a means of continuing the funding available through state and federal programs addressing the multiple actions required to sustain our infrastructure.

Water managers need volumes of data and require a variety of monitoring devices for flow and quality evaluations as water is delivered



from streams and reservoirs to our homes. Operating and maintaining streamgages and water quality monitors is not inexpensive and is a challenge that we, and others, frequently address because of proposed funding cutbacks and shortfalls. We are hearing about the need to reduce these costs which will reduce the number of gages and the timely data they provide in early 2011.

The ICPRB is really a small agency in the basin's water resources picture. It received direct federal appropriations (lost in 1994/95) that allowed the Commission to undertake a variety of water resources initiatives, especially in serving as a strong advocate for the Potomac River.

We have a strong professional staff and critical expertise, and continue to assist our member states as they struggle with day-to-day financial matters that constrain their abilities to manage an interstate resource like the Potomac.

Our Commission can focus staff resources

on watershed restoration actions that help the Potomac, on the Chesapeake Bay pollution diet, and on strong science to get to solutions for many water problems. And almost as importantly, the staff can focus a lot of energy on stewardship--by involving others in striving to enhance our resources and make them better for residents and visitors to our region for many years into the future.

We have continued to exist as an agency without that significant federal contribution, but now focus more on a variety of projects that help the river and the Chesapeake Bay, and not specifically the advocacy of the past. We see new evidence by the various funding shortfalls, infrastructure concerns, and many water quality issues that environmental concerns and efforts may have peaked. The Potomac River has a strong voice in ICPRB. The strong voice of the basin's citizens need to be heard in many arenas so that progress in enhancing the water quality of the basin is maintained in future years.

## ***Chairman's Report*** **by Scott Kudlas, Virginia Alternate Commissioner and ICPRB Chairman 2010-2011**

My work in helping to plan for adequate and safe water supplies for Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and being an appointed ICPRB Alternate Commissioner and chairman complement each other well.

My experience as an ICPRB Commissioner has broadened my view of water resources and drinking water issues. I have gotten to know other professionals working on similar issues in the other Potomac jurisdictions, and that exchange has been both professionally and personally valuable.

I have had the opportunity to exchange information about our respective programs, to see what is working for other programs in other regions, and to assist others by showing what has worked in Virginia. The ICPRB has been important in the progress of water resources protection, bringing together professionals to discuss the health of those resources on a watershed basis, and to take advantage of planning, learning, and teaching on the watershed level.

Virginia has taken advantage of ICPRB water resources expertise by hosting a training workshop in which ICPRB staff worked with DEQ staff to assist with implementation of Virginia's water resources legislation, as it has subsequently done in other jurisdictions. The ICPRB also is sharing data being developed in its Middle Potomac Watershed Assessment, which will provide tools and guidance in planning for sustainable water resources. Virginia is undertaking a similar effort state-wide.

Virginia water utilities and managers also participate in the Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, a cooperative, voluntary organization focused on protecting and preserving the upstream sources of drinking water from threats such as spills and contaminants, as well as keeping the membership informed about research and

legislation of interest. It also allows the water suppliers and managers to speak as a group on issues of concern. My colleague J. Wesley Kleene of the Virginia Department of Health heads the Government Affairs Committee and is serving as chairman of the Partnership.

The ICPRB Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) has been instrumental in assuring an adequate drinking water supply for the Washington metropolitan area, another example of how cooperative interstate planning and management can create efficiencies and build effective programs with minimal regulation.

My work at the Commission has provided frequent reminders of the importance of protecting the many values of our waters. The ICPRB gets its message out at a number of public events in which I have been the Commissioners' representative. I have had the honor of giving awards to students who grew American shad fry in their classrooms as part of ICPRB's restoration project for the fish. Meeting those students and listening to them tell about their experiences with the fish and the river was truly moving. Their sense of wonder hatching and raising the fish, and the experience of helping to collect adult fish for the program alongside biologists, watermen, and their teachers is invigorating.

I also had the opportunity to represent ICPRB at the Nation's River Bass Tournament, which raises funds for a range of environmental education opportunities for students, of which the shad program is one. I am heartened when I see bass guides, teachers, local officials, and the students give of their time and efforts to forward both a healthier Potomac and student's understanding of why that is so important.

These scenes—a group of students standing on a stage, spreading their wonder at the tiny shad fry that hatched in their classroom, a kid

catching his first bass--remind me of what my job is really about, and its importance for the future.

The ICPRB, of course, is involved in many programs that protect and preserve water resources, improve water quality, and promote and improve public stewardship. The nonregulatory, interstate nature of the Commission provides the Potomac basin

jurisdictions with a unique agency that can help focus policy and efforts on the watershed as a single entity, rather than a number of separate entities. As the region grows and area economies continue to tighten the ICPRB should become more important as an agency that the jurisdictions can use to cooperatively meet, plan, and create the healthy environment that those students expect of us.

## Commission Milestones

Several ICPRB Commissioners were replaced during 2010. Long-time District of Columbia Commissioner Anne Snodgrass retired during the year. She has not been replaced. Walter Alcorn of Virginia resigned from the Commission.

Patrick V. Campbell has been appointed an Alternate West Virginia Commissioner for Randy C. Huffman. He replaces Michael Stratton. Campbell is an environmental resources program manager for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Water and Waste Management.

Brigadier General Peter A. DeLuca is serving as an Alternate Federal Commissioner for George Rieger. DeLuca serves as Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division. As Commander, DeLuca oversees planning, design, and construction of projects to support the military, protect water resources, and restore and enhance the environment in a 180,000 square mile along the Atlantic Coast. His responsibilities

include engineering and construction activities for federal, state, and local governments and agencies in the U.S. and overseas.

Colleen Taylor Peterson was appointed to a vacant Maryland spot on the board. She is the executive director of The Greater Cumberland Committee (TGCC), a regional nonprofit consortium of business and civic leaders focused on enhancing the Cumberland, Md., region's economic vitality and improving its quality of life. The organization is focused on recycling, comprehensive planning, water resources planning, community development, and promotion of strategic partnerships between business, academia, and economic development entities. She previously held several vice president positions at Frostburg State University.



Potomac Basin

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**Editors: Curtis M. Dalpra  
Jennifer D. Willoughby**

Published six times a year by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, 51 Monroe St., Suite PE-08, Rockville, MD 20850. (301) 984-1908.

(ISSN 1072-8627)

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This publication does not necessarily reflect official Commission policies. Funds for the *Reporter* are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the signatory bodies to ICPRB: District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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