

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

SECOND QUARTER MEETING

March 10, 2009

Colonial Farm

Accokeek, Maryland

Minutes Notes

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hines called the Second Quarter Business Meeting to order at 10:01AM at the Colonial Farm in Accokeek, MD. **Roll call** of attendees was conducted with the following Commissioners, guests, and staff present for some or the entire meeting:

Commissioners

Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

William Brannon (Alt. Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Hamid Karimi (Commissioner)

Anne Snodgrass (Alt. Commissioner)

Pennsylvania

Ronald Stanley (Commissioner)

Roger Steele (Alt. Commissioner)

John Hines (Commissioner)

United States

Howard Graeffe (Alt. Commissioner)

J. Winston Porter (Commissioner)

George Reiger (Commissioner)

Staff

Robert Bolle (General Counsel)

Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)

Joseph Hoffman (Executive Director)

Carlton Haywood (Director, Program Operations)

Bo Park (Administrative Officer)

Sarah Ahmed (Water Resources Engineer Assistant)

Cherie Schultz (AD, Water Resources)

Sherry Zandieh (Administrative Assistant)

Karin Bencala (Water Resources Planner)

Guests

Col. Peter Mueller (Army Corps of Engineers)

Robert Pace (Army Corps of Engineers)

Chris Kimple (for Commissioner Moul, PA)

John Booser (PA, DEP)

Herbert Sachs (MDE, for Commissioner Summers)

Michael Stratton (WV, DEP)

A quorum was not present at the meeting. The following are notes from the meeting to complete the record.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: No other items of discussion were added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The approval of the Minutes was deferred to June's meeting. There were no comments on the Minutes.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT: Mr. Bolle, General Counsel, reported that the activities involved routine legal matters, primarily contract reviews. There were no significant matters to report.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Executive Director Hoffman advised that finances are on track with routine financial transactions. The funds in the reserve accounts are accruing interest. There was no loss on investments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Program/Projects Update: All current projects are on budget, on schedule. The Casting Call event is scheduled for April 26-27 at Fletcher's Boathouse. The shad restoration project will be highlighted through the shad planking demonstration. At this event, an award will be given to Louis Harley, a waterman who has been involved in the shad project for many years.

B. Water Resources Project: ICPRB is the expected prime contractor through the Army Corps of Engineers for some or all of this new project that was discussed in detail at the last meeting. This project will deal with the flow management issues on the Potomac. The agreement is expected to be in place by April 1. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has released a Request for Proposal for literature review. ICPRB submitted a proposal with George Mason University and the US Geological Survey for this part of the project. The entire project is estimated at \$1.1 million over three to four years. The Corps does not have all the funds secured. But the funds can be acquired over time. Non-federal dollar projects are sought out to contribute as cost-share for this project. Possible state projects such as water planning, modeling work and USGS work may be applicable as accounting for cost-share. More details will be given out for jurisdictions assistance.

C. Interstate Water Resource Issues: Executive Director Hoffman discussed the briefing paper provided in meeting materials that the Pennsylvania State Water Resources, Potomac Regional Committee has expressed a need for a regulatory body in Pennsylvania for issues that occur between states and to address pending water supply withdrawals. There are a number of issues that may require some sort of regulatory or a separate coordinating body to act on behalf of the river and not any particular agency. This may be a subject for further discussions as suggested in the briefing paper.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment: A revised budget is proposed to reflect additional work and an eliminated project. The federal budget is not passed (as of the meeting), thus agencies are operating under continuing resolution. The House passed an Omnibus Federal Appropriation to allow \$2.65 million through the Army Corps of Engineers to the three Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions. The Senate will be voting on this any day. If passed by the Senate, \$650,000 will be received which will be reflected on the budget for June's meeting. There will be a need for two positions for recruitment. Additional staffing maybe required depending upon federal funding and requirements.

B. 2009 River Ramble: Curtis Dalpra advised that the River Ramble is planned for June 24-28 from the Monocacy River into the Potomac. The journey will begin in Frederick, Md for a total of 40 miles. Staff is working on seeking sponsorships. A formal invitation will go out to the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Karin Bencala was hired as Water Resources Planner in December 2008. Accounts receivables are operational and routine. The EPA Section 106 grant was received, but is less than expected. The remaining amount is expected to be awarded upon passage of the Omnibus Federal Appropriation for FY09. A letter was submitted to President Barack Obama regarding federal Commissioner appointment. General Todd Semonite is leaving his position as the North Atlantic Division Commander. ICPRB is in contact with the Presidential appointments office to work on the federal appointment.

An information sheet on streamgages was distributed to the Commissioners. The non-agency Commissioners were encouraged to support streamgages through their Senators and Congressmen offices. More information can be provided to the Commissioners, if needed.

The states forwarded their list of stimulus funded projects. Maryland asked for help with their 604b projects. For Pennsylvania, an RFP response was submitted for their 604b work which includes stream assessments. Staff is ready to respond to other states to assist with their stimulus package projects.

For the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funding, the request for fiscal year 2010 was submitted in February.

Next year will be ICPRB's 70th anniversary. Staff is looking for ideas and a venue for an event to commemorate this milestone. Possibly, the meeting can be over multiple days with a number guests and presenters to commemorate the event.

The FY08 audit was completed with no negative findings.

There are vacant commissioner positions on ICPRB board. The state agency Commissioners were asked to look into filling the vacancies with appropriate state appointment offices.

The next meeting in June will be in Pennsylvania followed by September's meeting in West Virginia.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

Commissioner Brannon introduced Michael Stratton, Water Use Program Manager from WV DEP. Mr. Stratton will be attending the meetings after Commissioner Brannon retires in October 2009.

Matt Moulder from the Accokeek Foundation gave a brief overview of the organization. The property was donated by Francis Bolton, a former congresswoman, for preservation and conservation. The property is owned by the Park Services and managed by the Accokeek Foundation.

Chairman Hines adjourned the meeting at 1:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph K. Hoffman
Commission Secretary