

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

**FIRST QUARTER 2015
BUSINESS MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2014**

**ICPRB HEADQUARTERS
ROCKVILLE, MD**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Zemba called the First Quarter 2015 Business Meeting to order at 10:10AM on December 2, 2014. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests were in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

Commissioners

West Virginia

Patrick Campbell (Alt. Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Hamid Karimi (Commissioner)

Willem H. Brakel (Commissioner)

Merrit Druker (Commissioner)

John Wennersten (Alt. Commissioner)

United States

Robert Pace (Alt. Commissioner)

Darryl Madden (Commissioner)

Robert Sussman (Commissioner)

Maryland

Herb Sachs (Alt. Commissioner)

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)

Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Vice Chair & Alt. Commissioner)

Paul Holland (Alt. Commissioner)

Pennsylvania

Andrew Zemba (Chair, Commissioner)

Ronald Stanley (Commissioner)

Staff and Guests

Staff

Carlton Haywood (Executive Director)

Bo Park (Dir, Administration)

Jim Cummins (Dir, Living Resources)

Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)

Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)

Ross Mandel (Assoc Dir, Watershed Analysis)

Guest

Maria Franks (U.S. Army Corps, Baltimore)

Nancy Hausrath (Water Operations, Hagerstown)

Alicia Hosmer (Citizen)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Karimi requested adding “Strategic Plan Discussion” under New Business, “C” on the agenda. **Commissioner Sachs made a motion to approve the modified agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Kudlas. All were in favor.**

FINAL MINUTES FROM JUNE 2, 2014 MEETING: Included in the meeting packet as information only.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Brakel requested a clarification on page 3, 3rd paragraph, to read, “sturgeon was found in the Marshy Hope tributary of the Nanticoke River...”
Commissioner Sachs made a motion to approve the modified agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Kudlas. All were in favor.

SUMMARY FROM OCTOBER 30, 2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONF CALL: Mr. Haywood summarized the conference call on October 30, 2014. The committee discussed the previous action items from the September meeting, the agenda items for the December meeting, and certain personnel matters.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Haywood reported on the last quarter’s notable activities. Mr. Bolle, General Counsel, has been out on sick leave and is anticipated to be on recovery for some time. He is available by phone, however, and is able to receive documents for review.

Gordon “Mike” Selckmann is now a full time staff member, effective 10/1/14. Mr. Selckmann replaces Jan Ducnuigen who resigned on 9/30/14.

Financial Report: There were no withdrawals from the contingency reserve account. The general fund and the contingency reserve accounts are both at levels slightly higher than they were a year ago. Maryland has paid 90% of its dues. Pennsylvania paid in full. VA and WV pay quarterly, which are current. DC paid for its last fiscal year’s dues. The current fiscal year dues will be invoiced shortly. As for federal funding, the Commission is not in the federal budget for FY15, although it is reflected in the ICPRB’s budget. This is due to future federal funding considerations, which will be reflected with appropriate projects.

Action Items from September 23 Business Meeting: Mr. Haywood gave a brief update on each item listed on the September 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes and provided other relevant news. There have been several commissioner changes. Paul Holland replaced Dann Sklarew, as a VA Alternate in October. Jane Witheridge and George Reiger were asked to resign by the White House to make room for new appointments, which included Darryl Madden, Robert Sussman, and Brig. General Kent Savre. John Quigley, alternate to Jane Witheridge, also resigned. Robert Pace has been re-appointed by Brig. General Savre to serve as his alternate. Letters of appreciations have been sent to the exiting commissioners for their service to the Commission.

The new commissioners present, Holland, Madden, Sussman were pinned during this part of the meeting.

Project Status Summary: Mr. Haywood summarized project activities for the quarter, describing in the context of the Strategic Plan. CliftonLarsonAllen has started the audit for FY14. The USGS has been contracted for the gages used by CO-OP. An air conditioning unit has been installed in the IT room.

The status of federal funding for FY16, which would come through the Corps of Engineers, is not known at this time. The Administration’s FY16 Budget will be released in early February and then, if ICPRB is included, there still will be many steps in the appropriations process that must be survived. Mr. Pace added that although the Commission is in need of federal funding, there are competing priorities that have greater impact and bigger issues across the country that the Corps must deal with.

Follow-up: Continue to work on strategies on federal funding.

Mr. Haywood participated in a roundtable meeting hosted by DC Water to discuss opportunities for cooperation and collaboration by metro area utilities and agencies involved in water. Potential areas of collaboration included combined procurement, customer communications, and a shared interest of the water quality in the Potomac River. Particularly relevant to the Commission were discussions on setting

up water quality trading schemes to reduce upstream sediment nutrients, as a collective effort by the utilities. Theoretically this might be an opportunity for an ICPRB subsection, similar to CO-OP.

Follow-up: Continue to work with DC Water and update the Commission on further discussions.

Strategic Plan Update: In 2012 the Commission approved the mission, vision, value, and goals. Following the approval, staff developed areas of emphasis and the list of activities related to those goals. Mr. Haywood reviewed the strategic plan as a status report of the projects planned for the current year. With limited staff and financial resources, four focus areas have been identified: Communications and Education, Water Quality Improvement, Water Resources, and Aquatic Life.

Mr. Haywood summarized a few projects related to the strategic plan. The Potomac River Ramble is a project that is under reconsideration. The Rainbarrel project is close to having consumed its inventory. Presently, there are many sources of rainbarrels in the market and so, as a result, this project may be winding down. The new ICPRB website is still in development, not quite ready to go live. But the website has been redesigned to bring more information on a new platform. More information on project progress can be found in Tab 7.

Commissioner Wennersten commented that the Potomac River ramble program can be a good tool for community visibility and outreach.

Follow-up Item: Chairman Zemba suggested, for future activity updates, focus on one section at each meeting. In-depth discussions can take place, focusing on that particular section. ED and the Chairman will work on a new structure for the strategic plan and activities updates to focus on a particular section for discussions at the full Commission meetings.

Federal Team Update: Ms. Franks (USACE Baltimore District) continues to work on establishing a federal team. About five or six agencies expressed interest so far. Moving forward, a conference call will be arranged to start discussions and to establish a form of communications regarding the Commission and potential opportunities. There is no point of contact at the EPA as of yet. Commissioner Sussman offered to assist with identifying a contact at the EPA office.

NEW BUSINESS

How ICPRB Supports the Chesapeake Bay Agreement: Mr. Haywood provided an overview of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the Commission's work that is related to the Agreement's goals and outcomes. ICPRB is involved in many of the Bay Program workgroups and committees that are developing management strategies to achieve the goals and outcomes. ICPRB's work is funded by EPA Section 117 and 106 grants, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and ICPRB funds.

Trend Analysis of WV Water Quality Data: Dr. Buchanan gave an overview of the project, an analysis of trends in water quality data in West Virginia over the last forty-three years.

WVDEP asked ICPRB to perform long-term (43-year) trend analyses on 24 water quality parameters at 26 monitoring stations. The trend methods used in the study were selected to account for variability due to season and river flow. Parameters studied included pH, alkalinity, hardness, dissolved oxygen (DO), several metals, nutrients, total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), and conductivity.

Some parameters are showing improving long-term trends across most of West Virginia. Concentrations of the metals aluminum, iron, manganese, and lead, of TSS and total phosphorus, and of H⁺ ions (acidity) are decreasing. At several stations, DO is trending upward and fecal coliform downward. Trends in sulfate and nitrite-nitrate, two of the largest constituents of acid rain, are inconsistent and cannot completely explain the decrease in acidity. Alkalinity (concentration of bases) is increasing across most of West Virginia and could be partially responsible for the declines in acidity. Sources of alkalinity are

mining and various other land uses, but may also be due to accelerated chemical weathering of rocks by acid rain. Of concern are the increasing trends in total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, and conductivity at many stations as well as the continuing high levels of pollutants at some specific stations.

Large, long term, water quality databases such as what WVDEP has have enormous potential for investigating the regional impacts of human activities such as deforestation, mining, and urbanization, for establishing better, more realistic expectations of management actions, and for tracking the effects of climate change.

Strategic Plan: Commissioner Brakel, after praising several noteworthy features of the current Strategic Plan, commented that the language in some sections seemed outdated, lacking explicit references to key concepts of integrated water resources management as currently understood and practiced. He expressed the view of DC that now would be a good time for the Commission to review and revise the document, and recommended forming a focus group to work with the Executive Director and some staff to formulate proposals for a process to do this.

Follow-up Action Item: Mr. Haywood will work with Commissioner Brakel to come up with some options before the next Executive Committee conference call.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME: The new federal commissioners will meet after this meeting to select a federal representative to the Commission's Executive Committee.

Commissioner Sachs will be working with the staff to come up with a plan for a pilot study in water resources planning to be used as a prototype for the larger watershed. The study will focus on the Monocacy River. Staff has written a proposal for the study. Commissioner Kudlas informed that a similar opportunity exists in the Shenandoah. At some point in the near future, he would like to discuss with ICPRB staff assistance that could be provided to DEQ for water resources planning activities in the Shenandoah River watershed.

Commissioner Madden inquired whether staff could provide to Commissioners, on a monthly basis, some talking points to be used as a communications tool for commissioners around the basin.

Follow-up: Mr. Haywood will discuss a communications tool for the commissioners with the Communications Manager.

DATE & LOCATION FOR DECEMBER MEETING: The March meeting will be hosted by DC on 3/2/15-3/3/15. Information about location and a Monday afternoon trip will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Sachs. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:38PM.

Minutes Draft By: Bo Park, Director, Administration

Minutes Reviewed, Edited, and Submitted by: H. Carlton Haywood, Recording Secretary