

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
CO-OP SECTION**

**SECOND QUARTER 2018
MARCH 6, 2018**

**ICPRB
ROCKVILLE, MD**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sussman called the Second Quarter 2018 CO-OP Meeting to order at 8:30 AM on March 6, 2018. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests were in attendance in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Chair, Commissioner)
Darryl Madden (Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Hamid Karimi (Commissioner)
Willem Brakel (Commissioner)
Tiffany Potter (Commissioner)
Kimberly Jones (Alt. Comm, via phone)
James Tsai (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)
Virginia Kearney (Alt. Commissioner)
Nancy Hausrath (Alt. Commissioner)

Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)
Paul Holland (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff and Guests

Staff

Carlton Haywood (Executive Director)
Bo Park (Dir, Administration)
Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)
Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)
Mike Selckmann (Aquatic Ecologist)
Carlington Wallace (Environmental Scientist)

Guests

Timothy Schaeffer (PA, DEP)
Heather Cisar (USACE, Baltimore)
Chris Kimple (for D. Moul, PA)
Valerie Cappola (USNAD)
Rhonda Manning (PA, DEP)
Jennifer Orr (PA Commissioner)
Ronald Stanley (PA Commissioner)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Kearney. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Kudlas asked for a correction on page 2, final paragraph, line 4 “Coordinating” to “Coordination.” **With the change Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Karimi. All were in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from December Action Items: There were no action items from the last meeting.

Section Quarterly Report: Dr. Schultz referred everyone to the Section's quarterly activities which can be found in Tab 3, Attachment 2 of the meeting book and highlighted several topics in her remarks.

Dr. Schultz updated the Commission on water supply conditions, which recently have been improving. Groundwater levels are good in the lower part of the basin but around DC are indicating moderately dry conditions. The basin as a whole is showing a positive condition.

The Revised Water Supply Coordination Agreement (WSCA) workgroup met on November 7. This workgroup includes the four major water suppliers, with two representatives from each supplier plus two ICPRB staff members, Dr. Moltz and Dr. Schultz. In response to the Alternatives Study, this group was formed to explore how to broaden regional cooperation by bringing Loudoun Water into the cooperative system, and broadly talk about updating the agreement. For this year, the group has decided to discuss potential new cost share formulas to address Loudoun's questions about cost. At the November 7 meeting, Loudoun Water gave a presentation on their plans for their system and recent demands, and Alex Gorzalski of Washington Aqueduct gave a presentation on concepts for new cost share formulas for funding the CO-OP, future storage and current storage.

The new ICPRB Water Supply Alternatives Task Force update will be discussed later at the ICPRB business meeting, at which hard copies of the Alternatives Study will be available for any interested Commissioners. The resolution that was approved by the Commission to express support of the study was not included in the printed report. **Commissioner Brakel asked that a copy of the resolution be inserted into the report when distributed.**

Results of the Jennings Randolph Water Control Plan Update Phase 1 Scoping Study: Staff member, Mike Selckmann gave a presentation on the background of the study. Since Jennings Randolph dam was completed in 1981, there have been significant changes that have occurred in the North Branch Potomac watershed. Historically, the watershed was severely degraded due to runoff from acid mine sites where water quality issues such as extremely low pH harmed the biological integrity of the region. Over the last 50 years, many of the concerns surrounding pH have diminished and the biological condition of the North Branch has greatly improved, supporting a thriving recreational industry. Although many individual studies exist, there has been no recent, comprehensive, data analysis in the watershed, including water quality and living resource changes from the perspective of reservoir operations.

ICPRB and the Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) recently completed phase I of the scoping study for a potential update of the Jennings Randolph Lake's (JRL) Water Control Plan (WCP). Preliminary analysis showed that the implementation of acid mine drainage best management practices in the portion of the watershed draining into JRL have dramatically improved downstream water quality, resulting in improvements to aquatic habitat and life. This improvement, combined with USACE's ability to release cooler water from the lake's bottom during the summer months, has led to the establishment of a thriving trout fishery that should be considered alongside engineering guidelines of JRL to manage the North Branch Potomac River.

The 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) contains a provision that USACE will enter into an agreement with ICPRB to use of water quality storage during times of drought emergencies for water supply purposes. The scoping phase I project with the USACE is in response to that WRDA. The next phase, scoping phase 2, will involve collecting data and evaluating modeling approaches to determine the effects of operational changes. Mr. Haywood added that phase 1 was funded last year through the USACE's Program Assistance with States (PAS). The Baltimore District has submitted a request for PAS funding for this year. Last week, the Baltimore District was informed that the funding request is on track for approval. Commissioner Orr (PA Commissioner) added that, in Pennsylvania, Francis E. Walter Dam in the Lehigh Valley has the same goal of operation and may be under the Baltimore District as well, which that could be useful for ICPRB's study.

Financial Statement: Mr. Haywood reported that the CO-OP budget is on track. The financial report reflects a \$100k transfer from the reserve into the operating account for this year, which was approved by the CO-OP Operations Committee last summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Upgrades to Drought Operations Tools: Dr. Schultz gave a presentation on upgrades to CO-OP's drought operations tools. The CO-OP Data Portal is an online location for storing and accessing data. This website allows the CO-OP water suppliers to submit data automatically or manually, and it automates the writing of CO-OP drought email reports for CO-OP staff. The Data Portal will soon be providing 15-day forecasts of CO-OP supplier withdrawals that can be downloaded for use by the water suppliers or in streamflow prediction models such as CO-OP's Low Flow Forecast System (LFFS) and the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center's models.

CO-OP's LFFS is a streamflow forecasting tool that provides real-time forecasts to support CO-OP's operational decisions during droughts. The LFFS accesses National Weather Service meteorological data and forecasts and runs the Chesapeake Bay Program watershed model to simulate stream flows in the Potomac basin. It has recently been configured to provide the CO-OP Data Portal with meteorological data for use in withdrawal forecasts.

CO-OP's reservoir storage prediction tools help to manage reservoirs to ensure that sufficient storage is maintained to meet demands and that all reservoirs are at least 90% full on June 1 of each year. These tools are currently Microsoft Excel applications but are being reconstructed in the R scripting language as Shiny applications which will be available online.

CO-OP's operational support tools download streamflow and withdrawal data, provide forecasts of flow at Little Falls, and compute reservoir release rates. Formerly in Excel, they are being reconstructed in R/Shiny which will provide easier access to online data and already has allowed implementation of a new one-day forecast for Little Falls based on variable flow lagged upstream observed flows.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Madden. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 9:53AM.

Draft Minutes written by: Bo Park, Director, Administration
Reviewed by: Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Section
Approved by: H. Carlton Haywood, Executive Director