

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BSECTION

SECOND QUARTER 2019

MARCH 5, 2019

ICPRB HEADQUARTERS

ROCKVILLE, MD

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sussman called the Second Quarter 2019 CO-OP Meeting to order at 9:00 AM on March 4, 2019. 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)

Kimberly Jones (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Virginia Kearney (Alt. Commissioner)

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)

Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)

Paul Holland (Alt. Commissioner, via Phone)

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff and Guests

Staff

Carlton Haywood (Executive Director)

Robert Bolle (General Counsel)

Bo Park (Dir, Administration)

Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)

Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)

Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)

Michael Mallonee (WQ Data Manager)

Heidi Moltz (Assoc. Dir, Water Resources)

Guests

Valerie Cappola (USCOE, NAD)

Chris Kimple (Rep. Del. Moul, PA)

Ron Stanley (PA)

Rhonda Manning (PA, DEP)

Jeff Seltzer (DC, DOE)

Mary Jane Bolle (Visitor)

Michael Nardolilli (Visitor & Incoming ED)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Kudlas asked for a modification to the agenda, under New Business, Item #B, adding "LFAA Meeting Date." Commissioner Kearney made a motion to approve the modified agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Kearney asked for an edit on page 1, Old Business, line 3, to read "Coordination" not "Coordinator." Commissioner Wirts also asked for a correction on line 2, same section to read, "consideration for the Commission to 'be' more involved..." Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from December Action Items: Mr. Haywood stated that there were no action items from the December meeting.

Section's Quarterly Report

2018 Annual Drought Exercise, Final Report and Next Steps: Dr. Schultz summarized the 2018 annual drought exercise, held on November 30, 2018. The final report has been completed by the contractor, Policy Works, LLC and is up on the ICPRB website. The report contains recommendations for future consideration. From the drought exercise, one area of interest is documenting how emergency water allocations to the water suppliers are constrained due to physical limitations of their systems. A second area of interest is the sensitivity of system performance to the Little Seneca reservoir release margin of safety, which is in place during drought to increase the likelihood of meeting the Little Falls flowby. A third area of interest is alternative demand management strategies, since during the simulated conditions of the exercise, mandatory water use restrictions did not occur until storage in reservoirs was very low. COOP is exploring the use of probabilistic triggers for water use restrictions, and is currently incorporating probabilistic forecasts into its real-time Low Flow Forecast System. The use of paleo streamflow reconstructions is also being evaluated.

The report will be sent out to the participants. Commissioner Brakel commended the effort and also noted that the ICPRB disclaimer was not included in the report. Mr. Haywood clarified that the purpose of the report is not to recommend actions, but to suggest follow up actions. Commissioner Brakel further clarified that the report is stating follow up activities and findings. Dr. Schultz continued that some follow ups will be rolled into the demand study, laying the groundwork for future modeling with the COG and states. Commissioner Brakel asked for an elaboration on the difference between political drought and hydrological drought. Commissioner Kudlas responded that an example for political drought would be a state drought plan or state permit that has drought triggers requiring mandatory conservation in the Washington metropolitan area even in cases where there are sufficient resources to meet demands in the service areas of the metropolitan Washington suppliers.

Travilah Quarry update: Dr. Schultz gave an update on the Travilah quarry efforts. The Corps has expressed an interest and is becoming actively involved. Currently, an agreement between ICPRB and the Corps has been put in place, with funding from the Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) program, which will support Corps participation in the Travilah effort and will require matching funds from the COOP Section. The PAS project will explore how the Corps can help move this effort forward. A communications plan will be developed by the Corps and ICPRB, representing the stakeholders. Mr. Haywood added that this grant will fund the Baltimore District staff to work on this task. ICPRB's role in the PAS project is to perform quality assurance on the data developed by the Corps, advise on data analysis, and act as a technical resource for the Baltimore District. Chairman Sussman further added that the Commission has created a joint work group with the water utilities to help implement supplemental storage for the region. The lead role was taken on by WSSC, who hired a consultant from the mining industry to provide technical advice and to help develop a strategy for approaching the quarry owner. Now with the Corps involvement, further efforts by the work group has been put on hold. The exact role of the Corps has yet to be determined. There is a meeting tomorrow, March 6, hosted by the Corps at the WSSC office, which will include a presentation by the WSSC consultant. Further discussions on the Corps involvement may occur at that time. ICPRB's role can be revisited appropriately. Mr. Haywood added that Maj. Gen. Milhorn may be involved and that the Baltimore District Chief Engineer has tasked Ms. Amy Guise with this project. The Chief Engineer is expected to be at the meeting on March 6. Chairman Sussman added that Ms. Guise indicated that her role will be to understand and explore all the options and requirements to help determine the path forward.

Upcoming Water Demand and Availability Forecast: Dr. Schultz described the next Washington metropolitan water demand study, the seventh in a series of studies which have been conducted every five years since 1990, as required by the WSCA and LFAA and per CO-OP obligations with the water supplier. Study results provide water suppliers with information on the need for future resources, which typically take many years to plan and construct. This report is also invaluable to current and future staff as an information resource. CO-OP's forecast horizon is 20 years, as required by the agreements, sometimes with additional forecasts for 25 or 30 years. The study includes demand forecasts for 16 water service areas, for WSSC, Fairfax, WAD, Loudoun, and Rockville and also the whole sale customers of the water suppliers, such as Howard County, Arlington County, Vienna, and Prince

William County. The study considers three separate water use categories: single family, multi-family, and employees. Water use billing data is received from many sources and these three categories are the common denominators. For the system reliability forecast, the Potomac River and Reservoir Simulation Model (PRRISM) is used to simulate various scenarios. Most likely the simulation will use the scenarios based on recommended options of the 2017 alternatives study, with the baseline case being the current system plus Quarry A (Loudoun) and Vulcan quarry, since agreements and permits are in place for these facilities. As it stands, the study's forecast horizon has not yet been agreed upon. The water demand forecasts make use of demographic forecasts from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), which are currently only available up to 2045. Fairfax Water may request that MWCOG extend their forecasting out to year 2050 to satisfy VA DEQ water supply planning requirements.

Commissioner Kudlas added that the VA localities are subject to state laws requiring a water supply planning study every 10 years. The next plan must be submitted in 2023, and requires 30-year projections.

NEW BUSINESS

Opportunities for Broader Regional Cooperation: Dr. Schultz reported that a possible cooperative agreement between the CO-OP water suppliers and Loudoun Water is now under discussion. Two straw agreements were drafted by ICPRB staff and discussed at the January 16th meeting of the Revised Water Supply Coordination Agreement Work Group. There was support for a simple operational agreement, which captures the components of the WSCA related to drought operations and planning, but does not address the issue of future storage. A copy of the draft agreement was sent to Loudoun Water, and Dr. Schultz and Mr. Haywood plan to meet with Loudoun Water later this month to discuss it. However, cooperative operations of Loudoun Water's Quarry A would require an amendment to Loudoun Water's VA DEQ water appropriation permit. The requirement in the permit that restricts Loudoun Water Potomac River withdrawals if water from a Jennings Randolph Reservoir water supply release is passing by Loudoun Water's intake would need to be dropped from the permit in order to allow implementation of the cooperative operational policy modeled in CO-OP's water supply alternatives study (Alternative 5).

Chairman Sussman added that there is a larger question of the cost sharing formulas. There is a need to develop a white paper explaining all the issues and different perspectives among the water suppliers. This may be a resource for future efforts pursuing a new cost share formula. Dr. Schultz is currently working on that document to capture the current sentiments and positions of the water suppliers.

LFAA Meeting Schedule: Commissioner Kudlas informed that VA will be hosting the next LFAA and the date will be April 15 in Richmond, VA. The official notification will be forthcoming as soon as the meeting date poll closes today.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wirts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Kearney. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Draft Minutes written by: Bo Park, Director, Administration

Reviewed by: Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations

Approved by: H. Carlton Haywood, Executive Director