

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
SECTION FOR COOPERATIVE WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS
ON THE POTOMAC RIVER (CO-OP)**

**FIRST QUARTER 2020
December 3, 2019**

**ICPRB HEADQUARTERS
ROCKVILLE, MD**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sussman called the First Quarter 2020 CO-OP Meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on December 3, 2019. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Chair, Commissioner)
Amy Guise (Alt. Commissioner)
Darryl Madden (Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Willem Brakel (Commissioner)
Jeff Seltzer (Commissioner)
Kimberly Jones (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)

Virginia

Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)
Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)
Bo Park (Dir, Administration)
Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)
Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)
Renee Bourassa (Outreach Program Manager)
Heidi Moltz (Assoc. Dir, Water Resources)

Guests

Valerie Cappola (COE, NAD)
Saeid Kasraei (MDE)
Chris Kimple (rep. Commissioner Moul)
Jennifer Orr-Greene (PA, DEP)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Kudlas asked for a clarification and modification of agenda item #5, which is also listed in the Business Meeting agenda. Item #5A, “Supplemental Storage Workgroup Update” was removed from the CO-OP agenda. **Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the modified agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Wirts. All were in favor.**

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 MINUTES: Commissioner Brakel asked for a correction on the Roll Call for Jeff Seltzer (DOE) to read “(DOEE)”. With the correction, **Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Wirts. All were in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from September Action Items: Dr. Schultz reported that the ad hoc workgroup on water supply, as discussed during the September meeting, was formed. The workgroup's first conference call took place on November 19. The members include commissioners Kudlas, Brakel, Seltzer, Guise, Holland, Mr. Kasraei from MDE, and from the staff, Nardolilli and Schultz.

Section's Quarterly Report

Dr. Schultz provided highlights of the main projects currently in progress.

Potomac LiDAR Project: This is a joint ICPRB/USGS project that will support development of the 2D Potomac River Spill Model. Data collection took place October 21- 25. The study area was the Potomac River mainstem from Little Falls to Shepherdstown, and also included the portion of the Shenandoah River from the Potomac confluence to the USGS stream gage station at Millville, WV. Bathymetric data was collected using airborne lidar sensors, with a limited amount of photographic and other data collected via unmanned aircraft systems. Extensive field measurements of river bathymetry were also conducted during this week in order to provide data verification and quality assurance checks. Regional water suppliers provided near real-time turbidity data during the week of the survey to help inform decision-making each morning on whether or not to proceed with the lidar flights.

2019 Annual Drought Exercise: The 2019 annual Washington metropolitan area (WMA) drought exercise was conducted on November 20 and 21. Annual exercises help maintain regional drought preparedness by providing ICPRB and water supplier staff an opportunity to practice communication procedures, use of operational tools, and to discuss operational policies. This year's exercise focused on ICPRB staff training and on a new Shiny app for operations support that was constructed in the R/Shiny scripting language. Actual real-time streamflow and withdrawal data were made use of during the exercise after applying scale factors to simulate drought conditions. CO-OP's Data Portal website was used to receive and process data from the water suppliers and the USGS, and river flow forecasts from CO-OP's real-time Low Flow Forecast System were displayed and analyzed by the Shiny app.

2020 Water Supply Study: Two regional agreements, the Water Supply Coordination Agreement and the Low Flow Allocation Agreement, require that a forecast of WMA water demand and availability be conducted every five years. CO-OP staff are mid-way through a new study that is due in April of 2020. A draft of the annual demand forecast has been completed, and staff will be adding uncertainty estimates in the coming weeks. Draft results indicate that per household and per employee water use in the WMA region is still falling. Draft results are also available on the impact of climate change on future annual average streamflows in the Potomac basin. The climate change predictions are based on projections of future precipitation and temperature from the Downscaled CMIP3 and CMIP5 Climate and Hydrology Projections website (http://gdo-gcp.ucllnl.org/downscaled_cmip_projections/), along with a new climate response function based on the historical record of Potomac River flow at the Little Falls gage.

By the March meeting, it is planned that a draft of the study will be available. The final draft is due in April. Dr. Schultz asked that any commissioner interested in reviewing and proof-reading the draft please contact the staff. Commissioner Kudlas offered to review the draft.

Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz reported that there is approximately \$522,700 in the reserve account. There is a plan, subject to approval by the water suppliers, to use some of these funds for contractor support for development of a Jennings Randolph drought contingency plan, as recommended in the draft Jennings Randolph Lake

Water Control Plan Scoping project. An amount of \$150,000 is included in the budget for FY2020 for this purpose. Otherwise, the budget is on target for one month of activity in the fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Kudlas. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Draft Minutes written by: Bo Park, Director, Administration
Reviewed by: Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations
Approved by: Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director