

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

**FOURTH QUARTER 2020
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

**VIRTUAL MEETING
ROCKVILLE, MD**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sussman called the Fourth Quarter 2020 CO-OP Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on September 1, 2020. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

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

District of Columbia

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

Maryland

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)

Virginia

Alfonzo Lopez (Commissioner)
Paul Holland (Commissioner)
Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)
Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)
Robert Bolle (General Counsel)
Bo Park (Dir, Administration)
Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)
Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)
Heidi Moltz (Assoc. Dir, Water Resources)
Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)
DeeDee Hunter (Administrative Coordinator)
Mike Selckmann (Aquatic Biologist)

Guests

Summer Kunkel (PA DEP)
Adam McClain (PA ACCD)
Rhonda Manning (PA DEP)
Chris Kimple (rep. Del Moul)
Valerie Cappola (COE, NAD)
Anastasiya Kononova (COE, Baltimore)

Mr. Nardolilli explained that this "virtual" meeting is allowed under a revision to the ICPRB By-laws which added Section V(g). That new section was approved by an e-mail vote of the Commission on April 17, 2020 pursuant to Section XIII of the By-laws. Section V(g) permits public meetings by virtual conferencing under the state of emergency declared by Maryland Governor (and ICPRB Commissioner) Larry Hogan on March 5, 2020 and renewed on August 10, 2020.

ROLL CALL

This meeting being virtual, Mr. Nardolilli called the names of the attendees by jurisdiction, the staff, and guests. All those in attendance acknowledged their presence when called.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Chairman Sussman added an item under New Business to discuss and approve a Resolution for Thomas Jacobus, General Manager of Washington Aqueduct, who is retiring. **Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Kudlas. All were in favor.**

APPROVAL OF JUNE 23, 2020 MINUTES: **Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Lopez. All were in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from March Action Items: There were no action items from the June meeting.

Section's Quarterly Report

Dr. Schultz gave an overview of the last quarter's progress. The details are included in the meeting book in Tab 3, Attachment 3.

Dr. Schultz reported that a revised version of the 2020 water supply study was sent to the three CO-OP suppliers on August 17. Washington Aqueduct has accepted this version of the report and others are reviewing. A meeting of the Ad Hoc Work Group on Water Supply is scheduled for September 8 to discuss a draft of a proposed Resolution on next steps related to reviews that have been conducted on the Low Flow Allocation Agreement and the Water Supply Coordination Agreement. Related to the joint project with the USACE Baltimore District Office completed this spring, a scoping study for an update to the Jennings Randolph Reservoir Water Control Plan, CO-OP staff are in communication with Corps staff on next steps. Commissioner Guise recommended that Anastasiya Kononova be included in these discussions.

Dr. Schultz gave a brief presentation on other CO-OP activities. Sarah Ahmed has drafted a scope of work (SOW) for an update to the Potomac OASIS model. This has been sent to the contractor, Hazen & Sawyer, for a cost estimate. Included in the SOW is staff training to ensure that the necessary updates can be completed within the project budget. After completion of the updates, CO-OP plans to authorize Loudoun Water to implement additional updates and to use the model to evaluate operational policies for their Goose Creek intake, Beaverdam Reservoir, and possibly other new or planned components of their system.

CO-OP has not completed the second step of Phase 1 of the 2D Potomac River Spill Model, a steady flow fate and transport model for floating contaminants in the Potomac River mainstem. This is due to the bathymetric data collected last fall in the joint project with USGS still not being available. A SOW was recently written for "Phase 2" of the project, which includes more data collection and construction of an unsteady flow version of the model. Funding sources for Phase 2 have been identified, \$50,000 from the District Department of Energy and the Environment, via the Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, approximately \$18,000 from the CO-OP suppliers, and approximately \$125,000 from the Urban Areas Security Initiative via the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Finally, Dr. Schultz reported on the proposed CO-OP FY2021 work plan, which will be presented to the CO-OP suppliers at a meeting of the Operations Committee on September 10. Goals and projects to be completed over the next three-and-a-half years were presented, along with a list of FY2021 tasks, which

include design and construction of a new decision support system, enhancements to the real-time Low Flow Forecast System, the update of the Potomac OASIS model, the annual drought exercise, Phase 2 of the 2D Potomac River Spill Model, and support of efforts to implement regional supplemental storage solutions and enhance regional cooperation.

Commissioner Kudlas added that the OASIS model is also used at VA DEQ and at some utilities in VA. It is a good supplemental tool for operational decisions. However, the model has a drawback as it utilizes historic rainfalls and flows. When a drought or other climatic events that are different from historical records occur, the model may produce results that significantly differ from actual conditions.

Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz noted that the CO-OP Section is on budget and on track. At the end of the fiscal year, the Section is expected to have approximately \$325k in reserve.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Thomas Jacobus: Chairman Sussman asked the CO-OP members of the Commission to consider approving the resolution drafted to recognize Thomas Jacobus, General Manager of Washington Aqueduct, who is retiring at the end of September. The Resolution will be considered by the Commission as an action item at its meeting later in the afternoon. He has made significant contributions as one of the water suppliers of the CO-OP system. The resolution was sent to all the Commissioners. Commissioner Kudlas commented that the last word on the resolution, “Commission,” may be better worded as “CO-OP,” as he was part of the CO-OP and not the Commission as a whole. Chairman Sussman asked for other comments. Commissioner Peterson added that the distinction of the wording is better fitting. The revised language of the resolution is as follows:

- Whereas, the Washington Aqueduct has long provided drinking water to the Nation’s Capital and surrounding jurisdictions and remains one of the largest suppliers of drinking water in the nation; and
- Whereas, Thomas Jacobus has served for 26 years with the highest distinction as the General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct; and
- Whereas, under Tom’s leadership, the Washington Aqueduct Residuals Processing Facility was constructed, improving Potomac River water quality by eliminating the discharge of water treatment residuals into the river; and
- Whereas, through Tom’s efforts, along with Fairfax Water, WSSC Water, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), and others, the Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership was established to help ensure that drinking water in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area remains clean and safe; and
- Whereas, Tom has worked tirelessly to raise awareness within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Defense, to advance one of the ICPRB’s goals: to implement an emergency backup supply of water for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area; and
- Whereas, Tom Jacobus is retiring from the Washington Aqueduct effective September 30, 2020, now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin hereby honors and commends Thomas Jacobus for his many years of outstanding service and expresses its appreciation for his many contributions to the success of the Washington Aqueduct and the Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac.

Commissioner Karimi asked for a motion to adopt the resolution as modified, which was seconded by Commissioner Peterson. All were in favor.

Selection of FY2021 CO-OP Section Officers: Commissioner Karimi, chair of the Nominating Committee, nominated Commissioner Seltzer as the chair and Commissioner Holland as vice chair. Commissioner Holland declined the nomination for personal and professional reasons. Commissioner Karimi then nominated Commissioner Sussman as vice chair for next year. Commissioner Seltzer and Commissioner Sussman accepted the nominations. **Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the nominations, which was seconded by Commissioner Holland. All were in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Karimi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Kudlas. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

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