

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

**SECOND QUARTER 2021
MARCH 2, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING
ROCKVILLE, MD**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Seltzer called the Second Quarter 2021 CO-OP Meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. on March 2, 2021. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Commissioner)
Darryl Madden (Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Jeff Seltzer (Chair, Commissioner)
Willem Brakel (Commissioner)
Tiffany Potter (Commissioner)
Kimberly Jones (Alt. Commissioner)
Hamid Karimi (Alt. Commissioner)
James Tsai (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Robert Lewis (Commissioner)
Lee Currey (Alt. Commissioner)

Virginia

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

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)
Wendy Wang (Dir, Administration)
Bob Bolle (General Counsel)
Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)
Sarah Ahmed (Senior Water Resources Engineer)
Alimatou Seck (Senior Water Resources Scientist)
Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)
Heidi Moltz (Assoc. Dir, Water Resources)
Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)
DeeDee Hunter (Administrative Coordinator)

Guests

Valerie Cappola (COE, NAD)
Anastasiya Kononova (COE, Baltimore)
Summer Kunkel (PA DEP)
Chris Kimple (PA DEP)
Rhonda Manning (PA DEP)
Joel Caudill (WSSC)
Greg Prelewicz (Fairfax Water)

Mr. Nardolilli explained that this "virtual" meeting is being conducted under Section V(g) of the Commission By-Laws that allows for the Commission or any of its Sections to conduct public meetings by virtual conferencing under the state of emergency declared by either the President of the United States or the Governor of the state in which Commission headquarters are located, currently in Maryland. Section V(g) was approved by an e-mail vote of the Commission on April 17, 2020 pursuant to Section XIII of the By-laws. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency related to the covid pandemic on March 5, 2020, and renewed the emergency declaration several times, most recently on February 19, 2021. Accordingly, the emergency declaration by Governor Hogan is still in effect.

Chairman Seltzer then thanked the participants for joining this meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

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

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 MINUTES: Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Madden. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from December Action Items: Dr. Schultz informed that there were no action items.

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 said that the report on last November's 2020 Annual Washington Metropolitan Area Drought Exercise had been completed and is now available on ICPRB's website. Reports on the annual exercises provide documentation on CO-OP operational policies and procedures.

An update was provided on ICPRB's planned 2-dimensional (2D) Potomac River Spill Model. Bathymetric data from Phase 1 of this project, covering the Potomac River mainstem from Little Falls to Shepherdstown, was received from the USGS in late November. Planned Phase 2 data collection, from Shepherdstown to Hancock, is planned for the fall of 2021. Construction of a steady flow 2D model has commenced, based on software from NOAA: Current Analysis for Trajectory Simulation (CATS) for generating 2D flow lines and the General NOAA Oil Modeling Environment (GNOME) for simulating the fate and transport of an oil spill. A contract with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) for a non-steady flow model was signed last week. This will provide ICPRB with \$125,000 from the Urban Areas Security Initiatives Program for model construction. The US Geological Survey has already constructed a preliminary quasi-steady flow model using the International River Interface Consortium (iRIC) software platform. ICPRB staff will begin work immediately on a coupled flow and oil transport model based on the Delft3D software system from Deltares, Inc.

Dr. Schultz also gave brief updates on several other 2nd Quarter activities. Progress continues on the Potomac OASIS model, being conducted by the contractor Hazen & Sawyer and supported by Sarah Ahmed. This is an important project because the model will be used by Loudoun Water to help evaluate options for use of its resources. This will give Loudoun Water an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how cooperative operations with CO-OP would work, which will be a step forward in the potential incorporation of Loudoun Water into the CO-OP system. No updates are available yet on whether the USACE has received Federal guidance on funding for Drought Contingency Plans. Anastasiya Kononova added that this was correct. She said that USACE staff at the Baltimore District Office had a meeting with the Institute for Water Resources to discuss Jennings Randolph on February 11, and that no guidance on funding is available though they believe this should come out of Federal dollars, but they currently don't have the capacity to work on this. But they will continue to coordinate with CO-OP staff as they receive additional information. Finally, a meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for March 22.

Commissioner Kudlas noted that the lidar data set would make it possible to do some wonderful PHABSIM modeling. Dr. Schultz said, yes, she believes that the Delft3D model may potentially be a great tool for habitat simulations.

Commission Karimi asked about the feasibility of completing the necessary work for the MWCOG/UASI contract in just three months. Dr. Schultz said that this will be challenging and somewhat disruptive in terms of work originally scheduled this spring, but she thinks that staff will be able to get some good work done. The plan is to have two staff persons, herself and Dr. Seck, focus primarily on this project for the next three months. In addition, some funds will be used to purchase some rather expensive software from Deltares and also to purchase a support package from Deltares which will allow access to their modeling expertise.

Proposed Resolution on Water Supply Agreements

Chairman Seltzer gave an overview of the proposed Resolution. He said that Commissioners have been working for some time on revisiting the fundamental documents that underpin CO-OP, the Low Flow Allocation Agreement (LFAA) of 1978 and the Water Supply Coordination Agreement (WSCA) of 1982. He summarized the three actions proposed in the Resolution. The first is formation of a Task Force to look at potential updates to the WSCA, and if appropriate, to discuss cost-sharing for Travilah Quarry. Mr. Seltzer says that there is consensus among Commissioners that this action will help maintain momentum and provide a basis to educate political appointees and Congressional representatives on the issues. The second action creates a Work Group on the LFAA and the third is a scientific workshop on environmental flows for large river systems that will inform the Work Group.

Commissioner Karimi asked that Commissioners exercise caution, listen to the water utilities, and aim for a unanimous decision on the Resolution. He noted that the District is in a unique position since it has only a single source of water. Chairman Seltzer agreed that these actions need to be conducted in a collaborative fashion and noted that the proposed outcomes would be recommendations, whereas actual changes to the agreements would require unanimous consent of the respective signatories. The goal is to move forward and increase the resiliency of the regional water supply system.

Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz stated that the CO-OP Section is on budget and on track. There is almost \$500,000 in the reserve fund, though a portion of that amount is allocated to approved projects. Dr. Karima asked if the water suppliers are comfortable with the amount in the reserve fund. Dr. Schultz explained that they were and that the reserve fund has a number of benefits, providing a buffer to help ensure that in case of temporary funding shortfalls there is no need to make unexpected mid-year requests for funds to the water suppliers, and also providing funding for important projects, including, in the past, the two ICPRB Travilah Quarry feasibility studies and construction of CO-OP's real-time flow forecast system.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Karimi. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Draft Minutes written by: Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations

Approved by: Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director