

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN  
SECOND QUARTER BUSINESS MEETING FY2026  
MARCH 17, 2026**

**IN-PERSON MEETING, ICPRB HEADQUARTERS, ROCKVILLE, MD  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Executive Director Michael Nardolilli called the Business Meeting to order at 9:45am on March 17, 2026. The following commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

**Commissioners**

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**District of Columbia**

Willem Brakel (\*)  
Steve Saari  
Tiffany Potter  
Hamid Karimi (a)

**Maryland**

Lee Currey (a\*)  
Birthe Kjellerup  
Randy Rowel Jr.  
K. John Holmes (a)  
Dan Strodel (a)

**Pennsylvania**

Jason Minnich (a\*)  
William Willis  
Adam McClain (a)

**United States**

Bob Sussman (\*)  
Amy Guise

**Virginia**

Weedon Cloe (a\*)  
Mark Peterson (a)

**West Virginia**

Mindy Neil (a\*)

**Staff**

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Sarah Ahmed, Senior Water Resources Engineer  
Lily Bedwell, Administrative Coordinator  
Renee Bourassa, Director of Communications  
Claire Buchanan, Dir. Emerita, Program Operations  
Heidi Moltz, Director of Program Operations  
Serena Moncion, Community Outreach Manager  
Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director  
Garett Pignotti, Environmental Scientist  
Cherie Schultz, Director of CO-OP Operations  
Alimatou Seck, Senior Water Resources Scientist

**Guests**

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Joel Caudill, WSSC Water

(a) - Alternate Commissioner

(\*) – Executive Committee

## **1. Roll Call and Quorum Certification**

Executive Director Michael Nardolilli identified himself and asked Commissioners to go around the room and introduce themselves and their affiliation. He requested that participants state their name for the record before speaking. Mr. Nardolilli certified that a quorum was present.

## **2. Welcoming Remarks**

Chair Willem Brakel introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Second Quarter Meeting of FY26. He noted Commissioner Lee Currey's eloquent remarks about the challenges that the region is facing regarding water resources. Chair Brakel asserted that ICPRB "dodged a few bullets" from the First Quarter, including the Potomac Interceptor collapse and the Colonial Pipeline rupture, neither of which affected drinking water of the Washington Metropolitan region.

## **3. Public Comment**

Chair Brakel asked Mr. Nardolilli if the Commission received any requests for public comment. He reported that there were none.

## **4. Adoption or Modification of Agenda**

Chair Brakel asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. Hearing none, **Chair Brakel asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Tiffany Potter made the motion and Commissioner Hamid Karimi seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the agenda was adopted as circulated.**

## **5. Minutes from December 16, 2025**

Chair Brakel asked for any edits to the minutes from the Q1 FY26 meeting on December 16, 2025. Hearing none, **Mr. Nardolilli asked for a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Commissioner Karimi made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Dan Strodel. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as circulated.**

## **6. Notes from Executive Committee Conference Calls**

Mr. Nardolilli reported on the Conference Calls held by the Executive Committee on January 26, February 17, and on March 16, 2026. During the first meeting, the Committee discussed the Potomac Interceptor Spill, the suspension of drought monitoring, revisions and additions to the Manual of Operations, the annual Potomac River Conference, and the proposal for a new data center in Dickerson, Maryland. The Executive Committee reaffirmed that ICPRB is not an advocacy group but rather an entity providing scientific background and information so that the appropriate stakeholders may make the informed decision regarding the proposed data center. Mr. Nardolilli reported that ICPRB was successful in receiving the \$650,000 earmark from Senator Van Hollen's office representing the federal contribution to the Commission that will be matched by the states. This will contribute to paying for ICPRB's eel ladder project among other ongoing activities.

The Executive Committee had a special supplemental meeting on February 17 to discuss the new guidance of the USACE study which was discussed during the earlier CO-OP Section meeting. The Executive Committee statement on this change is as follows:

*"The Executive Committee of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) met on February 17, 2026, to discuss the New Guidance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the reduction of the scope of the ongoing feasibility study (Study) of the secondary water source and additional water supply capability for the Washington Metropolitan Area. ICPRB is disappointed and disturbed by the sudden narrowing of the scope of the Study without notice and an opportunity to comment. Moreover, ICPRB finds this significant change in direction to be not helpful in achieving the*

*regional solution that is needed and that was authorized by the Congress in Public Law 117-263, Section 8201 (a)(14).”*

The Committee met for their third meeting on March 16 and discussed the recurrent issue of a secondary water source for the Washington Metropolitan region, and the possibility that non-federal entities could finance and undertake the study on their own under Section 203. WSSC volunteered to take the lead in examining Section 203. The Committee had the following questions:

- Can the “powers that be” stop others from using the river?
- Can the interested parties do a study themselves without going through the Section 203 process?
- Through the Section 203 process, is there a guarantee that funding will be available?

Staff were urged to ask WSSC to call a planning meeting to push the 203 process forward as well as to circle back to Congress for an update. The Committee also discussed the modification to the Low Flow Allocation Agreement (LFAA) and Mr. Nardolilli reported that USACE says that the process is moving up the chain of command. Mr. Nardolilli said that Greg Busch is working to reignite the Potomac River Environmental Flow-By Task Force that was tasked with evaluating the current flow-by and deciding if a new one should be set. The Executive Committee recommended including environmental advocacy groups in the Task Force discussions in addition to the regulatory bodies. Mr. Nardolilli reported that the Potomac River Conference planning committee chose a venue in Poolesville, and the annual September In-Person Commission Meeting will be held at AlexRenew in Alexandria, Virginia. Chair Brakel gave time for questions on the Executive Committee meeting notes. Commissioners discussed the age and reliability of the Potomac Interceptor (PI) and drinking water infrastructure. They discussed consequences of not addressing the durability of the system, and how the response to the PI collapse may have been different if the break was the cause of an act of terrorism instead of by accident.

## **7. Old Business**

### **A. Executive Director’s Report**

ICPRB has asked SmithPilot to produce a compensation study, which happens every three years. Mr. Nardolilli stated that ICPRB is conducting interviews for a new Director of Finance and Administration to replace Laurel Glenn who will be leaving ICPRB upon a new hire. Mr. Nardolilli asserted that we are looking for a candidate who is a CPA to collaborate closely with our Senior Accountant, Wendy Wang. Dr. Cherie Schultz, Director of CO-OP Operations, will be assuming Emerita status in May and Dr. Alimatou Seck will replace her as the Director of CO-OP Operations. We have created another new position, Associate Director of Spills, who will work under the Director of Program Operations. Sarah Ahmed will fill this position.

Mr. Nardolilli briefly touched on the three points ICPRB made in the letter sent to EPA regarding the Potomac Interceptor collapse: improving notification to ICPRB about breaks, improving communication with the public about their safety, and prioritization of repairs to the interceptor above drinking water intakes.

**Chair Brakel asked Commissioners if they have questions for the Executive Director about his quarterly report.** Commissioner John Holmes asked about the “GAO Bill.” Under HR 3428, GAO would “review” the three Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions. Mr. Nardolilli shared that the Senate review of the legislation has not begun, and he believes that a “stand alone” bill will not be adopted. Mr. Nardolilli speculated that HR 3428 may be attached to new legislation moving forward. ICPRB remains opposed to the bill because our compact does not authorize the GAO to review the Commission, we do not have regulatory authority, and the federal government is not a signatory to our compact.

## **B. Report of the Standing Committee on Outreach, Education, and Workforce**

Chair Brakel asked Committee Chair Birthe Kjellerup to report on the Committee's activities over the last quarter. Committee Chair Kjellerup suggested a discussion over lunch encouraging Commissioner input for Committee activities and participation. Serena Moncion read the list of [upcoming community events](#) for the spring and early summer. **Hearing no questions, Chair Brakel moved onto the next item.**

## **C. Next Steps Regarding the LFAA (Low Flow Allocation Agreement)**

Status of the Modified LFAA: Dr. Cherie Schultz gave a brief background of the LFAA for new Commissioners, sharing that there was almost unanimous agreement on the recent updates that included minor language changes regarding potential revisions of the environmental flow-by. She shared that USACE is the last to review, and Baltimore District Attorney Rachel Gottschalk prepared a support package to help the review move forward past the Baltimore District and North Atlantic Division. It has been at USACE Headquarters for a year, and there is no clear timeline yet. The LFAA annual meeting will be held at ICPRB Headquarters on April 14.

Update on the Collaborative Process: The Collaborative Process and Framework tasked the Potomac River Environmental Flow-By Task Force to assess the potential for revision in the flow-by. Chair of the Task Force, Greg Busch, is working to secure a presentation from MD DNR for the next task force meeting. Commissioners discussed the results of the 2011 Flow-By Study and its applicability. Chair Busch envisions a plan for data collection, but this could be a ten-year process. Dr. Schultz asserted that the Task Force cannot talk about impacts of low flow unless there is a baseline of data to work from. Commissioners discussed the probability of seeing extremely low flows at Little Falls dam and Dr. Schultz flow has increased over her tenure at ICPRB.

## **D. Supplemental Storage Feasibility Study**

Mr. Nardolilli reiterated what was discussed about the narrowed scope of the USACE Feasibility Study during the CO-OP Section meeting. The alternative suggested was expanding Dalecarlia Reservoir, providing an additional seventy million gallons of water that amounts to an additional 12 hours of water for the Washington Aqueduct. The schedule is for the study to end on September 30, 2027, with the filing of the Chief's Report in time for WRDA 2028. USACE suggested that non-federal partners could proceed under Section 203 which would allow for the study within USACE parameters. This option would not depend on federal funds. Regarding other alternatives, Mr. Nardolilli talked about DC Water's PureWater DC plan to use effluent from Blue Plains treatment facility and bring it up to drinking water standards. CO-OP also suggested non-structural alternatives including using Loudoun Water's Beaver Dam reservoir, using Jennings Randolph water quality storage, and improved flow forecasts. Commissioner Guise clarified that this "scaled down" version of the study does not mean that USACE is not looking at additional future alternatives.

## **E. Operations Report**

Contracts and Financial Report: ICPRB has two new contracts. CO-OP and USGS ratified a contract on January 26 for Water Resources Investigations with a value of \$50,855. CO-OP also ratified a contract with Deltares to support development of the Flood Emergency Warning System component of ICPRB's Low Flow Forecast System with a value of \$10,000. There have been no withdrawals from the ICPRB reserves. The contingency account contained \$705,448.70 and the general funds account contained \$1,881,650.19 including checking accounts and investments placed at Janney Montgomery. ICPRB maintained a reserve large enough to maintain normal operating activity for three months in case of an emergency. Mr. Nardolilli reported that the audit is well underway and on target to give the final report at the June meeting of the Commission. The Audit Committee had their initial discussion with the auditing firm.

Spotlight Program: ICPRB’s Rikke Jepsen, Aquatic Ecologist II, presented on the Chesapeake Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity, known as the Chessie BIBI.

Tab 7 Unit Reporting: The ICPRB Unit Directors made themselves available to respond to any questions posed by the Commission concerning their second quarter project reports in Tab 7 of the Commission Meeting Book. **Hearing no more questions, Chair Brakel moved on to the next agenda item.**

## 8. New Business

### A. Revision of the Manual of Operations

Mr. Nardolilli introduced the revised Manual of Operations. The Executive Committee and the Administration team have worked on this revision since June 2025. Mr. Nardolilli recognized it as a living document that is subject to change. He asked for any questions regarding the revised version that was included in the Commission Book. Commissioner Karimi asked for a report on the major changes to the manual, and Mr. Nardolilli shared that the federal government modified the threshold for depreciating assets from \$1,000 to \$10,000, so ICPRB followed suit. Administrative Coordinator Lily Bedwell mentioned that the Executive Committee added two new attachments to the manual, which were a Continuity of Operations Policy and an Artificial Intelligence Policy. Commissioners discussed the origin of the new attachments, and Mr. Nardolilli shared that we took guidance from our sister river basin Commissions for the AI Policy and Commissioner Currey suggested adding a Continuity of Operations Policy. Commissioners asked what our routine use of AI is at ICPRB, and Ms. Bedwell shared that use of AI is project specific, but organizationally there are fewer restrictions. She circled back to Mr. Nardolilli’s comment regarding the document as “living” and subject to change. **Chair Brakel asked for a motion to approve the Manual of Operations. Commissioner Minnich made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Strodel. All were in favor, and the Manual of Operations was approved.**

### B. FY2026 Budget Amendment #1

Mr. Nardolilli mentioned that ICPRB must make budget amendments when the amount exceeds \$20,000. The budget now includes the \$650,000 from the Federal government that we are waiting to receive. The other major change is the added almost \$40,000 for the Water Resourced Foundation PFAS project and additional PFAS sampling. **Chair Brakel asked for a motion to approve the budget as amended. Commissioner Karimi made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Potter. All were in favor, and the budget amendment was approved as circulated.**

### C. Discussion of the Aspen National Water Strategy

The Aspen National Water Strategy is a think tank that has ideas about creating a national water strategy. Their recent study recognized that we should analyze water resources on a watershed level but does not recognize river basin Commissions. The group will be present at the next ACWA meeting and Mr. Nardolilli hopes to inject ICPRB’s opinion on the matter. Commissioner Karimi asked about the audience for the proposed Aspen National Water Strategy. Mr. Nardolilli indicated that the strategy is vague on implementation. He stated that the participant list that created the strategy did not include any river basin commissions, but it is comprised mostly of academics.

## 9. Lunch Provided On-Site

The meeting was suspended so participants could break for lunch.

**10. Presentation on DC Waterways Commission**

Commissioner Darryl Madden presented the background context, goals, and plan of the DC Waterways Commission. As its Chair, Commissioner Madden noted that the Commission is in its pilot stages and that he hoped to foster a strong connection with ICPRB.

**11. Commissioner Time**

Ms. Bourassa presented the [2025 Annual Report](#) to stimulate conversation among Commissioners.

**12. For the Good of the Order**

Chair Brakel thanked Commissioners who stayed for the supplemental sessions after lunch. **Chair Brakel asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Madden made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Commissioner Minnich. Accordingly, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.**

*These minutes were written by Administrative Coordinator Lily Bedwell and reviewed by Executive Director Michael Nardolilli.*