

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2022

Minutes

Commissioners: Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Brigantti, United States, Chair
Present: Aneca Y. Atkinson, Pennsylvania, Vice Chair
Jeffrey L. Hoffman, New Jersey, Second Vice Chair
Shawn M. Garvin, Delaware
Kenneth Kosinski, New York

DRBC Staff Participants: Steven J. Tambini, Executive Director
Kenneth J. Warren, DRBC General Counsel
Pamela Bush, Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel
David Kovach, Manager, Project Review
Amy Shallcross, Manager, Water Resource Operations
John Yagecic, Manager, Water Quality Assessment
Stacey Mulholland, Government Affairs Lead

Lieutenant Colonel Brigantti called the meeting to order, introducing himself as the Commander of the Philadelphia District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and alternate for Brigadier General Thomas Tickner, the Commission's chair *pro tem*, representing the federal government. He noted that the meeting was being held remotely, had been advertised as such on the DRBC website, and was open to the public via a Zoom webinar and the DRBC YouTube channel. The agenda was posted on the DRBC website.

LTC Brigantti also explained that the meeting was being recorded and that although attendees would not have audio or video access during the business meeting, during the one-hour open public comment session, the microphone would be enabled for each speaker in turn, and members of the public could also phone in using a number provided on the DRBC website.

The four alternate state commissioners introduced themselves as follows: Shawn Garvin, Secretary of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and alternate for Governor John Carney. Jeff Hoffman, New Jersey state geologist representing Governor Phil Murphy; Ken Kosinski, alternate commissioner for the State of New York and Governor Kathy Hochul; and Aneca Atkinson, alternate commissioner for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, representing Governor Tom Wolf. DRBC's Executive Director Steve Tambini, General Counsel Ken Warren, and Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel Pam Bush also introduced themselves.

Announcements. Ms. Bush announced the following upcoming advisory committee meetings, all of which were to be held virtually, and for which details were posted on the Commission's website:

- The DRBC Regulated Flow Advisory Committee (RFAC), March 23 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.
- Joint meeting of the DRBC Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC) and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Science and Technology Advisory Committee (STAC), Tuesday, May 24 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC), June 16 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Minutes. Ms. Bush said that draft Minutes from the Commission's fourth quarterly meeting of 2021 had been circulated to the Commissioners, and she had received no proposed changes or corrections. She recommended the draft Minutes be approved. Secretary Garvin so moved, Mr. Hoffman offered a second, and the Minutes of the quarterly meeting of December 8, 2021 were approved by unanimous vote.

Hydrologic Conditions. Highlights of Ms. Shallcross's report on hydrologic conditions follow. A graphical summary of hydrologic conditions in the Basin as of March 9, 2022 can be accessed at: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/HydrologicConditions_shallcross_030922.pdf

Ms. Shallcross explained that as the agency responsible for managing the Basin's water resources, the Commission is concerned with the hydrologic cycle, which describes how and where water interacts among the atmosphere, land, and water bodies.

Precipitation. In the twelve months since March of 2021, which included rainfall from three hurricanes, the basin received much greater precipitation than the normal quantity. Ms. Shallcross displayed precipitation departure graphics showing up to 15 inches of excess precipitation in the basin for the year. She noted that during the previous 6 months, however, less rain than normal had fallen except in the far upper portion of the basin. During the previous 90 days, the basin would have received approximately 10-12 inches of rain in a normal year. But with the exception of a few regions in the upper basin, most areas received less. The winter months saw below normal snowfall. The latest snowpack survey, a calculation of the amount of water stored in snowpack above the New York City reservoirs as of March 2, 2022, was about 12.7 billion gallons, much of which melted during the week before the meeting date.

Streamflows. A graphic updated on March 8 showing departures from normal streamflows indicated that in spite of dry conditions over the previous few months, normal or above normal streamflow was observed in the upper basin, a result of snow melt reaching streams, either directly or as base flow. Melt occurred early in the lower basin, where streams were beginning to become dry.

Montague, New Jersey is the point of intersection of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and in accordance with the Supreme Court Decree of 1954 in *New Jersey v. New York*, water is

released from reservoirs as directed by the River Master to maintain a flow objective of 17,150 cubic feet per second (cfs) at this location, which is about 1,100 million gallons per day (mgd). The Commission and the parties to the 1954 decree have established a second flow objective at Trenton, New Jersey. Releases from two reservoirs in Schuylkill and Lehigh counties contribute to meet the Trenton objective, which is 3,000 cfs, or approximately 1,900 mgd. A slide showing flows at Trenton over the preceding year indicated higher than average flows in the spring, a rainy July, three major tropical storms – Henri, Fred and Ida – producing very high mainstem flows in late summer, and spikes in flows caused by a large rain event in November 2021 and a nor’easter in late January 2022.

Ms. Shallcross noted that reservoir releases are made to ensure minimum flows in the river. DRBC has pools of water that can be released from Beltzville Reservoir in the Lehigh River Valley and Blue Marsh Reservoir in the Schuylkill River Valley to ensure that a sufficient amount of fresh water flows into the Delaware Estuary to repel the salt front. F.E. Walter, a flood control reservoir in the Lehigh Valley, is also utilized for a recreational program in the summer months and is part of DRBCs management program.

New York City Reservoirs. Three New York City reservoirs—Neversink, Pepacton and Cannonsville—are a major component of DRBC’s drought management program. The River Master directs releases from these reservoirs to meet the Montague flow objective, and because these are three of the four largest reservoirs in the basin, drought stages for purposes or reservoir operations are defined by the combined storage available in them. As of the meeting date, combined storage in the three New York City reservoirs was at about 95.6 percent of full capacity, about 35 billion gallons above where it was at the same time in 2021.

Salt Front. Releases from storage are made during periods of naturally low flows to repel the “salt front,” a representation of how salty the water is in the Delaware River Estuary. The estuary, which is the portion of the river that is tidally influenced, is where fresh and saltwater meet and mix. During the drought of record in the 60’s, the Delaware Bay was very salty, and the salt front migrated upstream as far as River Mile 102 – at approximately the middle of the City of Philadelphia. Because important drinking water intakes are located at River Mile 110, much planning had to be done to ensure that the salt front did not—and does not in future—reach that far upstream. Normally in the month of March, the salt front would be at River Mile 70; its current location is at River Mile 64.8, which is below the Christina River.

Groundwater. A graphic showing the status of groundwater levels in monitoring wells throughout the basin in January, February and March of 2022 showed an expected trend. In January, conditions were very dry, as some of the precipitation of the preceding months was still locked in snowpack. As the snow started to melt, the snowpack decreased and water levels began rise. Conditions have started to become dry again in the northeastern portion of the basin, as expected based on observed precipitation in that area.

Seasonal Outlook. The seasonal drought outlook, which is compiled by several federal agencies, indicated that drought development was likely as of March 1, 2022 across a large portion of the Delaware Basin.

The temperature outlook for our region was for a 40-50 percent chance of warmer than normal weather in the spring of 2022.

The seasonal precipitation outlook indicated an equal chance of normal, above normal or below normal rainfall.

Anthony Preucil, a member of DRBC's Water Management Operations staff and a meteorologist, predicted one to two inches of liquid equivalent precipitation on the Saturday following the meeting date. Ms. Shallcross noted that depending on one's location in the basin, the predicted precipitation could fall as rain or snow.

Some of the graphics presented by Ms. Shallcross are available on the DRBC Hydrologic Snapshot for Flow and Drought Management at: www.hydrosnap.drbc.net.

Water Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Estimates for the Delaware River Basin. DRBC Water Resource Engineer Michael Thompson offered a presentation on the report, *Water Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Estimates for the Delaware River Basin (1990-2017) with Projections through 2060*, projecting water withdrawals and consumptive use in the Delaware River Basin. The report was published in October 2021 and will remain available on the Commission's website at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/supply/use-demand-projections2060.html> for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Thompson noted that many people and programs had either directly or indirectly contributed to this work, including: New York City Department of Environmental Conservation, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Delaware Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and DRBC staff members both present and past. He added that this project was funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund.

Mr. Thompson explained that the Commission's web page for the report attempts to make the report data and information as publicly accessible and user-friendly as possible. The report can be downloaded as a PDF document. In addition, the historical and projected data within it are provided at a planning sub-basin scale, meaning by each of the 147 sub-watersheds in the basin. Users can download a macro-free Excel workbook containing all of these data. High resolution maps presented in the report can also be downloaded, as can presentations given on this work in the past. Mr. Thompson noted that a newer feature allows the user to interact with a Microsoft Power BI data visualization tool developed directly from the downloadable Excel data deliverable. If a user prefers not to dig into the raw data, the visualization tool offers an alternative approach to finding the desired information.

The Commission is projecting water withdrawal data to help answer the question, “Is there enough water to meet future demands?” To learn the answer, sub-questions are posed, among them: “What are the current and future demands?” (This is the focus of the October 2021 report.) Other questions include: “How do these withdrawals compare to allocations for regulated systems?” “What if the drought of record is repeated?” and “How do we factor in climate change?”

Mr. Thompson and his co-investigators began by looking at all the water withdrawal data for the Delaware River Basin for the years 1990 through 2017. Next, this data was separated into sectors, distinguished primarily by how the water was used. Investigators had to select the best method for projecting withdrawals for each sector, while trying to stay consistent across the study. Many methods are available, some more complex than others. The method selection rationale is provided in the report. Because the Commission has almost 30 years of data, the primary projection method chosen was extrapolation from historical data. Exceptions were made for the sectors comprised of self-supplied water for domestic use, because these data are not readily available, and withdrawals for irrigation, because of the level of effort required to obtain these data and the difficulty in establishing assumptions about the relationship between irrigation use and environmental drivers.

For the data on regulated systems, for which the main projection method was extrapolation, we focused on the 600 systems that met regulatory review thresholds. These accounted for more than 99 percent of reported withdrawal volumes for their respective sectors and relied on 3,700 withdrawal sources in all. The remaining one percent of withdrawal volume was attributed to about 2,450 sources, showing a big difference in withdrawal volume per source. Next, a standardized report for each system was developed based on an algorithm and coded in the language R. Multiple ways of projecting data were presented in each system report. Staff reviewed regulatory information pulled into the reports and selected the projection equations found to be most appropriate for each of the 600 plus systems. In the end, over 1,100 equations were generated to help describe future water withdrawals.

This method allows results to be presented at many different scales, such as for the entire basin, for each withdrawal sector, for each HUC-8 watershed (such as the Lehigh, the Schuylkill, etc...), for groundwater, for surface water, and for the basin states. That the data can be presented in so many different ways is one reason the staff decided to develop the visualization tool.

Mr. Thompson presented a slide illustrating historic and projected total water withdrawals by sector for the basin. He noted a primary finding of the work – that peak water withdrawals from the Delaware River Basin have already occurred. Believed to have occurred in 2005, the peak was approximately 9.9 billion gallons per day, about 3 billion gallons per day more than in 2017. A major component of that decrease occurred in the thermoelectric sector, which experienced a decline in withdrawals for once-through cooling by coal-fired generators. The model suggested that a decrease in withdrawals from these facilities would be a limiting factor in future projections. The public water supply sector saw declines of about 100,000,000 gallons per day over 30 years. Decreases in this sector are projected to continue, but at lower rates, in spite of projected continued growth of in-basin populations.

Consumptive use describes the volume of water that is withdrawn but not returned to surface waters of the basin. One of the largest consumptive uses of waters of the Delaware consists of out-of-basin diversions authorized by the United States Supreme Court decree of 1954. The study concluded based on historic projections of consumptive water use by sector, that consumptive use of the basin's water will remain constant. This is due in important part to the fact that changes in the cooling technology used by thermoelectric facilities has resulted in consistent consumptive use volumes despite large decreases in withdrawals. Consumptive use by the thermoelectric sector is projected to remain relatively constant. Consumptive use in the basin for irrigation, considered to be a highly consumptive water use, is projected to increase in the basin, based in part on modeling that relies on temperature data from a regional climate model.

Basin-wide consumptive use has been one of the parameters most commonly projected by the DRBC, which presented an interesting opportunity for comparison. Previous projections typically were based on one year of estimated water use and relied on indirect projection methods such as population projections or employment projections. That was not the case with the 2021 study. Some past studies also considered the possibility that additional water-intensive facilities, such as power facilities, might be constructed in the future, which this study did not do. Notably these previous projections were performed before 2007, when the shift in the cooling technology used by power generators resulted in a decrease in the volume of water withdrawn. The annual estimates generated by the new study align fairly well with those reported previously by DRBC. The ability to see almost 30 years of data in connection with our projections is a definite advantage that helps support our conclusions. Mr. Thompson remarked that many more findings, with accompanying discussion, are presented in the 2021 report.

In conclusion, Mr. Thompson said the DRBC will continue tracking, reviewing, and updating data related to the new study. An update through calendar year 2020 is planned, as DRBC's next Water Resources Program will show. Staff is also wrapping up a study on assessing groundwater availability for the basin, making use of the data from the 2021 study, and are performing preliminary work on a surface water availability model, which will rely on the water withdrawal and consumptive use estimates and projections developed by the 2021 study.

Executive Director Report. Mr. Tambini noted for the record that there were 44 Zoom attendees at the meeting, excluding the participants (Commissioners and staff) that had appeared on screen and those who may have been observing on YouTube. His report is summarized as follows:

- *New publication.* In October 2021, the DRBC published a report titled *Water Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Estimates for the Delaware River Basin (1990-2017) with Projections through 2060*. The report analyzes 30 years of historic water withdrawal data and forecasts water withdrawal demands to the year 2060. Key findings include that peak water withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin have likely already occurred; that total withdrawals are projected to decrease by about 1 billion gallons per day by 2060; that the overall consumptive use of water has remained the same, and projected consumptive use remains constant; and that the Basin's population has increased but the amount of water we use has not.

The report, along with associated data and news releases, as well as an interactive data visualization tool, are available at: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/supply/use-demand-projections2060.html>.

Mr. Tambini thanked the report's principal authors, DRBC's Michael Thompson, P.E., and Chad Pindar, P.E., who will continue to use this work to assess the availability of water to meet the Basin's needs through 2060.

- *Rulemaking – Importations and Exportations of Water From the Delaware River Basin and Discharges of Wastewater from High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing and Related Activities.* February 28, 2022 marked the close of the 123-day public comment period on the proposed rulemaking. Mr. Tambini thanked all who submitted comments. The DRBC received 2,388 comment submissions through the on-line comment system, each of which may consist of one or more letters or attachments. No requests for exceptions from using the online system were received. DRBC also received oral comments from 73 speakers during five public hearings in December 2021 and February 2022, for a total of 2,461 submissions. DRBC staff is in the process of reviewing the comments and will develop a comment and response document. The Commission will consider any changes to the draft rules that may be appropriate based upon the comments received. Any action by the Commission on this matter will occur at a duly noticed public meeting of the Commission.

During the rulemaking process, DRBC received requests for expanded public outreach and more inclusive opportunities for public input. That feedback is appreciated. We took several actions to address these concerns, especially during the fifth public hearing, in February 2022. The following measures below were implemented on a pilot basis for this rulemaking process.

- Enhanced language access was provided during our fifth public hearing, including real-time English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English translation by professional translators, on a pilot basis.
- Toll-free phone access to the fifth public hearing was provided to facilitate participation by those without ready internet access.
- The process for securing exceptions to use of the online comment system was streamlined, by clarifying that the request and proposed comment could be mailed simultaneously.
- An interactive language translation widget was added to the DRBC website. The widget can translate web-based formatted text on any of the site's pages from English to any of more than 100 other languages.
- Spanish language versions of the notice of proposed rulemaking and draft rule text were posted on the DRBC website, and a process was created for users to request certified translation of rulemaking documents into other languages.

The staff and Commissioners are continuing to consider how best to enhance opportunities for participation in rulemaking and more routine DRBC matters in the long term by all members of our diverse basin community.

- *Advisory Committee Vacancies.* Mr. Tambini thanked all who serve on DRBC Advisory Committees, noting that their expertise and perspectives contribute greatly to the quality and effectiveness of the Commission's work. The DRBC is currently seeking applications for vacancies on the Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Toxics Advisory Committee, Water Management Advisory Committee, Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee, and Water Quality Advisory Committee. Details, including instructions on seeking an appointment, are posted at: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/committee-openings.html>.
- *Delaware River Basin Conservation Act Reauthorization.* This week, U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware and U.S. Representative Dwight Evans of Pennsylvania (PA-3) introduced federal legislation to re-authorize the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act. This non-regulatory legislation supports important conservation and restoration programs through the watershed, provides important federal resources to the Basin, and complements water resource management programs of the DRBC. Mr. Tambini encouraged the basin community to support the re-authorization.
- *Preventing Plastic Pollution.* This March, the Friends of Heinz Refuge is hosting a virtual webinar series entitled "Preventing Plastic Pollution." The first webinar was to take place from 12:00-1:00 p.m. that afternoon (March 9) and would feature a presentation by DRBC's Jake Bransky on the DRBC's microplastics study. Other webinars in the series were scheduled for March 16, 23, and 30 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Those interested in attending were encouraged to email matt.friendsofheinz@gmail.com for more information.
- *Recognizing Women.* March is Women's History Month, and March 8, 2022 was International Women's Day. Mr. Tambini recognized that women have made countless contributions to managing, protecting and improving the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. He said he was personally privileged to have the opportunity to work with exceptional women professionals, including: DRBC colleagues in science, engineering, planning, finance, communications, law and other disciplines; DRBC Commissioners and leaders in their agencies; and partners and stakeholders with shared water resource goals across diverse basin communities. He thanked these individuals for their past and continued contributions.

General Counsel Report. Mr. Warren reported on three pending litigation matters involving DRBC.

Yaw et al. v. DRBC. Pennsylvania state senators Gene Yaw and Lisa Baker, the Pennsylvania Senate republican caucus, and certain municipalities have challenged the Commission's prohibition on high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) in the basin. The district court in the

Eastern District of Pennsylvania dismissed the case on the ground that the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring their claims. All but one of the plaintiffs appealed the dismissal to the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, where the case was fully briefed. The court has tentatively scheduled oral argument for April 1. The argument time will likely be divided among DRBC and the intervening defendants – the Pennsylvania state democratic senators and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN).

WLMG v. DRBC. In this case, plaintiff WLMG is challenging DRBC’s authority to review the plaintiff’s planned high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) project in Wayne County. Based upon the court’s recommendation, the parties stipulated to a stay of this case, at least until the Yaw case is resolved. The stipulation followed a motion by DRBC to declare the case as moot and have it dismissed, given that no such projects can currently be undertaken in the basin in light of the Commission’s rule prohibiting HVHF in hydrocarbon bearing rock formations in the basin.

DRN v. DRBC. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) brought an action in the U.S. District court for the District of New Jersey challenging DRBC’s approval of the Gibbstown Logistics Center Dock 2 project. This case will be determined on the administrative record, which includes among other things, the administrative record developed at an extensive administrative hearing conducted by the Commission. The briefing schedule for motions for summary judgement is as follows: on February 4, the DRN filed its motion for summary judgment; on March 18, the DRBC and Delaware River Partners, also a defendant in the case, will file their opposition and likely also file cross motions for summary judgment; finally, on April 15, DRN will file a reply brief in support of its motion for summary judgment and, simultaneously, its opposition to defendants’ motion for summary judgment. Mr. Warren said that at this time, he anticipated that upon the conclusion of these briefings, the court will decide the case on the merits.

A Resolution for the Minutes to amend the DRBC Mission, Vision, and Values. Ms. Mulholland explained that a staff Work Enhancement Team for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) had been created. The Team was tasked with, among other things, determining whether the Commission’s statement of its vision, mission and values should be updated to express the institution’s commitment to the principles of DEIJ and the related concept of active engagement with our partners, stakeholders, and water users throughout the basin. As an initial step, the team assessed the current mission, vision and values statement to assess whether and where DEIJ elements could be incorporated. It was the team’s consensus that the existing language was consistent with DEIJ principles. However, in the interest of being inclusive and thorough, the team proposes adding the phrase, “application of equitable practices and promotion of just outcomes” to the mission statement, and for clarity, adding the language “diversity and inclusion promoted both as an employer and as a public agency” to the values statement. By way of further explanation, Ms. Mulholland said that the team sees its work continuing on two tracks – an internal track within the organization, and an external track focused on DRBC’s relationships with partners, stakeholders and water users.

Ms. Mulholland noted that a draft Resolution for the Minutes had been circulated previously for the Commissioners' review and consideration. She recommended that the resolution be approved, but offered to respond to any questions or comments the Commissioners might have.

LTC Brigantti asked for a motion. Mr. Hoffman moved for approval of the Resolution as proposed, and Secretary Garvin offered a second. Without questions or further discussion, the following Resolution for the Minutes to amend the DRBC Mission, Vision, and Values was approved by unanimous vote. The referenced attachment is included as Attachment B of these Minutes.

RESOLUTION FOR THE MINUTES

A Resolution for the Minutes to amend the Commission's statement of its vision, mission, and values.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 97-19, the Commission in 1997 adopted a non-regulatory statement reflecting its vision, mission and values; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's 2019 Water Resources Program included a revised and updated version of the 1997 statement; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's work in managing protecting and improving the water resources of the Delaware River Basin is stronger when diverse voices are included and heard and when all the Basin's water users share equally in the benefits and stewardship of the Basin's shared water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's statement of its vision, mission and values should be updated to express the Commission's commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) and the related concept of active engagement with its partners, stakeholders and water users throughout the Basin; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware River Basin Commission that:

The amended vision, mission and values statement attached hereto is hereby adopted.

A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for professional services with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland. Mr. Yagecic, DRBC's Water Quality Assessment Manager, explained that among the studies to be performed under Resolution No. 2017-04 on the inclusion of propagation as a designated use in Zones 3 and 4 and the upper portion of Zone 5 of the Delaware River Estuary, was an evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting the attainment of aquatic life uses in the Estuary. DRBC staff is performing the evaluation using current guidances by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and professional organizations, and is recommending that the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland be engaged to perform a technical review of the draft evaluation. The Environmental Finance Center at UMD is one of 10 regional centers founded by

EPA to deliver targeted technical assistance to states and local governments. Funding for the contract would come from a \$150,000 grant awarded to the Commission by Pennsylvania, of which \$20,000 is allocated for contractual services for the socioeconomic evaluation required by Resolution No. 2017-04. Mr. Yagecic noted that in accordance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (5) of Section 14.9 of the Delaware River Basin Compact, the Compact's competitive bidding provision does not apply. He recommended that the Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for professional services with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland be approved.

On a request by LTC Brigantti, Mr. Kosinski so moved. Ms. Atkinson seconded his motion, and in the absence of further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

The text of the Resolution follows:

RESOLUTION FOR THE MINUTES

A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for professional services with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland.

WHEREAS, in support of an eventual rulemaking to revise the designated aquatic life uses in Water Quality Zones 3 and 4 and the upper portion of Zone 5 of the Delaware River Estuary, the Commission by Resolution No. 2017-4 called for multiple studies, including an evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting the attainment of uses in these zones ("socioeconomic evaluation"); and

WHEREAS, during the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Commission's Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC), DRBC staff notified participants that DRBC planned to perform the socioeconomic evaluation using current guidance; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2021-05 in June of 2021, the Commission directed and authorized the Executive Director to require a set of wastewater treatment utilities to assemble and furnish to the Commission such information not available from public sources as would be needed in the Commission's view to complete the socioeconomic evaluation using in-house resources and in accordance with current guidance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, in response to formal letter requests by the Commission on June 29, 2021, the wastewater treatment utilities have since provided the requested data; and

WHEREAS, to support the aquatic life designated use study, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the

Commission a grant in the amount of \$150,000, of which \$20,000 is allocated for contractual services for the socioeconomic evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland (“UMD EFC”) is one of ten regional centers founded by the EPA to deliver targeted technical assistance to, and to partner with states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector in providing innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management; and

WHEREAS, the UMD EFC serves EPA Region 3, which includes both Pennsylvania and Delaware, and has more than 30 years of experience working cooperatively with EPA to help communities protect natural resources by strengthening the capacity of decision-makers to assess needs, develop effective financing methods, and catalyze action; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware River Basin Commission:

1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the technical review of a draft evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting the attainment of uses.

2. The authorized contract shall be funded with the proceeds of a grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for this purpose, unless additional funds are expressly allocated to augment this sum.

3. In accordance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (5) of Section 14.9 of the Delaware River Basin Compact, the competitive bidding requirements of that section are hereby waived.

Project Review Docket Applications. Mr. Kovach recounted that at the February 9, 2022 public hearing, he had presented 16 duly noticed draft dockets for comment and consideration. DRBC received no substantive comments on any of the 16 draft dockets, either during the hearing or during the ensuing written comment period. Accordingly, Mr. Kovach recommended that the Commissioners approve docket items 1 through 16 as presented.

On a request by LTC Brigantti, Mr. Kosinski so moved, and Mr. Hoffman offered a second. In the absence of further discussion, docket items 1 through 16 were unanimously approved.

Docket item 17, for the Diamond State Port Corporation’s Port of Wilmington Edgemoor Expansion (dredging) Project, was presented at DRBC’s public hearing of November 10, 2021. During that hearing and in the written comment period that followed, DRBC received comments from 44 individuals or entities. Of these, 42 expressed qualified support for the project, provided

that the mitigation activities described in the docket were undertaken. Among these commenters were the City of Wilmington, Brandywine Conservancy, Brandywine Shad 2020, Lenape Tribe of Delaware, Upstream Alliance, and numerous private citizens. Many of these commenters expressly supported the installation of a rock ramp fish passage structure at Brandywine Dam #2, one of the three mitigation actions proposed to offset the anticipated loss of ecosystem functions at the port expansion project site. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and a private citizen, Mr. Hahn, both opposed the project based on its potential adverse environmental impacts. DRBC staff responded to the comments received in a Comment and Response document (CRD), a draft of which was shared with the Commissioners in advance of the March 9 meeting date.

Mr. Kovach summarized the comments received by the project's opponents, and the staff's responses. DRN cited the potential for salinity intrusion and advancement of the salt front in the Estuary as a result of existing and proposed dredging projects. DRN's comments focused on potential adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species, and on efforts to provide sufficient freshwater inflows to the Estuary to repel salinity, especially in light of sea level rise. Staff's response is that studies performed to date by various entities show that changes in river bathymetry (water depth) are considered to be a secondary influence on salinity transport relative to the contributions of tidal forcing and freshwater inflows. Utilizing the PST/Toxi-5 model to evaluate salinity intrusion, DRBC staff modeled the combined dredge volumes of the port redevelopment projects approved by and pending before the Commission and deepening of the federal navigational channel. The results support the understanding that the effects of dredging on the location of the salt front are insignificant relative to tidal forcing and freshwater inflows. Under the modeled scenario, the minimum difference in the predicted salt front was 0.095 miles, and the maximum difference was 0.271 miles. Thus, the modeling indicated no substantial impact on longitudinal salinity distribution as a result of dredging associated with the project.

DRN and Mr. Hahn also stated concerns about increased ship strikes on the threatened and endangered species of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, and spoke to the need for mitigation and management of such strikes. In response, staff's CRD reiterates the Commission's past responses to a similar comment on port projects: DRBC Comprehensive Plan and implementing regulations speak to water quality, but do not address other possible effects on aquatic life, such as ship strikes, including for species listed as threatened and endangered under federal or state law. Mr. Kovach noted that in accordance with Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act, as of the meeting date, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remained in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. agency responsible for listing the Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon species as threatened and endangered and for designating their critical habitat. Section C.8. of the docket as proposed would require the permittee to adhere to all conditions identified by federal resource agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration as necessary for the protection and conservation of habitat for the shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon. Additionally, Section C.15. of the docket as proposed provides that the docket does not exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and approvals from other state, federal, and local government agencies having jurisdiction over the project.

DRN also expressed concern over the potential for exceedances of DRBC stream quality objectives, including, in particular, exceedances of the criteria for protection of aquatic life from the chronic effects of legacy toxic contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (“PCBs”). Mr. Hahn expressed a similar concern with respect to PCBs. Staff’s CRD describes DRBC’s role and achievements in addressing legacy PCB contamination in the Estuary. Based on DRBC science, the U.S. EPA established total maximum daily loads (“TMDLs”) for PCBs for the Estuary in the early 2000s because concentrations of these contaminants in fish tissue were restricting fish consumption by humans, and thus rendering the water quality impaired for non-attainment of the Clean Water Act’s (also DRBC’s) “fishable” use. Because PCBs are bioaccumulative and persist in the environment, they are difficult to remove. The TMDLs are not expected to be attained for decades. However, the TMDLs, in combination with a DRBC regulation requiring point source dischargers of PCBs to develop and implement pollutant minimization plans (“PMPs”) have reduced point source discharges of PCBs to the Estuary by more than 75 percent.

DRN asserted that the dredging activities, which are expected to occur over periods ranging from two to nearly four months, would expose aquatic life to toxic compounds at concentrations above the chronic criteria and would thus severely impact aquatic life in the vicinity of the project. DRBC’s response is that the Commission’s stream quality objectives are used to calculate effluent limitations that in some instances exceed the stream quality objectives within a specific allowable mixing zone or area of dilution but that nevertheless are designed to ensure that designated uses are protected outside a small mixing area. Similarly, the dredging best management practices (“BMPs”) required by the docket will minimize the resuspension of sediments and control the timeframe when sediments—and pollutants—may be resuspended in the water column. The plan for monitoring during dredging and construction, including monitoring for dredged slurry, includes measures for detecting temporary exceedances of stream quality objectives resulting from the resuspension of sediments during dredging, along with measures for modifying the dredge activity by reducing the dredge rate or cut depth to correct any temporary exceedances attributed to the dredge activity if detected. Implementation of the monitoring plan, which is proposed as an enforceable docket condition, will limit the exposure of aquatic life to contaminants resuspended from the sediment. In addition, by removing contaminated sediment from the project area and placing it in confined disposal facilities, the project is expected to result in a net benefit to water quality.

In addition to the concern about resuspension of PCBs as a result of dredging, Mr. Hahn’s objections to the project included that the community most affected by the project allegedly was not adequately engaged. Noting that he could speak only for the DRBC’s process, Mr. Kovach said that multiple stakeholder engagement opportunities had been provided for this project. For its part, DRBC published multiple web-based and print notices about its hearing and written comment period on this and other projects reviewed by DRBC, along with the DRBC’s draft docket for each. Mr. Kovach described the project at DRBC’s public hearing on November 10 and reiterated at the time that written comments would continue to be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on November 16.

Mr. Hahn also raised concerns over impacts to benthic habitat and benthic biota, including mussels. Mr. Kovach explained that consultants for the applicant performed an assessment of benthic organisms at a variety of depths within the proposed project area. Freshwater mussels were not found to be present in the sediments within the project area. In addition to the sediment sampling, the assessment included a literature review. The project area was not identified in the literatures as an area known to support freshwater mussels. As stated in the docket, the project site is located in the oligohaline portion of the Estuary, and freshwater mussel species do not occur near the project site because they are intolerant of the salinity concentrations there. Benthic organisms present within the accumulated sediments near the project site represent colonial, ephemeral or ubiquitous invertebrate taxa that are generally tolerant of extremes of estuarine water quality parameters such as salinity and turbidity. As a result of the planned dredging, benthic habitat of these species would be permanently disturbed. The area is expected to be re-colonized by similar resident species from outside of the dredge area, or by deeper resident species where final water depths will be greater after dredging. The affected environments are within the turbidity maximum transition zone of the Estuary, and the potential increases in turbidity associated with construction activities are not expected to adversely affect resident fish species that are adapted to the prevailing turbid conditions.

Mr. Hahn also asserted that impacts from wharf construction and shoreline hardening were underestimated and that the project sponsor had not demonstrated how the proposed mitigation projects would replace the intertidal and subtidal acreage and associated ecosystem services to be lost as a result of the project. Mr. Kovach noted that as in the case of vessel strikes, neither the Commission's Comprehensive Plan nor its Water Code contains provisions relating to mitigation of shoreline hardening. However, DRBC's federal and state members do have such programs, including detailed regulations for selecting the appropriate mitigation to adequately offset these impacts.

Having concluded his summary of the comments and the staff's responses to comments on the draft docket for the Diamond State Port Corporation, Mr. Kovach noted that a more detailed discussion could be found in the staff's Comment and Response document for the project. Mr. Kovach recommend that the Commissioners approve the Edgemoor expansion dredging project identified as docket item 17, on grounds that it would not substantially impair or conflict with the Commission's Comprehensive Plan.

On a request by LTC Brigantti, Secretary Garvin so moved, and Mr. Hoffman offered a second. By way of discussion, LTC Brigantti read the following statement for the record: "This Commission's standard of review for the docket is different than the Army standard of review for various applications pending decision by the Army on the project. Therefore, the Federal Government's vote on the docket for this project should not be viewed as indicative of decisions pending before the Army regarding this project." There being no other comments, the matter advanced to a vote and was approved by a vote of 4 yeas and one nay, with Ms. Atkinson on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania casting the single opposing vote.

Adjournment. Secretary Garvin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Atkinson and unanimously approved.

Audio Recording. Audio recordings of the public hearings of November 10, 2021 and February 9, 2022 and the business meeting of March 9, 2022 are on file with the Commission Secretary. A description of each of the applications for dockets approved during the business meeting of March 9, 2022 is provided as an attachment to these Minutes.

Open Public Comment. Upon adjournment of the business, Mr. Tambini hosted an Open Public Comment session of approximately one hour for off-the-record comment by stakeholders on water resource issues affecting the Basin.



Pamela M. Bush, Esquire
Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel

ATTACHMENT A

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE BUSINESS MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2022

Background. Projects subject to Commission review in accordance with the Delaware River Basin Compact and Commission regulations must have the Commission's approval in the form of a docket, permit or resolution (collectively, "docket").

The Commission's project review process takes six to nine months to complete, and the public is informed of the status of project applications by a variety of means during that period:

- Each project for which an application is received is added to the "Project Review Status Report" maintained at https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/project/project-review_status_pg.html. This report, updated approximately once a month, includes the applicant's name and project location, a description of the proposed project, the docket number assigned to the project, and the name of the staff member reviewing the project.
- A list of applications received is compiled and posted as a "Notice of Applications Received" (NAR) at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/project/nar.html>, approximately once per month.
- Anyone interested in receiving notices about projects under review as the notices are posted on the Commission's website, may sign up for the Commission's "Most Recent Notice of Applications Received" listserv at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/contact/interest/index.html>.
- Members of the public seeking additional information about a project may contact the staff member reviewing the project or arrange by appointment to review the relevant Project Review file at any time that is mutually convenient for the staff and the party.
- Approximately six weeks before the Commission's scheduled public hearing date, draft dockets are circulated to the Commission's members for review and comment by the appropriate state and federal agencies.
- Ten days prior to the hearing date, the hearing notice, along with draft dockets, is posted on the Commission's website. A public hearing and meeting notice also appears in the Federal Register and certain state registers in accordance with the respective schedules of these publications. The register notice directs readers to the Commission's website for links to the draft dockets available for comment.

Written comment on hearing items is ordinarily accepted until 5 p.m. on the Monday of the week following the public hearing.

At the Commission's regularly scheduled public meetings, the Commissioners may approve, disapprove, or postpone consideration of any docket for which a hearing has been completed.

Approved dockets are posted on the Commission's website as quickly as possible following the date on which the Commission acted. Delay of a few days may occur to complete clerical work, particularly in instances in which the Commissioners approve a docket with modifications.

The projects are customarily considered in three categories—Category A, project renewals with no substantive changes; Category B—project renewals with substantive changes; and Category C—projects not previously reviewed by the Commission. Descriptions of the projects (based on the applications received, which may vary from final projects) for which the Commission issued approvals on March 9, 2022 are presented below.

A. Renewals with No Substantive Changes (Items 1 through 12).

1. Global Advanced Metals USA, Inc., D-1970-072-7. An application to renew the approval of the existing 0.1763 mgd IWTP and its discharge. The docket holder's existing facility will continue to discharge treated effluent and non-contact cooling water (NCCW) to Swamp Creek at River Mile 92.47 - 32.3 - 12.9 - 12.6 (Delaware River - Schuylkill River - Perkiomen Creek - Swamp Creek) via Outfall Nos. 001 and 002, in Boyertown Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
2. Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., D-1976-021-4. An application to renew the approval of the applicant's existing 0.1 mgd Mast Hope WWTP and its discharge. Treated effluent will continue to be discharged to an UNT of the Delaware River at River Mile 279.8 - 0.04 (Delaware River - UNT) via Outfall No. 001, within the drainage area to the section of the main stem Delaware River known as the Upper Delaware, which the Commission has classified as Special Protection Waters, in Lackawaxen Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania.
3. Exide Environmental Response Trust, D-1976-097-5. An application to renew approval of the applicant's existing 0.7 mgd industrial wastewater treatment plant (IWTP) and existing 1.1 mgd stormwater treatment plant (SWTP) and their respective discharges. Treated effluent from the IWTP and SWTP will continue to combine prior to discharge via an existing stormwater conveyance system to the Schuylkill River at River Mile 92.5 - 78.3 (Delaware River - Schuylkill River) in Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
4. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority, D-1985-036 CP-4. An application to renew the approval of the applicant's existing 8.37 mgd WWTP and its discharge. The applicant has also requested approval to re-rate the WWTP to 10.68 mgd with no proposed construction in order to stay in compliance with PADEP's hydraulic overloading condition. Treated effluent will continue to be discharged to West Branch Neshaminy Creek at River Mile 115.63 - 40.01 - 4.0 (Delaware River - Neshaminy Creek - West Branch Neshaminy Creek) via Outfall No. 001, in Hatfield Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
5. Washington Township (Berks Co, PA), D-1994-042 CP-3. An application to renew the approval of the applicant's existing 0.25 mgd WWTP and its discharge. The WWTP will continue to discharge to the West Branch Perkiomen Creek, tributary to Perkiomen Creek, which is tributary to the Schuylkill River at River Mile 92.47 - 32.3 - 23.7 - 6.8 (Delaware

River - Schuylkill River - Perkiomen Creek - West Branch Perkiomen Creek) in Washington Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

6. Middletown Country Club, D-1996-032 CP-3. An application to renew the approval of an existing groundwater and surface water withdrawal of up to 4.13 mgm to irrigate the applicant's golf course from existing Well No. 1-G and two existing man-made impoundments. The project well is completed in undifferentiated Precambrian Gneiss. The requested allocation is not an increase from the previous allocation. The project is located in the Commission's designated Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SEPA GWPA) in the Neshaminy Creek Watershed in Middletown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
7. Gilbertsville Golf Club, Inc., D-1999-047-3. An application to renew the approval of an existing groundwater withdrawal of up to 12 mgm to irrigate the applicant's golf course from existing Well Nos. PW-2, PW-9 and PW-13. The project wells are completed in the Brunswick Formation. The requested allocation is not an increase from the previous allocation. The project is located in the Commission's designated Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SEPA GWPA) in the Minister Creek Watershed in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
8. Warminster Municipal Authority, D-2000-019 CP-3. An application to renew the approval of an existing groundwater withdrawal of up to 125 mgm to supply the applicant's public water supply distribution system from seventeen (17) existing wells. The project wells are completed in the Stockton Formation. Well Nos. 4, 36, 39 and NATC-10 will be removed from the docket because they are no longer part of the public water distribution system. The requested system allocation is not an increase from the previous allocation. The project is located in the Commission's designated Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SEPA GWPA) in the Little Neshaminy Creek and Pennypack Creek Watersheds in Warminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
9. Skytop Lodge Corporation, D-2006-013-4. An application to renew the approval of the existing 0.075 mgd Skytop Lodge WWTP and its discharge. No modifications to the WWTP are proposed. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Leavitt Branch, which is a tributary of Brodhead Creek, at River Mile 213 - 21.2 - 3.8 (Delaware River - Brodhead Creek - Leavitt Branch), within the drainage area of the section of the main stem Delaware River known as the Middle Delaware, which the Commission has classified as Special Protection Waters, in Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.
10. East Stroudsburg Borough, D-2007-039 CP-4. An application to renew the approval of the applicant's 2.1 mgd water filtration plant (WFP) and its discharge of up to 0.09 mgd of filter backwash. The WFP will continue to discharge to Sambo Creek, which is a tributary of Brodhead Creek, at River Mile 213.5 - 5.2 - 3.5 (Delaware River - Brodhead Creek - Sambo Creek). The project discharge is located within the drainage area of the non-tidal Delaware River known as the Middle Delaware, which is classified as Special Protection Waters, in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

11. Blue Mountain View Estates, LLC, D-2012-014 CP-3. An application to renew the approval of the applicant's existing 0.026 mgd wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. The WWTP will continue to discharge to the Aquashicola Creek at River Mile 183.66 - 36.32 - 8.25 (Delaware River - Lehigh River - Aquashicola Creek), within the drainage area to the section of the non-tidal Delaware River known as the Lower Delaware, which is designated as Special Protection Waters, in Lower Towamensing Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania.
12. Covanta Plymouth Renewable Energy LP, D-2012-016 CP-2. An application to renew the approval of Covanta Plymouth Renewable Energy, LP's Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (MCRRF), which derives energy from waste, and the subsidiary water allocation for the facility of up to 22.73 mgm from Aqua Pennsylvania (Aqua PA). The docket holder is not requesting an increase in subsidiary water allocation from that contained in its prior approval. The water is used for industrial processes, fire suppression and primarily industrial cooling purposes associated with power generation. The MCRRF is located in Conshohocken Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

B. Renewals with Substantive Changes (Items 13 through 15).

13. Town of Fallsburg, D-1990-105 CP-5. An application to approve a withdrawal of up to 14.73 million gallons per month (mgm) of groundwater from new well Fallsburg No. 8 and up to 3.67 mgm of groundwater from new well Hurleyville No. 2R for use in the applicant's existing public water supply system and to increase the total groundwater allocation from 143.94 mgm to 151.46 mgm from the new wells and 15 other existing wells. With the exception of two wells which are bedrock wells completed in the Walton Formation, the new and existing project wells are screened in unconsolidated sand and gravel deposits in the Sheldrake Stream, Neversink River and Mongaup River watersheds, within the drainage areas of the section of the main stem Delaware River known as the Middle and Upper Delaware, which the Commission has classified as Special Protection Waters, in the Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan County, New York.
14. Upper Saucon Township, D-2000-051 CP-4. An application to renew the approval of an existing groundwater withdrawal with an increase in system allocation from 33.232 mgm to 41.07 mgm to supply the applicant's public water supply distribution system from existing Wells CC-1, CC-2, Gun Club Well and Zinc Mine Well. The project wells are completed in the Quartz Fanglomerate and Beekmantown Formations. The project is located in the Laurel Run and Saucon Creek Watersheds in Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania within the drainage area of the section of the main stem Delaware River known as the Lower Delaware, which is classified as Special Protection Waters.
15. Audubon Water Company, D-2004-004 CP-4. An application to renew the approval of an existing groundwater withdrawal of up to 51.42 mgm to supply the applicant's public water supply distribution system from twenty (20) existing wells and new Well AWC-16. The project wells are completed in the Stockton Formation, except for Well AWC-15 which is completed in the Lockatong Formation. The requested system allocation is not an increase from the previous allocation. The project is located in the Commission's designated Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SEPA GWPA) in the Perkiomen Creek and

Schuylkill River Watersheds in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

C. Projects Not Previously Reviewed by the Commission (Items 16 and 17).

16. Barton Court MHP, D-2017-006-1. An application to approve the existing 0.0117 mgd Barton Court Mobile Home Park WWTP. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Pocono Creek, at River Mile 213 - 4.0 - 0.82 - 8.1 - 1.0 (Delaware River - Broadhead Creek - McMichael Creek - Pocono Creek - UNT Pocono Creek) in the drainage area of the section of the non-tidal Delaware River known as the Middle Delaware, which the Commission has classified as Special Protection Waters, in Pocono Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

17. Diamond State Port Corporation, D-2020-003 CP-1. An application for a dredging project at the Diamond State Port Corporation's proposed Edgemoor Expansion of the Port of Wilmington. The proposed container port and associated dredging is to be located at River Mile 73.2 in Water Quality Zone 5 of the Delaware River in the Edgemoor Area of New Castle County, Delaware. The new project consists of the construction of a pile supported wharf with berthing for large container ships, which will include the dredging of approximately 3.3 million cubic yards of river sediments and underlying soils from the Delaware River to a depth of 45 feet below mean lower low water (MLLW) elevation.

ATTACHMENT B

Vision, Mission and Values

VISION: *The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) provides trusted, effective, and coordinated management of our Basin's shared water resources.*

The vision of the Delaware River Basin Commission is built upon the Compact signed in 1961 by the states of Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the federal government. The vision as set forth in the Delaware River Basin Compact is for, "the conservation, utilization, development, management and control of water and related resources of the Delaware River Basin under a comprehensive multipurpose plan [to] bring the greatest benefits and produce the most efficient service in the public welfare."

MISSION: *Managing, protecting, and improving the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.*

The DRBC will "develop and effectuate plans, policies and projects relating to the water resources of the Basin" through:

- Watershed-based planning and management
- Effective, efficient, and coordinated regulatory programs
- Policies and practices informed by science
- Collaboration with and among our state and federal signatory partners
- Adaptive and innovative water resource management
- Public education and outreach
- Public and stakeholder input
- Application of equitable practices and promotion of just outcomes
- Dedicated and engaged staff in a high performing workplace

To accomplish this mission, the Commission will continue to lead and collaborate with the signatory parties to: protect and improve water quality; manage river flows to meet diverse and at times conflicting Basin needs; reduce damage caused by floods; provide for the reasonable and sustainable development and use of surface and ground water; and promote water conservation and efficiency.

VALUES: The DRBC will be guided in its mission by the following core values:

- Service: to the public, the regulated community and our DRBC colleagues.
- Respect: for each other, the public and the Basin's water resources.
- Professionalism: defined by high ethical standards, integrity, continuous improvement, and accountability.
- Diversity and inclusion: promoted both as an employer and as a public agency.