



## Delaware River Basin Commission

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Executive Director

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## Advisory Committee on Climate Change

*Virtually via Zoom*

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### **MEETING ATTENDEES (59)**

#### **Members and Alternates (13):**

##### Reserved:

*Delaware* – Robert Scarborough, Ph.D.; Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental

Control

*New Jersey* – Nicholas A. Procopio, Ph.D., GISP; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

*New York* – Mark Lowery; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

*United States Government* – Amanda L. Babson, Ph.D.; National Park Service

*New York City* – Alan Cohn, New York City Department of Environmental Protection

*City of Philadelphia* – Julia Rockwell, Philadelphia Water Department

*Partnership for the Delaware Estuary* – Martha Maxwell-Doyle

*Pennsylvania* – James Horton; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

##### Non-Reserved:

Marjorie B. Kaplan, Dr.P.H.; Rutgers Climate and Energy Institute, Rutgers University

Christopher Linn, AICP; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Howard Neukrug, P.E.; The Water Center at Penn, University of Pennsylvania

John Callahan, Ph.D.; Climate Scientist, Ocean Associates, NOAA National Ocean Service

David Velinsky; Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Drexel University

##### Not present:

William Brady III, P.E.; CCS Strategies LLC

Arthur DeGaetano, Ph.D.; United States Government, NOAA Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University

**DRBC Staff (21):**

Amanda Khalil, Amber Munchback, Amy Shallcross, Avery Letini, Beth Brown, Kate Schmidt, Chad Pindar, Chris McCann, Elba Deck, Eric Engle, Fanghui Chen, Jake Bransky, Joseph Fogarty, Kate Schmidt, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Li Zheng, Matthew Amato, Pamela Bush, Patti Hausler, Sara Sayed and Thomas Amidon.

**Other Attendees (25):**

Anish Mahat (CDM Smith), Anneke van Rossum (DRN), Arlene McCoy (MCR), Barbara Arrindell (DCS), Brenan Tarrier (NYDEC), Brent Gotsch (NYCDEP), Carl DuPoldt (Green Building Solutions and Supplies, LLC), Carol Collier (ANSDU), Eileen Althouse (CDM Smith), Gillen Curren (GHD), Heidi Yeh (Pinelands Alliance), Hoss Liaghat (PADEP), Karen Feridun, Karen Igou (Green Building United), Kent Barr (NJDEP), Kinman Leung (PWD), Leigh Altadonna (citizen), Leo Matteo Bachinger (NYDEC), Maggie Reilly (Aqua PA), Megan Dennis (PAACEWEB), Michael Dillon (Manko Gold), Paul DiRenzo, Renee Reber (NPCA), Skelly Holmbeck (WRADRB) and Tom Gilbert (PECPA)

Reference acronyms: Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel U. (ANSDU), Aqua America (Aqua), Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLC (MGKF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PECPA), Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Prior to the Call to Order, A. Shallcross read an opening statement on the purpose of advisory committees and the meeting format/housekeeping.

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm by H. Neukrug and held virtually via Zoom webinar and its call-in capabilities.

**Member Roll Call:**

Attendance was taken by A. Shallcross. Thirteen (13) members present. All committee members (and members of the public) who attended did so virtually.

**Approve Meeting Summary:**

The 9/11/24 meeting summary was unanimously approved. No discussion. Motion to approve was made

by M. Kaplan and seconded by M. Doyle.

## **DRBC Announcements:**

E. Brown made the following DRBC announcements:

1. DRBC is one of the sponsors for the PDE Science summit.
2. The ACCC currently has three openings on the committee for non-reserved members, and applications will be accepted through January 21, 2025. See website for more details on who can apply and how to apply. [https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/ACCC\\_index.html](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/ACCC_index.html)
3. 4Q Business meeting: 2 resolutions were passed for the current dry conditions in the DRB.

## **Presentations:**

“Hydrologic Conditions Report” by Amy Shallcross, DRBC

See DRBC [website](#) for presentation.

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/HydrologicConditions\\_ShallcrossDRBC.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/HydrologicConditions_ShallcrossDRBC.pdf)

“Update to DRBC’s CRP draft framework and Engagement Plan” by Joseph Fogarty and Chris McCann, DRBC

J. Fogarty and C. McCann provided an update to ACCC on the work the climate resilience team is doing in developing its multi-phase Climate Resilience draft framework and engagement plan. The presentation can be found [here](#) on the DRBC website.

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/DRBC\\_ClimateResiliencePlan\\_DRBC.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/DRBC_ClimateResiliencePlan_DRBC.pdf)

C. Linn advised DRBC that DRBC’s role and responsibilities should be very clear in the comment card to help filter comments received in the Phase 1 Input Questions. C. McCann responded that this comment will be considered and that the team wanted to make the questions accessible to the public. M. Kaplan agrees with C. Linn, suggests phrasing on DRBC website be included on comment card and offered to host a listening session at Rutgers for DRBC.

J. Horton echoed M. Kaplan’s comment and advised being very clear about the conditions of the request for public comment and thinking about DRBC’s jurisdiction.

“2024 New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan” by Kent Barr, NJDEP

This presentation provided a summary of climate change considerations that are included in NJ’s 2024 Water Supply plan. See DRBC [website](#) for presentation.

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/NJWaterSupplyPlan\\_BarrNJDEP.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/NJWaterSupplyPlan_BarrNJDEP.pdf)

NJ Water Supply Climate Change potential actions to include (1) Monitoring, (2) Research, (3) Modeling,

(4) Implementation of policies and (5) Revision of water supply plan as necessary. The water supply plan concludes that under normal conditions NJ has adequate volumes of source water supply and is in a position to address water supply challenges as long as the state continues to mitigate threats of (1) climate change, (2) aging infrastructure and (3) emerging contaminants.

H. Neukrug asked how easy is to extract information from NJ water supply on a watershed basis like the DRB? K. Barr responded that the analysis is generally set up to be broken down to the HUC 11 basis.

D. Valinsky asked how often will the forecasts be updated? K. Barr responded that NJ is committed to try to get better forecasts in modeling as data becomes available, but no specific timeline.

B. Arrindell asked about aquifer availability related to groundwater recharge, how is it monitored and is it a considered in DRBC dockets – how is this monitored? K. Barr responded that the water availability assessment is done on various levels that considers various impacts, but that this is done on the planning side.

#### “Pennsylvania Water Resources and Climate Change” by James Horton, PADEP

This presentation provided a summary of climate change considerations that are included in PA’s 2023 State Water Plan. See DRBC [website](#) for presentation.

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/PAWaterResources\\_ClimateChange\\_Horton\\_PADEP.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ACCC/121724/PAWaterResources_ClimateChange_Horton_PADEP.pdf)

Recommendations within the State Water Plan were tied to objectives in PA’s Climate Action Plan. Climate considerations within the plan were developed on a regional scale with a focus on large population centers, but specific to the DRB there are 3 hazards identified in the State Water Plan. They are (1) Risk of Drought, (2) Aquifer recharge, (3) Flooding and (4) Saltwater Intrusion. It was also recommended that ACCC assist with research, updating scenarios and crafting tools.

H. Neukrug – Is there a capacity at PADEP to work specifically within the DRB region regarding water resources? J. Horton responded that DEP currently has a coastal section, but otherwise not too much capacity for that currently.

#### **Member Roundtable Updates:**

D. Velinsky – Funding from NOAA to work with community groups in New Castle, DE & Germantown, PA to address Climate Equity issues, funding from William Penn Foundation to develop a climate resilience plan with Germantown PA; and NFWF funding for macroinvertebrate research in the headwaters of Delaware.

R. Scarborough – Delaware is updating their Climate Action Plan, and sea level analysis; results expected to be shared in 6 months.

M. Doyle – Early bird registration open for PDE science summit; CCMP to be updated next year to incorporate work being done by the ACCC.

H. Neukrug – Michael Mann appointed Vice President at UPENN and organizing climate related actions at UPENN.

J. Rockwell – Clarified that PWD water supply was not impacted by recent dry period.

A. Cohn – NYC lifted drought warning yesterday, 12/16, back in drought watch; suggested using ACCC as a forum to share water conservation practices even when NYC is out of drought.

A. DeGaetano – NOAA expanding drought planning efforts to the mid-Atlantic including the drought warning system.

**Public Remarks:**

None

**Additional Links Shared in Chat:**

To sign up to receive via email periodic DRBC-related information and updates on one or more interest areas: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/contact/interest/>. And all advisory committee openings can be found online: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/committee-openings.html>.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by H. Neukrug at approximately 3:14 pm.

Approved 08/27/2025