

## **Delaware River Basin Commission**

### **Meeting of the MACC**

November 30, 2016

### **Meeting Highlights**

The Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC) met to review recently completed, ongoing and near future monitoring, discuss data sharing, and find opportunities to collaborate.

#### **Action Items:**

- Follow-up on chloride/conductivity data exchange with basin states
- DRBC and USGS coordination on nutrient data in Delaware River at Trenton, NJ

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **DRBC**

- DRBC staff (Yagecic, Panuccio, Limbeck, Silldorff and MacGillivray) presented multiple monitoring projects including Estuary tributary nutrients, PCB sediment and tributaries, Boat Run Radiochemistry, Existing Water Quality Measurable Change Assessment and WQ Atlas, SRMP Shiny App, Nutrient Estuary Point Discharge Monitoring and Emerging Contaminants.

##### **Delaware Estuary Program Updates**

- Angela Padeletti (PDE) discussed wetland monitoring, freshwater mussel surveys, and mussel culturing work in the Delaware Estuary.

##### **New Jersey**

- Vic Poretti and Eric Ernst discussed NJ freshwater and marine monitoring programs including development of a NJ-centric coastal macroinvertebrate index, new biomonitoring index for headwater streams, cyanobacteria response strategy, and a road salt pilot study. Mr. Ernst mentioned that NJ is performing routine vibrio testing in shellfish, phytoplankton monitoring in the Delaware Estuary 10 times per year up to Salem, and fish tissue sampling for PCBs, pesticides, and metals.

##### **Pennsylvania**

- Alan Everett discussed PA monitoring programs including biomonitoring methods for semi-wadable rivers including macroinvertebrates and periphyton and fish indices, regional Instream Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE) protocols for macroinvertebrates, and upstream and downstream sonde monitoring of two NPDES outfalls. Mr. Everett discussed cyano-blooms that occurred in Magnolia Lake and Van Sciver Lake.

##### **Delaware**

- David Wolanski discussed continuation of WATAR monitoring program and development of new Bioaccumulation Factors (BAFs).

##### **EPA**

- Kristin Regan of Region 3 described an upcoming 3-year hydro-acoustic survey for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Delaware Estuary with dive unit ground truthing. EPA hopes to overlay WQ and Benthic data from previous efforts.
- John Kushwara of Region 2 indicated that under EPA's National Aquatic Resource Survey program, wetlands are being assessed in 2016, and lakes will be assessed in 2017. EPA Region 2 is cooperating with NJDEP on a project in Dunnefield Creek involving macroinvertebrates and temperature.

**FWS & Fisheries Coop**

- Sheila Eyler discussed shad seining surveys performed on the Delaware River. Results from recent years appear to be stable.

**NOAA**

- Darren Wright described the status of salinity monitor installation to existing NOAA-PORTS stations in Delaware Bay at Cape May, Lewes, and Chesapeake City. Mr. Wright also described challenges regarding access to the Brandywine Shoal monitoring site.

**Academy of Natural Sciences and DRWI Project**

- Stef Kroll discussed monitoring under the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) including monitoring by the Academy of Natural Sciences (ANS), Stroud, and cluster partners. Data will be uploaded to an ArcGIS webpage by the end of 2016.

**Philadelphia Water Department**

- Josef Kardos indicated that an addendum to PWD's water quality modeling has been posted on their web site. PWD is supporting additional monitoring including addition of Chlorophyll-a meters at the Delaware River at Trenton and at Chester and River Mile 93. In addition, PWD's boat-based sampling includes taxonomy of phytoplankton at 3 of 7 stations (Baxter, Ben Franklin, and Marcus Hook).

**US Geological Survey**

- Tom Imbrigiotta and Heather Heckathorn discussed ongoing routine and real-time monitoring at the Delaware at Trenton and at Frenchtown including total Chlorophyll-a and blue-green algae, as well as the possibility of taking on the QA for 3 monitors installed for NPS. Heather also indicated that USGS monitors nutrients at Delaware River at Trenton (Calhoun St. Bridge) for 18 times a year through NAQWA program and suggested a coordination between the DRBC's 2017 bi-weekly nutrient monitoring and NAQWA.

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State Representatives: **NJ** – Vic Poretti, Eric Ernst (phone), **PA** – Alan Everett  
**DE** – David Wolanski, **NY** – absent