RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 8

A RESOLUTION establishing the **Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC)** and providing for its purpose, membership, and initial charge.

WHEREAS, Section 3.10 of the Delaware River Compact states that the Commission "may constitute and empower advisory committees, which may be comprised of representatives of the public and of federal, state, county and municipal governments, water resources agencies, water-using industries, and water-interest groups"; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission currently has six standing advisory committees: the Flood Advisory Committee, Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee, Regulated Flow Advisory Committee, Toxics Advisory Committee, Water Management Advisory Committee, and Water Quality Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's advisory committees are important forums for information-sharing, dialogue, and coordination among stakeholders and member state agencies, and as generators of recommendations for the Commission's consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Third National Climate Assessment[1] summarized climate change impacts on the water cycle as follows:

> *Water cycles constantly from the atmosphere to the land and the oceans (through precipitation and runoff) and back to the atmosphere (through evaporation and the release of water from plant leaves), setting the stage for all life to exist. The water cycle is dynamic and naturally variable, and societies and ecosystems are accustomed to functioning within this variability. However, climate change is altering the water cycle in multiple ways over different time scales and geographic areas, presenting unfamiliar risks and opportunities.*[2]

WHEREAS, in both its *2019 State of the Basin Report* and DRBC- authored sections of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's *2019 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Delaware River Estuary,* the Commission has recognized potentially significant impacts and threats to the Basin's water resources posed by climate change; and

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[1] The Third National Climate Assessment was a three-year analytical effort by a team of over 300 experts, overseen by a broadly constituted Federal Advisory Committee of 60 members. The group's 2014 report was subjected to extensive review by the public and by scientific experts in and out of government, including a special panel of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. *See* the full report at: https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/sectors/water

[2] Melillo, Jerry M., Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and Gary W. Yohe, Eds., 2014: Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 841 pp. doi:10.7930/J0Z31WJ2. Page 71.

WHEREAS, evaluations and projects conducted and being conducted by the Commission,[3] United States Army Corps of Engineers,[4] United States Geological Survey[5] and others have shown the potential for changes in the seasonality and volume of streamflows, as well as the potential for sea level rise to impact the location of the salt front and the availability of storage to manage salinity in the Delaware River Estuary;

WHEREAS, an Advisory Committee on Climate Change will provide the Commission and the Delaware River Basin community with vital expertise, information, and advice as we endeavor to maintain and improve streamflows, water quality, habitat, wetlands, and watersheds in the face of changing hydrologic conditions and sea level rise; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware River Basin Commission:

1. Term. The Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC) is hereby authorized for a period of ten years. This authorization will expire on ten years from the effective date of the Resolution unless it is renewed or extended prior thereto.

2. Composition. The ACCC shall be comprised of as many as 18 members, as follows:

    a. Up to nine (9) members (all "Reserved Members") shall be individuals who possess relevant expertise and are appointed by (i) the DRBC Commissioners or their Alternates to represent the states of Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States Government (up to 2 members); and (ii) the Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Water Supply, New York City Department of Environmental Protection for the City of New York; (iii) the Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department for the City of Philadelphia; and (iv) the Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary for that organization. Appointments of Reserved Members shall be of no prescribed duration.

    b. Up to nine (9) members (all "Non-Reserved Members") shall be individuals with relevant expertise who are appointed as follows:

        i. Nominations shall be solicited from among the following stakeholder categories:

            1. academic or research institutions;
            2. environmental or watershed organizations;
            3. businesses or industries; and
            4. water or wastewater utilities.

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[3] Shallcross, Amy. (2017). Analyzing Climate Change Impacts to Water Resources in the Delaware River Basin - Big Picture Risks. https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/Shallcross_climate-change-wrm_WRADRBnov2018.pdf

[4] Johnson, Billy H., (2010). Report prepared for: U.S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia: Application of The Delaware Bay and River 3d Hydrodynamic Model to Assess the Impact of Sea Level Rise on Salinity. Available from U.S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia or Delaware River Basin Commission.

[5] Williamson, T.N., Lant, J.G., Claggett, P.R., Nystrom, E.A., Milly, P.C.D., Nelson, H.L., Hoffman, S.A., Colarullo, S.J., and Fischer, J.M., 2015, Summary of hydrologic modeling for the Delaware River Basin using the Water Availability Tool for Environmental Resources (WATER): U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2015–5143, 68 p., http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/sir20155143.

ii. The Executive Director shall make appointments based on review of the nominees' qualifications in accordance with the Commission's procedure established by Resolution for the Minutes on March 16, 2016 for the appointment of members to DRBC advisory committees.

iii. In the appointment of members, preference shall be given to individuals actively working on climate change impacts, preferably in the Delaware River Basin. The Executive Director at his or her discretion may appoint more than one member from any of the stakeholder categories listed above, and not all categories must be represented at all times.

iv. Non-Reserved Members shall be appointed for terms of up to two (2) years and may be re-appointed through the process outlined above.

v. Each member may have an alternate. Alternate members must be approved by the Executive Director and may vote, provided that the member whom the alternate represents has furnished the committee's chair with a written authorization.

vi. A chair and a vice chair will be elected by the members. The term of the chair and vice chair shall be for one year; however, they both may be re-elected.

3. Purpose.

a. The objectives of the ACCC shall be to provide the Commission with scientifically based information and recommendations for identifying and prioritizing:

i. threats and vulnerabilities affecting the Basin's water resources due to climate change and accompanying sea level rise;

ii. science-based future climate scenarios for Basin water resource planning;

iii. water resources planning, monitoring, research and regulations that will support mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency to climate change in the Delaware River Basin.

b. The ACCC may be invited or may propose to coordinate with and support other Commission advisory committees as appropriate.

c. The ACCC may serve as the coordinating body for climate-related Basin water resource and watershed studies.

d. The ACCC may recommend the formation of sub-committees or other committee substructures (task forces, ad-hoc committees, etc.) to address specific needs requiring specialized expertise. Any formal sub-committees must be established by an action of the Commission.

e. With the prior approval of the Executive Director, the ACCC may coordinate efforts to obtain grants and other funding to support research, studies and monitoring focused on the Delaware River Basin as they relate to climate change.

4. Charge.

   a. The Committee's initial charge will be to:

      i. Provide input to inform DRBC's ongoing 2060 Water Resources Planning Study and related models that have climate-dependent inputs.

      ii. Develop science-based future scenarios for the Delaware River Basin as they relate to climate change.

      iii. Define the scope and support the development of a comprehensive Basin-wide climate impact study to be undertaken collaboratively by DRBC and other Basin partners. This study may be performed in phases and should address climate-related threats and influences potentially affecting the Basin's water supply, water quality and watersheds.

      iv. Support an effort to fund or resource a Delaware River Basin comprehensive climate impact study.

      v. Work with DRBC staff and partners to organize a Delaware River Basin Climate Forum (i.e., technical conference) and provide the Commission with a recommendation regarding the frequency of such events for sharing climate science focused on the Delaware River Basin.

   b. The ACCC in consultation with the DRBC staff and Commissioners may modify this charge as they collectively deem appropriate within the scope of the Purpose described in Paragraph 3.

5. Recommendations. The ACCC shall submit its recommendations to the Commission. Any such recommendations involving Commission action shall be limited to actions within the Commission's authority and jurisdiction.

6. Consistency with other Rules and Procedures. The ACCC and all sub-committees shall be mindful of existing Commission regulations and shall follow the procedures set forth in the Resolution for the Minutes dated March 16, 2016.

7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

/s/ Kenneth Kosinski
Kenneth Kosinski, Chairman *pro tem*

/s/ Pamela M. Bush
Pamela M. Bush, J.D., M.R.P., Commission Secretary

ADOPTED: December 11, 2019