

RESOLUTION FOR THE MINUTES

A RESOLUTION for the Minutes honoring Pamela M. Bush for her outstanding contributions to the Delaware River Basin Commission (“DRBC” or “Commission”) over the past 27 years.

WHEREAS, since Pam joined the Commission as Assistant General Counsel and Commission Secretary in 1999, her extraordinary leadership and legal guidance consistently enabled the Commission to better manage, protect and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin (“Basin”); and

WHEREAS, Pam has the unique ability to take the most technical water-related subjects and work seamlessly with DRBC’s engineers, planners, and scientists to translate their work into DRBC’s Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, during her impressive tenure as Assistant General Counsel and Commission Secretary, Pam expertly drafted DRBC regulations, oversaw numerous Commission rulemakings (both mundane and exceptional), managed (and managed to avoid) litigation involving the Commission, supervised countless responses to record requests, participated in hundreds of Commission meetings, drafted innumerable Commission resolutions, authored significant legal opinions, drafted and reviewed dozens of contracts and requests for proposals, trained future Commission legal staff, and greatly improved the writing and written work of Commission staff for almost three decades; and

WHEREAS, throughout her 27 years with DRBC, Pam consistently provided thoughtful legal counsel to dozens of Commissioners and alternate Commissioners, three DRBC Executive Directors, and numerous Commission staff; and

WHEREAS, Pam advised the Commissioners and staff regarding issuance of a controversial docket, vigorously and successfully defended the Commission’s initial decision in an eight-day administrative hearing, and assisted the Commission in defending two federal court appeals, one of which remains pending; and

WHEREAS, the Commission achieved numerous significant accomplishments under Pam’s leadership and guidance including, but by no means limited to:

- Development and implementation of a program to reduce loadings of polychlorinated biphenyls (“PCBs”) to the Delaware Estuary through tailored pollutant minimization plans (“PMPs”). The use of PMPs reduced PCBs in the Estuary and Bay by up to 76 percent and resulted in the withdrawal of fish consumption advisories issued by New Jersey and Delaware;
- Amendment of the Commission’s Special Protection Waters regulations to expand coverage to the entire 197-mile non-tidal Delaware River from Hancock, New York, to Trenton, New Jersey;
- Proposal, development, approval, and defense of the regulations prohibiting water-based high volume hydraulic fracturing (“HVHF”) in the Basin and the related regulations prohibiting the discharge of HVHF wastewater into the Basin;
- Development and implementation of a study to explore the feasibility of additional freshwater storage to meet future water availability, drought management, and flow management needs in the Basin;

- In partnership with co-regulators, management of a multi-year effort to study dissolved oxygen criteria that included monitoring, research, technical study, modeling and engineering analyses.;
- Development of the “One Process, One Permit” regulatory program that provided for a more efficient and coordinated review under Section 3.8 of the Compact;
- Revision and promulgation of DRBC’s current policy and process for both public access to records and certificates of entitlement;
- Conception and development in 2016 and 2024 of a drought management “Special Permit” consistent with the Compact and the 1954 Supreme Court Decree;
- Participation as a non-federal co-sponsor of the F.E. Walter Dam Re-Evaluation Study;
- Transition from participation in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan to participation in the Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, although Pam’s name might not have appeared as the author on most Commission work products, there is no question Pam either reviewed, edited, or wrote the majority of them—with her typical precision, care, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Pam was honored by the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin with a Special Recognition Award for her significant contributions to public policy, her wise and judicious counsel, and her commitment to fostering connections between people and the environment; and

WHEREAS, throughout Pam’s career, she contributed her legal expertise to a variety of organizations within the environmental and water resource management communities, including the Governance Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy and Resources; the Board of the Interstate Council on Water Policy; as the President of the Delaware River Greenway Partnership; and as a member of the Wilson Center’s Water Energy Team, which met with Chinese officials, educators and NGOs to explore constraints on energy production imposed by water availability in both the U.S. and China; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and entire Basin community have benefited from Pam’s unwavering leadership, expertise, sound judgment, integrity, and commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, Pamela M. Bush will officially retire from DRBC on October 31, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DRBC Commissioners and staff extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Pamela M. Bush for her 27 years of dedicated service to the Basin community and to DRBC. We will miss Pam’s friendship, good humor, wise counsel and red pen, and we wish Pam good health and much happiness (and a never-ending supply of dark chocolate) as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement.

BY THE COMMISSION

ADOPTED: September 2, 2026