

---

**Water Management Advisory Committee**

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, February 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Preston Luitweiler, Committee Chair. Information pertaining to the WMAC, including member listing and past meeting materials, is available at [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WMAC\\_index.html](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WMAC_index.html)

**ADMINISTRATION**

- The highlights of the October 16, 2018 meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage.
- Membership: Carolyn Olynyk (NJDEP) is retiring. James MacDonald will be replacing Carolyn as the New Jersey representative. We have received letters of interest from Preston Luitweiler (WRA) and Jan Bowers (Chester County Water Resources Authority) for reappointment to the WMAC as the Water Resources Association and County Water Authority representatives, respectively, as their terms expire June 30, 2019. The listings for these two positions on the WMAC close on March 1. Please see the DRBC website (<http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/committee-openings.html>) for more information.
- WMAC meeting schedule for remainder of 2019: June 20 and October 22.

**HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS REPORT**

Amy Shallcross, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Operations, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. Precipitation totals for 2018 ranged 15-20 inches higher than average at Montague, Trenton and Wilmington. Year-to-date, the basin has experienced higher amounts of precipitation compared to the average the same time of year. In 2018, streamflow at the Schuylkill gage was the highest average flow since 1965. Streamflow at the USGS gages in the DRB indicate flows are mostly normal or above normal, with one location below normal in the Upper Basin. The combined New York City reservoir storage is 99% of usable capacity and near the long-term median for this time of year. Lower basin storage pools in Beltzville, Blue Marsh, and Merrill Creek reservoirs are at or above 100%. Releases are being made at Blue Marsh to return to winter pool level. Currently, the salt front is at River Mile (RM) 62 compared to a normal location at RM 72 for this time of year. As of January 2019, groundwater levels in the USGS monitoring wells indicate normal or above normal levels. The 3-month outlook from NOAA show that temperatures and precipitation are predicted to be normal in the Delaware River Basin region.

Ms. Shallcross's presentation can be viewed at

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02212019/shallcross\\_hydrologic-conditions.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02212019/shallcross_hydrologic-conditions.pdf). Weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/hydrological/reports/>.

## **DRBC UPDATES**

Chad Pindar, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Planning, provided an update on DRBC activities, upcoming advisory committee meetings, Commission actions, and other items of interest, among them:

- At the February 13 public hearing, the Commissioners were presented with 26 Dockets and 3 resolutions. The resolutions are: to adopt the Water Resources Program for Fiscal Years 2019-2021; to continue the Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee (MACC); and to continue the Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC). Public testimony included comments on the WRP, MACC, and WQAC.
- At the next Commission Business Meeting on March 13, the Commissioners may consider action on the 26 Dockets and 3 Resolutions.
- Upcoming DRBC Advisory Committee meetings include: WQAC on March 20; WMAC on June 20. RFAC scheduled for February 20 was cancelled and has not been rescheduled.
- Water Audit Training: DRBC/PADEP Water Audit Trainings (3-part series) held at Bucks County Community College were wrapped in November 2018. Ken Najjar presented an update on the Water Audit Program to NJ SWDA on February 7.
- Conferences
  - PDE Estuary Science Conference (Cape May, NJ Jan 28-30) – Commission staff presented.
  - DELEP CCMP & Mussel Program Press Event Feb 19
  - PDE Mussel Hatchery Celebration Mar 21, 2019
- Chad announced DRBC staffing changes:
  - Retirements: Greg Cavallo and Joe Sosi retired; Ken Najjar will be retiring April 1.
  - Gail Blum has left Water Resource Operations
  - New hires: Michael Thompson and Evan Kwityn have joined the Water Resource Planning group; Tom Amidon is the new Manager of Water Resource Modeling

Recent Commission Meeting materials can be accessed at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/archive/recent-drbc-mtg.html>.

## **WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM**

Chad Pindar gave an overview of DRBC's Water Resources Program (WRP) for FY 2019-2021 (Resolution will be presented for Commission action at the next Business Meeting). The WRP establishes the DRBC plan for management of the water resources in the basin for the next 3 years. New this year to the WRP include: Vision, Mission, and Values statement and Population Served analysis. Public comment period for the WRP ended on February 19. DRBC received some comments on the WRP at the Public Hearing on February 13.

A discussion among the WMAC members ensued related to the WRP.

- Water use projections for 2060 – DRBC is currently focusing in on projections for the public water supply sector, and will follow with projections for the thermoelectric, industrial, and agricultural sectors. DRBC will compare water use projections to available water supply under Drought of Record conditions.

- Dan Goode asked how climate change is incorporated into the projections and how are we doing available water?
- Dana Olivio - How do we determine if there is enough water?
  - Chad responded that for surface water withdrawals, DRBC is determining if there enough water at the intake location to satisfy demand. Groundwater withdrawals will be done comparing use to annual recurrence intervals provided by the USGS.
- Mary Ellen Noble asked what are our sources for future climate projections? John Yagecic responded that DRBC is using USGS's model WATER for regional climate predictions and the latest version of the IPCC output.
- Jan Bowers initiated a discussion on WMAC's role in the WRP. The draft WRP includes the WMAC participating in DRBC's water loss accounting program, evaluation of consumptive use policy, groundwater management, supply sufficiency, and ecological flows. The WMAC members suggested that it may be helpful to regularly present information on historic water use trends, current water use, GWPA, and NJ Critical Areas. Jan also mentioned that there is nothing in the draft WRP about groundwater monitoring.
- Preston Luitweiler initiated a discussion on the current regulatory programs for DRBC and the states with regard to groundwater and the pressing needs of the regulatory programs.

The draft WRP is available online at [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WRP2019-2021\\_DRAFT.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WRP2019-2021_DRAFT.pdf).

#### **STATE OF THE BASIN UPDATE**

Chad Pindar, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Planning, presented an update of DRBC's State of the Basin Report. The report is published every 5 years, as required by Resolution 2004-BP. The report includes indicators related to the following topics: Watersheds and Landscapes, Water Quantity, Water Quality, and Living Resources. The State of the Basin Report is scheduled to be released sometime in the Fall of 2019.

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at [https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02212019/pindar\\_SotBupdate.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02212019/pindar_SotBupdate.pdf).

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

##### **Updates by WMAC Members**

- Jan Bowers (CCWRA) - requested commission staff to start future meetings with WMAC items included in the WRP (water loss accounting; groundwater management and supply; ecological flows; consumptive use policy) and to review how WMAC can help with these topics.
- James MacDonald (NJDEP) discussed New Jersey's Critical Area 2. The threatened zone is a 3-mile buffer around the depleted zone. The CA2 program has been successful – water levels have come up. NJ has been transferring allocations in CA2 and has not been granting new allocations.

James also mentioned that NJ's Water Supply Plan 2017-2022 (<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/wsp.html>) includes water usage data.

- Eric Vowinkle (Rutgers, formerly with USGS) mentioned that Rutgers has developed a groundwater flow model for the Salem/Maurice/Cohansey watersheds. Eric is interested in looking at land use and water quality and impacts to the Delaware Bay.
- Dan Goode discussed groundwater availability and the USGS report for the DRB. He raised the issue that the Little Lehigh (PA) was outside of the critical area and that DRBC may want to revisit the delineation of the critical area.
- Preston Luitweiler (WRA)
  - Water quality related – DO & nutrient requirements for anadromous fish passage; WRA members are interested in this; what extent can WMAC get info from WQAC? If no overlap between the 2 committees, can WMAC get feedback about it?
  - PFAs – How they are being address by states in absence of federal regulations; do PFAs have bearing on GWPA?
- Virginia Eisenbrey highlighted Artesian's top priorities:
  - Proper allocation process – DRBC's & DNREC's
  - Drought planning process – not a consistent process throughout the states
  - Water loss – reduce percentages

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am by Chair Preston Luitweiler.

<b>WMAC Meeting Attendance – February 21, 2019</b>			
<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Delaware	Steven Smailer Bill Cocke (A) Allison Diggins	DE DNREC	- GoToMeeting -
New Jersey	James MacDonald Jeff Hoffman	NJ DEP NJDEP-NJGS	Present -
New York	Erik Schmitt (A)	NY DEC	-
Pennsylvania	Hoss Liaghiat Dave Gordner (A) Mike Hill	PADEP	GoToMeeting - -
US Army Corps of Engineers	Laura Bittner	Phila. District	-
US Env. Protection Agency	Katie Lynch	Drinking Water Protection	GoToMeeting
US Geological Survey	Dan Goode Curtis Scheffler (A)	Water Science Center	Present -
City of New York	Dana Olivio	NYC DEP	GoToMeeting
City of Philadelphia	Kelly Anderson Hesson, Molly (A)	Phila. Water Dept.	GoToMeeting -
County Water Agency	Jan Bowers	Chester Co. WR Authority	Present
Water Resource Association	Preston Luitweiler (C)	WRA of the DRB	Present
Industry	Jim Mershon	Merrill Creek Owners Group	-
Water Utility	John Thaeder (V) Virginia Eisenbrey (A)	Artesian Water	- Present

Agriculture	Sandra Howland	NJ Dept. of Agriculture	GoToMeeting
Civic	Jill Greene	PA League of Women Voters	-
Environmental Organization	Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	GoToMeeting
Watershed Organization	Golod, Pete	Upper Delaware Council	-
Academia	Jerry Kauffman	University of Delaware	-
Recreation	Ann Pilcher	Pocono Mts. Visitors Bureau	GoToMeeting
Fisheries	Sheila Eyler	US F&W Service	-
<i>(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson</i>			
<b>DRBC STAFF</b>	Byun, SeungAh	WMAC Liaison	
	Kwityn, Evan	Water Resource Planning	
	Pindar, Chad	Water Resource Planning	
	Shallcross, Amy	Water Resource Operations	
	Thompson, Michael	Water Resource Planning	
	Yagecic, John	Water Quality Assessment	
<b>GUESTS</b>	Meg McGuire	Delaware Currents	
	Eric Vowinkle	Rutgers	

Approved: June, 20, 2019