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## Water Management Advisory Committee

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### CALL TO ORDER

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Kathy Thaefer, Committee Chair, and was held with remote attendance only using Zoom and its call-in capabilities. Information pertaining to the WMAC, including member listing and past meeting materials, are 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 21, 2020 meeting were approved and will be posted on the following WMAC webpage. The motion was made by Preston Luitweiler and seconded by Kelly Anderson. Dan Van Abs and Brenan Tarrier abstained.  
(<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/meeting-highlights.pdf>)
- Kathy Thaefer welcomed the following new members:
  - Brenan Tarrier – NYSDEC
  - Brandon Fleming – USGS PA
  - Joe Miri – NJDEP
  - Mark Matlock – PADEP
  - Dan Van Abs – Rutgers
- **Membership:** The WMAC positions for Fisheries, and the Environmental Organization will be expiring on 6/30/2021. Additionally, Jim Mershon retired at the end of calendar year 2020 representing the Industry sector. All three position openings are now advertised at the following location: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/committee-openings.html>

#### 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:

- DRBC held a Special HVHF Meeting on February 25, 2021.
  - [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/about/regulations/final-rule\\_hvhf.html](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/about/regulations/final-rule_hvhf.html)
  - Approved a rule prohibiting high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) in the Basin
  - Commissioners directed the E.D. to propose amendments to update the Commission's rules concerning **importation of wastewater** from outside the basin and **exportation of basin waters** by September 30, 2021
- The DRBC Business Meeting on March 10, 2021 highlights and other Commission Meeting materials can be found at the following link.  
(<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/archive/recent-drbc-mtg.html>)
- DRBC is in contract negotiations with Mott MacDonald for the Storage Study.

- The next DRBC public hearing is scheduled for May 12, 2021, followed by the Business Meeting on June 9, 2021.
- DRBC is operational with staff working remotely. Until further notice DRBC's office building is closed.

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at the following link.

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/pindar\\_updates.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/pindar_updates.pdf)

## PRESENTATIONS

### Hydrologic Conditions

Anthony Preucil, DRBC Water Resource Scientist, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. The presentation is available on the following WMAC webpage:

[https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/preucil\\_hydro-conditions.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/preucil_hydro-conditions.pdf)

- Resources for weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at the following webpage: <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/hydrological/reports/>.
- DRBC's interactive dashboard ([hydrosnap.drbc.net](http://hydrosnap.drbc.net)) also displays a daily-updated snapshot for flow and drought management in the basin.

### Power Sector Water Withdrawal Projections

Michael Thompson (DRBC) updated the Committee on the Power Projections Study being conducted by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The presentation is available on the WMAC webpage:

[https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/thompson\\_DRB\\_PGprojections.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/031621/thompson_DRB_PGprojections.pdf)

Questions that were asked via the "Chat" during the Power Presentation. Responses and discussion occurred verbally.

1. Has generating capacity shifted into the Basin from elsewhere in the PJM system along with increased reliance on natural gas generating capacity?  
*Response: This form of analysis was not considered as part of this study; time-series for neighboring watersheds were not developed for comparison.*
2. How does information on projected wind and solar capacity fit into the overall projections for water use?  
*Response: The projection results will be affected only by shifts in recent water withdrawal data from facilities potentially affected by increased energy generation from wind and solar facilities. Third party projections for wind and solar energy generation can likely be captured with this methodology as time goes on and data begins to reflect actual changes which may occur.*
3. Is the DRB a net importer or exporter of electricity? I understand the increase from 2010-2015 and decrease in 2019 might complicate the question.  
*Response: Energy generation from the DRB feeds into the PJM grid. Once energy is in the grid, it was not in the scope of this study to 'track down' where the energy is ultimately used.*
4. I think the prediction intervals on the PA withdrawal or use projections seemed to widen significantly toward 2060 relative to the other states; what drives that increasing uncertainty relative to other states?  
*Response: The state-wide prediction interval is the summation of 36 projection equations at a system-level (or lower). The individual prediction intervals are calculated as shown on slide 6,*

*and are largely influenced by residual errors, as well as the number and temporal distribution of data points.*

5. You are calling the water use numbers [from hydroelectric facilities] ‘withdrawals’ but aren’t these actually releases from storage into the rivers (except from pumped storage)?

*Response: For the purpose of this study, hydroelectric water uses are considered withdrawals because multiple hydroelectric facilities transport water between the reservoir and the turbines via pipeline (in some cases even miles). The consumptive use of the hydroelectric withdrawals is considered to be zero (and therefore all withdrawal is returned); evaporation from impoundments and leakage is not considered.*

## STATE UPDATES

- Pennsylvania – No Updates
- New Jersey - No Updates
- Delaware – No Updates
- New York – No Updates

## OTHER MEMBER UPDATES

CCWRA – Updating Water Resources Plan ACT 167

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kelly Anderson, and seconded by Dan Van Abs. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am by Kathy Thaefer, Committee Chair.

**Approved:** June 17, 2021

WMAC Meeting Attendance – March 16, 2021			
SECTOR	WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	REPRESENTING	ATTENDANCE
Delaware	Steven Smailer (A) Allison Diggins Patty Murray	DNREC	- - x
New Jersey	James (Andy) MacDonald Joe Miri	NJ DEP	- x
New York	Brenan Tarrier	NY DEC	x
Pennsylvania	Hoss Liaghiat Mark Matlock (A)	PADEP	x x
US Army Corps of Engineers	Laura Bittner Gregory Wacik	Phila. District	- x
US Env. Protection Agency	Katie Lynch	Drinking Water Protection	x
US Geological Survey	Brandon Fleming Curtis Scheffler (A)	Water Science Center	x -
City of New York	Dana Olivio	NYC DEP	x
City of Philadelphia	Kelly Anderson Molly Hesson (A)	Phila. Water Dept.	x -
County Water Agency	Jan Bowers (V) Seung Ah Byun (A)	Chester Co. WR Authority	- x
Water Resource Association	Preston Luitweiler	WRA of the DRB	x
Industry	Jim Mershon	Merrill Creek Owners Group	-
Water Utility	Kathy Thaeber (C) Virginia Eisenbrey (A)	Artesian Water	x -
Agriculture	Sandra Howland	NJ Dept. of Agriculture	-
Civic	Meg Pierce	PA League of Women Voters	-
Environmental Organization	Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	-
Watershed Organization	Laurie Ramie (temp)	Upper Delaware Council	x
Academia	Dan Van Abs	Rutgers University	x
Recreation	Keith Fritschie	Trout Unlimited	x
Fisheries	Sheila Eyler	US F&W Service	-
<i>(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson</i>			
DRBC Staff	Steve Tambini	Executive Director	x
	Kristen B. Kavanagh	Deputy Executive Director	x
	Chad Pindar	Water Resource Planning	x
	Anthony Preucil	Water Resource Operations	x
	Amy Shallcross	Water Resource Operations	x
	Michael Thompson	Water Resource Planning	x
	Evan Kwityn	WMAC Liaison	x
	Namsoo Suk	Director, Science and WQ Mgmt	x
	Kate Schmidt	Communications	x
GUESTS	Alec Bernstein	Sage Services LLC (PWS)	x
	Brian Chalfant	PADEP	x
	Matthew Mercuri	RMS Environmental	x
	Summer Kunkel	PADEP	x
	Meg McGuire	Delaware Currents	x