



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

Water Management Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) chaired by Dana Olivio, NYCDEP, was held at the DRBC offices in West Trenton, New Jersey on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Presentations from the meeting are available online at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/management/index.html>. Participation was also possible via webinar.

ADMINISTRATION

- The meeting summary from February 19, 2015 was approved noting the change in the upcoming meeting date to October 22, 2015.
- Letters have been sent from Executive Director Tambini appointing the non-government members for new (staggered) terms starting July 1, 2015. Determinations will be made regarding appointments to fill recent and pending vacancies for representation for the water utility and agriculture sectors. Reminders will be sent to EPA and Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) for replacement of retiring members.

BACKGROUND & MISSION OF WMAC

Ken Najjar provided a brief overview of DRBC, its advisory committees, the purpose and accomplishments of the WMAC, and plans for engaging the WMAC (water supply planning, water efficiency, groundwater management, etc.). WMAC members asked for more details on WMAC involvement in instream/ecological flows and suggested other topics such as value and pricing of water, conservation, and review of climate change assessments and recommendations.

STATE WATER PROGRAM UPDATES

- NJ: Carolyn Olynyk reported that nearly half of the 400 permits affected by the Permit Extension Act have submitted early applications, helping to avert a potential backlog in 2016; NJGS is reviewing comments from the governor's office on the Water Supply Plan; Fred Sickels and Karl Muessig are retiring this month.
- PA: Dave Jostenski reported that 27 counties are in drought watch; the Safe Drinking Water program is offering free training on water auditing; PADEP is updating PWS manuals and Source Water Protection protocols; and 30 USGS wells are now part of GW quality network. Dave will verify Delaware River Basin (DRB) locations of the USGS wells that are part of the network in PA.
- DE: John Barndt reported that revisions to water well construction regulations are in the comment period and include an effort to test domestic wells. John also reported legislation proposed to extend Water Supply Coordinating Council thru 2022, water use reporting is now online, allocation program is working with farms and golf courses, and DNREC is revisiting allocation for City of Dover.

- NY: Mike Holt reported that the delegation of water supply permitting authority to DRBC and SRBC is working well.

ONE PROCESS/ONE PERMIT

Bill Muszynski gave a recap of the history of the Administrative Agreements (AAs) between DRBC and the states and the foundation for the development of the One Process/One Permit initiative to improve efficiency and compliance. He explained the public hearing process for the Rule and the AAs as they are finalized. Stakeholders may comment on the rulemaking to amend the Rules of Practice and Procedure to accommodate the One Process/ One Permit approach for project review and permitting through July 1, 2015.

DOCKET-HOLDER OUTREACH WEBINARS

Bill Muszynski reported that DRBC conducted webinars for docket-holders to inform them of the docketing process. This included information about the docketing process, with an emphasis on what docket holders need to do to stay in compliance with docket conditions.

WATER AUDIT

David Sayers reported on results of a survey of water systems in the DRB performing water audits. While 65% of those surveyed were unfamiliar with the AWWA methodology prior to the DRBC program, most completed the audit in 1 to 3 days without outside help and 87% indicated they would like a training event or workshop. Reporting on water loss for CY2014 is 80% complete. The USGS publication of Estimated Use of Water in the US-2010 is available at: <http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/1Column.aspx?id=9070> . On behalf of DRBC and the WMAC, David Sayers expressed gratitude to George Kunkel, who is retiring from PWD this summer, for his foresight and expertise that provided the impetus and substance of the DRBC Water Audit program. The Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin offered to partner with DRBC on water audit training events.

BASIN HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

Amy Shallcross reviewed current hydrologic conditions—precipitation, flow, groundwater, storage, the salt front and the 30 day outlook. In presenting information showing a wet spring period, Amy noted that both June 2013 and 2014 were also wet but that dry conditions followed in August, September and October.

SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE 2060

Chad Pindar reported on DRBC evaluation of a suite of tools (USGS WATER¹ model; USACE CWMS² model and USGS's BaSE³ tool) to assess water sufficiency and progress made on a set of white papers to document historic purpose and use of major down-basin reservoirs. Jan Bowers offered that a substantial amount of historical information has been gathered by Chester County Water Resources

¹ Water Availability Tool for Environmental Resources (<http://water.usgs.gov/watercensus/WATER-model.html>)

² Corps Water Management System (<http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/cwms/cwms.aspx>)

³ Baseline Streamflow Estimator (http://pa.water.usgs.gov/projects/surfacewater/flow_estimation/)

Authority regarding management of the Brandywine watershed which could benefit the development of the Brandywine white paper.

OCTOBER MEETING: GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE BASIN

Chad Pindar described the purpose and proposed content of the October 22, 2015 meeting which will focus on existing groundwater management programs and assessment initiatives in the basin. Carolyn Olynyk will discuss with NJDEP management the participation of NJDEP, NJ Pinelands and NJ Highlands staff in the October meeting and report back to DRBC on availability. The October 22 meeting will serve as a review of groundwater management in the basin.

Upcoming Meetings: October 22, 2015

MEETING ATTENDANCE

NAME	REPRESENTING
ALI, Ferdows	Agriculture; NJ Dept of Agriculture
BARNDT, John*	Delaware Dept. of Natural resources and Environmental Control
BITTNER, Laura*	US Army Corps of Engineers
BOWERS, Jan*	County Water Agency; Chester County Water Resources Authority
DeLORIMIER, Tom	Water Utility; Artesian Water
GOODE, Daniel	US Geological Survey
HARTLE, Mark*	Fisheries; PA Fish and Boat Commission
HOLT, Michael*	New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation
JOSTENSKI, David*	Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection [with A. Liaghat]
KAUFFMAN, Jerry	Academia; University of Delaware
KLEIN, Kathy	Water Resources Association of the DRB
KUNKEL, George	City of Philadelphia Water Dept.
NOBLE, Mary Ellen	Environmental; Delaware Riverkeeper Network
O'DELL, Travis*	Watershed; Upper Delaware Council
OLIVIO, Dana - CHAIR	City of New York, Dept. of Environmental Protection
OLYNYK, Carolyn	New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
TATHAM, Betty	Civic; PA League of Women Voters
BARR, Kent	DRBC
MUSZYNSKI, Bill	DRBC
NAJJAR, Ken	DRBC
PINDAR, Chad	DRBC
RITTLER SANCHEZ, Jessica	DRBC
SANKO, Jessica	DRBC
SAYERS, David	DRBC
SHALLCROSS, Amy	DRBC
* Attended via webinar	