



## Delaware River Basin Commission

25 Cosey Road

PO Box 7360

West Trenton, New Jersey

08628-0360

Phone: (609) 883-9500 Fax: (609) 883-9522

Web Site: <http://www.drbc.net>

**Steven J. Tambini, P.E.**  
Executive Director

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### Water Management Advisory Committee

#### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 18, 2020

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 February 20, 2020 meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage.
- The Committee elected Kathy Thaefer (Artesian) as Chair and Jan Bowers (Chester County Water Resources Authority) as Vice Chair. Both Chair and Vice Chair will serve for a term of two years. The Vice Chair will rotate to the Chair at the expiration of the term.
- Membership: The three expiring WMAC positions for Watershed Organization, Academia, and Recreation have been filled. Laurie Ramie from Upper Delaware Council has been reappointed as the Watershed Organization member. Dan Van Abs from Rutgers University has been appointed as the Academia member. Robert Shane from Trout Unlimited has been appointed as the Recreation member. All terms start on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.
- The last WMAC meeting of 2020 is scheduled for October 22.

#### HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS REPORT

Anthony Preucil, DRBC Water Resource Scientist, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions.

Precipitation departures for 2020 to date and in the past 60 days show the basin has been drier than normal. Precipitation at Port Jervis, NY and Trenton, NJ are both below normal, while Philadelphia, PA is near normal. The basin has been dry and void of snowfall this year. Streamflows at USGS gages in the basin indicate flows are mostly normal or below normal (drier). Some areas in Pennsylvania have streamflows above normal. The combined New York City reservoir storage is slightly below the median at 96% of usable capacity; federal reservoirs (Beltville, Blue Marsh, and F.E. Walter) are all at 100% storage. Currently, the salt front is at River Mile (RM) 67.6 compared to a normal June location at RM 69 for this time of year. To date, groundwater levels in the USGS monitoring wells in the basin indicate normal or above normal levels and the lower basin is near drought watch. The 3-month outlook from NOAA shows that temperatures and precipitation have around a 40% chance to be above normal in the Delaware River Basin region, however the model prediction indicates possibly drier to normal conditions.

DRBC's new interactive dashboard ([hydrosnap.drbc.net](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/preucil_hydrologic-conditions.pdf)) shows a daily-updated snapshot for flow and drought management in the basin.

Mr. Preucil's presentation can be viewed at [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/preucil\\_hydrologic-conditions.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/preucil_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:

- The DRBC 2019 Annual Report was released in June. The report can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/2019AR.pdf>.
- The DRBC Public Hearing was held on May 13, 2020 followed by the Business Meeting on June 10. This was the first "virtual" business meeting held during the COVID-19 pandemic. A resolution was passed approving an interim budget for 7/1/2020 to 9/1/2020 (the normal fiscal year starts July 1). Fourteen dockets were approved during the meeting.
- On July 11, 2019, DRBC issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a study of storage options in the basin. Three firms responded to RFQ in September 2019 and DRBC sent the Request for Proposals (RFP) to the three respondents on January 28, 2020. Proposals were submitted on March 27, 2020. The Executive Director has temporarily postponed the RFP process, to be re-evaluated in Fall 2020.
- The next DRBC public hearing is scheduled for August 12, 2020, followed by the Business Meeting on September 10, 2020.

DRBC is operational with staff working remotely. Until further notice DRBC's office building is closed.

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

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/pindar\\_DRBCupdate.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/pindar_DRBCupdate.pdf).

## **STATE UPDATES**

- Pennsylvania - Mark Matlock, Section Chief for the State Water Plan for PADEP, gave a summary of State Water Plan activities:
  - The first round of Regional State Water Plan Committee meetings concluded in early February 2020. The April 2020 meetings were canceled due to COVID-19 and plan to reconvene virtually on the following scheduled July 2020 dates:
    - July 14: State Water Plan - Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
    - July 15: State Water Plan - Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting

- July 16: State Water Plan - Potomac Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
- July 28: State Water Plan - Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
- July 29: State Water Plan - Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
- July 30: State Water Plan - Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
- The Clean Water Academy gives background on the State Water Plan and other online resources are being utilized to keep the State Water Plan Update on track.
- The Statewide State Water Plan Committee will have their first meeting, which will be virtual, on August 19, 2020.
- The list of members has been selected but has yet to be confirmed by the Governor's Office. The six regional committees have a few vacancies and are close to being full. There are also some vacancies for the statewide committees including agriculture and energy sectors.
- The State Water Plan update will focus on items such as water resource strategies outlined in the Governor's Climate Action Plan and updated regional watershed priorities (e.g. stormwater).

For further information or questions, please contact Mark Matlock, [marmatlock@pa.gov](mailto:marmatlock@pa.gov), 717-783-2285.

- New Jersey - James Macdonald, NJDEP Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting, gave an update on state water planning activities. Recent activities are tied to the latest Water Supply Plan for 2017-2022. The Commissioner's briefing was held in May 2019 and the NJDEP were going to try to issue an update by late 2020. The associated committee has not met due to COVID-19 and the update will be delayed by one or two quarters. The four major categories covered in the update are: 1) climate change; 2) minimizing water allocation approvals in distressed areas; 3) agriculture; and 4) water supply emergency and resiliency planning. Some items may change because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The committee is looking to set a date to reconvene.
- Delaware – Bill Cocke, DNREC Water Allocation Program, updated the WMAC on the state's water planning activities. The Delaware Geological Survey has been conducting an informal identification of areas of concern. Through a WiCCED (Water in a Changing Coastal Environment of Delaware) grant, the University of Delaware has been conducting groundwater modeling and monitoring in Eastern Kent County. DNREC is establishing data portals for access to water use information, but no open data access yet. The monitoring network is currently under construction.
- New York – (member not present)

## OTHER MEMBER UPDATES

- Amy Shallcross (DRBC) and Laura Bittner (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) updated the Committee on the F.E. Walter Dam Reevaluation Study. Led by the Army Corps, the purpose of the study is to determine if modifications to the F.E. Walter Dam structure, infrastructure, or reservoir operations can be implemented to improve water supply, fisheries, recreation, and other objectives without adversely impacting the congressionally authorized purposes of the reservoir, which are flood risk management and recreation. The study team expects to complete the first major milestone of the study, which is to analyze existing dam to see if it would pass probable maximum flood conditions, by August. The next steps would move forward if proposed changes in the dam are necessary and evaluate alternatives for probable maximum flood. The team has set a schedule for May 2021, at that time, Army Corps should have a plan on which to report. DRBC has been involved in additional work in support of the F.E. Walter study. More information about the study can be found at the Army Corps' website, <https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Francis-E-Walter-Dam/Reevaluation-Study/>, and DRBC's website, [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/hydrological/reservoirs/FEWalter\\_reeval-study.html](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/hydrological/reservoirs/FEWalter_reeval-study.html).

- Preston Luitweiler (Water Resources Association of the DRB) gave an update on WRA activities. The WRA has been trying to shift to virtual. The WRA will be hosting two related seminars on changes in Waters of the U.S. regulations. The first session will be held on June 18 at noon and the second will be on June 23 at noon. For more information check the WRA website (<https://www.wradrb.org/>) or email Preston ([jpluit3@gmail.com](mailto:jpluit3@gmail.com)).

The Annual WRA Recognition Dinner has been postponed. Awardees have been selected and the dinner will likely be rescheduled for next Spring, possibly at an outdoor venue.

- Kathy Thaeuder (Artesian) and newly elected WMAC Chair thanked Preston Luitweiler for his service as Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am by Chair Preston Luitweiler.

<b>WMAC Meeting Attendance – February 20, 2020</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	- x -
New Jersey	Andy MacDonald Jeff Hoffman	NJ DEP NJDEP-NJGS	x -
New York	Erik Schmitt (A)	NY DEC	-
Pennsylvania	Hoss Liaghiat Dave Gordner (A) Mike Hill	PADEP	x - -
US Army Corps of Engineers	Laura Bittner	Phila. District	x
US Env. Protection Agency	Katie Lynch	Drinking Water Protection	x
US Geological Survey	Dan Goode 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	Chester Co. WR Authority	x
Water Resource Association	Preston Luitweiler (C)	WRA of the DRB	x
Industry	Jim Mershon	Merrill Creek Owners Group	-
Water Utility	Kathy Thaeber (V) Virginia Eisenbrey (A)	Artesian Water	x x
Agriculture	Sandra Howland	NJ Dept. of Agriculture	x
Civic	Jill Greene	PA League of Women Voters	-
Environmental Organization	Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	x
Watershed Organization	Laurie Ramie (temp)	Upper Delaware Council	x
Academia	Jerry Kauffman Andrew Homsey (A) Martha Narvaez	University of Delaware	x - -
Recreation	Ann Pilcher	Pocono Mts. Visitors Bureau	-
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	x
	Kavanagh, Kristen B.	Deputy Executive Director	x
	Kwityn, Evan	Water Resource Planning	x
	Pindar, Chad	Water Resource Planning	x
	Pruecil, Anthony	Water Resource Operations	x
	Shallcross, Amy	Water Resource Operations	x
	Thompson, Michael	Water Resource Planning	x
<b>GUESTS</b>			
	Jen Shourds	NJ USGS	
	Rhonda Manning	PADEP	
	Jason Fry	Camden County MUA	
	Summer Kunkel	PADEP	
	Mark Matlock	PADEP	

Approved: October 21, 2020