
DRBC WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 19, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

George Kunkel	Philadelphia Water Department, Chair
Dana Olivio	NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, Vice- Chair
Ferdows Ali	NJ Dept. of Agriculture
John Barndt	DE Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Janet Bowers	Chester County Water Resources Authority
Mark Hartle	PA Fish & Boat Commission (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
Mike Holt	NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
David Jostenski	PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
George Kunkel	City of Philadelphia Water Department
John Mello	US EPA, Region II
Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Carolyn Olynik	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Joanne Rufft	Artesian Water Company
Erik Schmitt	NY State – Alternate (<i>via Conference Call</i>)

GUESTS

Hoss Liaghat PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Christine Lewis-Coker US Army Corps of Engineers (*via Conference Call*)

DRBC STAFF

Kent Barr, Water Resource Analyst
Kenneth Najjar, Manager, Planning & Information Technology
Chad Pindar, Supervisor, Watershed Planning and Compliance Section
Jessica Sanko, Secretary
David Sayers, Supervisor, Information Technology & Water Use Section

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Committee approved the minutes of October 22, 2013, meeting and approved new officers. Starting July 1, 2014, Ms. Dana Olivio, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and Ms. Joanne Rufft, Artesian Water Co., will serve two year terms as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Members took time to review and discuss revisions and voted to approve on changes to the Committee *Practice and Procedures*, including the terms and rotation for 11 appointed members; the designation of alternates; election of officers; participation, quorum and voting requirements; and establishing a desired number of meetings as three (3) per year

and dates for the upcoming year to be set at the last meeting of the year. DRBC staff will begin work to fill vacancies and schedule appointment letters.

PRESENTATIONS: Presentations from the June 19, 2014 meeting have been posted on the WMAC webpage at <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/about/advisory/management/>.

UPDATES:

SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE – COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Ken Najjar gave the following update:

- National Science Foundation grant: The collaborative proposal by DRBC, Penn State, USGS and Rutgers was not accepted, but the effort may be used for future grant opportunities.
- IWRSS: The Integrated Water Resources Science and Services collaborative effort among the Army Corps, NOAA and USGS held meetings with the mid-Atlantic River Basin stakeholders to identify gaps in data and modeling needs and priority topics which include flooding, water quality, water availability, drought, and climate change. The December 2013 report is available on the web; staff will provide to the Committee.
- USGS Water Census: New date for products is 2015 and will include water demand projections, downscaled climate models, a rainfall-runoff model (WATER), and ecological flows for the mainstem (extending the upper basin DST down to Trenton). Maryellen Noble indicated that she was particularly interested in climate change and who else—in terms of DRBC committees—is tracking the efforts and working to ensure that the projections and assumptions are the same or at least reconcilable. Chad Pindar explained climate model down-scaling. DRBC is focused on linking OASIS with WATER, and then eventually to the salinity model. [Note: the Committee was provided with a web link to the USGS Water Census work (<http://water.usgs.gov/watercensus>) in an email on July 17th, 2014.]
- The Army Corps of Engineers: The Corps and DRBC are developing a scope of work to use the basin as a pilot for the federal tool box for Integrated Water Resource Management. There are five tasks: water sustainability and climate analysis; flood resilient community analysis; sustainable water resources strategy development including scenario development; shared vision planning for alternatives; and technology transfer. The planning for this resides in Washington, DC. Maryellen Noble asked about the Corps and the salinity model: is the Corps still sticking with a top change in sea level of +1 foot (as they used for the deepening)? Ken Najjar said he would need to check with Tom Fikslin, adding that we are working to get the Corps 3-D and the DRBC 1-D salinity models to yield comparable results (calibration is ongoing). Jan Bowers asked if tributaries are also a modeling focus, rather than just the mainstem. Discussion

concluded that WATER will look at the tributary watersheds and should incorporate water use projections for 2030 in a water budget (hydrologic) model aggregated at some HUC-level. The incorporation of ground water remained a topic that Jan Bowers urged be included. Hoss Liaghat asked about the salinity model, the involvement of PWD (they are involved), and timing for completion (unknown).

- DRBC: Chad Pindar summarized DRBC's efforts, reviewing the details in the Analysis matrix previously provided to the Committee. DRBC is working to determine the appropriate linkage of tools for scenario analyses, including the OASIS Planning Support Tool; updating water use and demand data; refining understanding of historic and current consumptive use make-up, operations and docket conditions. He also reported that staff is looking at specific reservoir operations, Blue Marsh, for example, to determine historic use and appropriateness. Staff is also working on the OASIS Planning Support Tool (PST) (an update to the OASIS model) and on water use and demand data with the idea of piloting the PST on a managed tributary to see if OASIS is the correct tool to apply. Historic consumptive use mitigation is also being looked at. Jan Bowers said she will be especially interested in the analysis of the Brandywine. Davis Sayers added that the water use information is now far more robust than in the past, providing better data for water supply planning.

DRBC WATER AUDIT PROGRAM:

David Sayers reported to the Committee, chronicling two years of Audit activity and recent reporting (see presentation slide #6). There are 785 MGD of public water supply (PWS) withdrawals and 275 systems covering 80% of basin residents (6.7M customers). The 2012 Audit captured 90% of total PWS volume (225 audits). Non-revenue water has an estimated value of \$105M to basin water utilities. The basin States are being briefed; additional reports, a follow-up user survey and performance metrics are under development. A draft survey was distributed to the committee for comment; the purpose of the survey is to solicit feedback from the regulated community on the DRBC's water audit program.

ECOLOGICAL FLOWS:

Chad Pindar reported that the report and recommendations from The Nature Conservancy has been shared with Commissioners' technical staff; meetings with the states are to be scheduled this summer to review options for next steps. DRBC will post the report on the website and notify the WMAC when it is available for review. [Note: the Committee was provided with a web link (<http://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/basinwide/>) in an email on July 17th, 2014.]

STATE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMS:

Delaware: John Barndt reported that the Water Supply Plan for Kent and Sussex Counties, the 12th report from the Water Supply Coordinating Council, is to be submitted to the Governor within the month. DNREC is awaiting a new Secretary, Dave Small.

Pennsylvania: Dave Jostenski reported that membership of the statewide State Water Plan Committee is being remobilized; it has not met in at least two years. The Potomac CARP is in Committee, but essentially done. PADEP is planning a pilot for water audit training for suppliers in response to SRBC conservation agreements. PADEP needs to re-do the CARPs for Fayette and Somerset to capture an emerging water availability issue. And PADEP is working on an automated, online drought emergency system.

New Jersey: Carolyn Olynyk reported that the Statewide Water Supply Plan is still in Governor's office; Water Supply Advisory Council is reviewing "firm capacity" definition and implications for planning and allocation.

New York: Mike Holt reported that there are no new initiatives in the DRB. Statewide, NYDEC is permitting facilities by size in order of importance and permitting all new facilities and upgrades as they are presented. The program is one year old and NY continues to rely on DRBC.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS:

Interest was expressed in the following items:

- Explore groundwater availability in the Basin by updating the committee on the numerous studies that have been done in the DRB both inside and outside the GWPA.
- Ecoflows, specifically by examining the details of the TNC report
- Natural Gas updates
- Climate change, groundwater availability, and how increased rainfall relates to these two topics.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Reavy provided a demonstration of the new Interactive Maps for docket tracking and for illustrating upper basin baseline water quality monitoring results.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 12:30 p.m., prior to the mapping demonstration.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 16, 2014

APPROVED: October 16, 2014