
Water Management Advisory Committee

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Ms. Kathy Klein, Committee Vice 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

ADMINISTRATION

- The highlights of the October 24, 2017 meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage.
- Membership: WMAC Member Vacancy for League of Women Voters or other Civic Organization is open until filled. We have received letters of interest from John Thaeber (Artesian) and Jim Merson (Merrill Creek) for reappointment to the WMAC as the Utility and Industry representatives, respectively, as their terms expire. DRBC staff will follow-up with both John and Jim. Please see the DRBC website (<http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/committee-openings.html>) for more information.
- Election of Chair/Vice Chair: Kathy Klein (WRA) has been elected as the new chair of the WMAC. Her term as chair will start July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. John Thaeber (Artesian) has been elected as the new vice chair of the WMAC. His term will also be from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. It is the intention of the WMAC that at the end the two-year term, the vice chair would be elected as chair for the next term.
- WMAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 was rescheduled for **Thursday, October 18, 2018**.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS REPORT

Dr. Hernon Quinodoz, Sr. Water Resource Engineer for DRBC Water Resource Operations, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. Year-to-date, the basin has experienced slightly higher amounts of precipitation compared to the same time of the year in 2014 and 2015. The combined New York City reservoir storage is 96% of usable capacity and near the long-term median for this time of year. Lower basin storage pools in Beltzville and Blue Marsh reservoirs are at or above 100% and Merrill Creek reservoir is at 96%. Streamflow at the USGS gages indicate flows are mostly normal or above normal, with a few locations below normal in the Upper Basin. Currently, the salt front is at River Mile (RM) 68 compared to a normal location at RM 69 for this time of year. As of June 20th, groundwater levels in the USGS monitoring wells indicate normal or above normal levels. The 3-month outlook from NOAA show that temperatures and precipitation have a slight chance of being higher than normal in the Delaware River Basin region.

Dr. Quinodoz's presentation can be viewed at http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/06222017/Hydrologic-Conditions_DRBC.pdf. Weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/hydrological/reports/>.

DRBC UPDATES

Dr. Ken Najjar, DRBC Director of Water Resource Management, provided an update on DRBC activities, upcoming advisory committee meetings, Commission actions, and other items of interest, among them:

- At the May 16 public hearing, the Commissioners were presented with 28 Dockets, the FY 2019 Budget, and Consumptive Use Policy. Public testimony included comments on the Gad Eden Estates (NY) Docket.
- At the June 13th Business Meeting, the Commissioners approved 27 out of 28 Dockets (all but Gan Eden Estates) and Resolutions for the FY 2019 Budget, Consumptive Use Policy, and Professional Engineering Services for Technical Evaluations and Cost Estimations for Upgrades of Wastewater Treatment Plants Discharging to the Delaware River Estuary.
- The remaining 2018 schedule for public hearings/business meetings is: Aug 15/Sept 13, Nov 14/Dec 12.
- DRBC published draft HVHF rules on November 30, 2017 and the comment period ended March 30, 2018. DRBC received around 9,000 submissions through SmartComment and tens of 1,000s of petitions/signatures within those submissions on the draft HVHF rules. The comments are under review and DRBC will prepare a comment/response document (no schedule determined).
- Upcoming DRBC Advisory Committee meetings include: WQAC on July 18; TAC on July 26; and WMAC on Oct 18.
- Water audit trainings will be held in two basin states : August 8 by NJDEP at Rutgers New Brunswick; and a 3-part training series by DRBC/PADEP at Buck County Community College in Newtown on September 27, October 23, and November 28.
- Ken announced the retirements of: Jessica Sanchez, former WMAC liaison, on January 1, 2018; Tom Fikslin, Director of Science and Water Quality Management, and Clarke Rupert, Communications Manager, on April 1, 2018; and Carol Adamovic, Accounting Assistant, on May 1, 2018.
- Namsoo Suk has been promoted to Director of Science and Water Quality Management.
- DRBC has 3 new hires: Seung Ah Byun, Water Resource Engineer; Jake Bransky, Aquatic Biologist; and Stacey Mullholland, Public Affairs Specialist.

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

WATER AUDIT UPDATES

Dr. Ken Najjar discussed the status and trends of the water audit program, including trends in water use. The basin export trends have remained relatively flat while consumptive use trends for 3 major sectors (public water supply, industrial, and thermoelectric) have varied over time but have been generally flat since the 1980's. The purpose of DRBC's water audit program is to track how efficiently water is moved from its source to the customer (within a public water supply

system) and to ensure that systems quantify and are accountable for water losses. The water audit program also helps to raise awareness of best practices and trends in conservation. DRBC uses the IWA/AWWA Water Audit methodology, which provides a standardized approach to water audits and better indicators for overall better water loss management. Since the adoption of regulations in 2009 requiring the submission of water audits by public water systems, compliance has steadily improved.

The presentation is available online at

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/06212018/najjar_DRBCwater-audit-program.pdf.

CONSUMPTIVE USE POLICY

Chad Pindar, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Planning, gave an overview of the recently adopted Power Consumptive Use Policy (Resolution No. 2018-5). Through resolution the new policy clarifies and restates the Commission's Policy for replacing of water consumptively used by electric generating or cogenerating facilities during Critical Hydrologic Conditions. The new policy resolves inconsistencies by:

- Formalizing a policy that has been in practice for decades.
- Defining “critical hydrological condition.”
- Updating the “standard condition” in dockets over time.
- Updating the Merrill Creek Owners Group (MCOG) docket’s operating plan.
- Providing clarification and guidance on: applicability; relative effect factor; replacement sources; exemptions; and notifications.
- Replacing Drought Management and Contingency Plan (DMCP) with Consumptive Use Replacement Plan (CURP) and establishing criteria for CURP.

The presentation is available online at

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/06212018/pindar_power_consumptive-use_policy.pdf.

ROUNDTABLE

Updates by WMAC Members

- New commissioner at NJ DEP, Catherine R. McCabe
- NJ reviewing water allocation rules; considering requirements for water audits

Topics for Next meeting

- Some potential topics for the October 2018 meeting include advancing climate change work, pricing rates, consumptive use coefficients, population served in the basin and stormwater utilities.
- Let the committee know if there are other topics you would like to discuss at the upcoming WMAC meetings.

Additional discussion

- A suggestion was made to DRBC to include more localized hydrologic information as part of hydrologic conditions report, in addition to basin-wide information.

- A comment was made that WMAC has been less of an advisory committee than in the past; better if it is a two-way street than simply sharing information. WMAC members encouraged to respond and provide feedback on this comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm by Vice Chair Kathy Klein.

WMAC Meeting Attendance – June 21, 2018			
SECTOR	WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	REPRESENTING	ATTENDANCE
Delaware	Steven Smailer Bill Cocke (A) Allison Diggins	DE DNREC	- GoToMeeting GoToMeeting
New Jersey	Carolyn Olynyk 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	Present
US Env. Protection Agency	Katie Lynch	Drinking Water Protection	GoToMeeting
US Geological Survey	Dan Goode	Water Science Center	Present
	Curtis Scheffler (A)		-
City of New York	Dana Olivio	NYC DEP	GoToMeeting
City of Philadelphia	Kelly Anderson Hesson, Molly (A)	Phila. Water Dept.	GoToMeeting GoToMeeting
County Water Agency	Jan Bowers	Chester Co. WR Authority	-
Water Resource Association	Kathy Klein (V) Preston Luitweiler (A)	WRA of the DRB	Present GoToMeeting
Industry	Mershon, Jim (C)	Merrill Creek Owners Group	-
Water Utility	John Thader Virginia Eisenbrey (A)	Artesian Water	- Present
Agriculture	Sandra Howland	NJ Dept. of Agriculture	GoToMeeting
Civic	VACANT		-
Environmental Organization	Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	GoToMeeting
Watershed Organization	Golod, Pete	Upper Delaware Council	GoToMeeting
Academia	Jerry Kauffman	University of Delaware	-
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>			
DRBC STAFF	Byun, SeungAh	WMAC Liaison	
	Kaltenbach, Allison	Water Resource Planning (Intern)	
	Najjar, Ken	Water Resource Management	
	Pindar, Chad	Water Resource Planning	
	Quinodoz, Hernon	Water Resource Operations	
	Rowland, Doug	Water Resource Planning	
GUESTS	Meg McGuire	Delaware Currents	
	Emily Rinaldi	PennFuture	

Approved: October 16, 2018