
Water Management Advisory Committee

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Mr. John Thaeder, 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 June 21, 2018 meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage.
- Membership: Vacancy for League of Women Voters/other Civic Organization was filled by Jill Greene, PA League of Women Voters. Jill's appointment will serve through the remainder of the 5-year term (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022).
- Chair/Vice Chair: Preston Luitweiler (WRA) has assumed Kathy Klein's position on the WMAC and her role as chair of the WMAC. Preston's term as chair extends through June 30, 2020.
- WMAC meeting schedule for 2019: February 21, June 20, and October 22.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS REPORT

Chad Pindar, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Planning, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. Year-to-date, the basin has experienced higher amounts of precipitation compared to the same time of the year in 2014 and 2015. The combined New York City reservoir storage is 99% 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 97%. Releases are being made at Blue Marsh to return to winter pool level. Currently, the salt front is below River Mile (RM) 54 compared to a normal location at RM 72 for this time of year. Streamflow at the USGS gages indicate flows are mostly normal or above normal, with one location below normal in the Upper Basin. 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.

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/10162018/Hydrologic-Conditions.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:

- The next Commission public hearing meeting is Nov 14 – includes 24 proposed dockets.
- The next Commission Business meeting is Dec 12 – dockets will be voted upon by the Commissioners; includes an open public comment.
- Upcoming DRBC Advisory Committee meetings:
 - RFAC Nov 16, 2018
 - WQAC Dec 5, 2018
 - WMAC Feb 21, 2019
- DRBC/PADEP Water Audit Training: The first of three training sessions was held on September 27 at Bucks County Community College. Trainings target PA public water suppliers, but remaining space was opened up to water utilities in the DRB from other DRBC states. The remaining two sessions are October 23 and November 28.
- Upcoming Conferences include:
 - Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin Annual Fall Conference will be held on November 1 at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, NJ.
 - AWRA National Conference will be held November 4-8 in Baltimore, MD.
 - Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit will be held January 27-30, 2019 in Cape May, NJ.
- Ken announced DRBC staffing changes:
 - Retirements: Hernon Quinodoz (August 2018); Joe Sosi (December 2018); Ken Najjar (April 2019)
 - Leaving: Doug Rowland (October 2018)
 - New Hires: Deborah Allen (Accounting Benefits Specialist), Lulin Zhong (Finance/Accounting Manager), Fanghui Chen (Water Resource Engineer, Operations)

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

POPULATION IN DRB SERVED

Dr. SeungAh Byun discussed an updated estimate of equivalent 2016 population served by the Delaware River Basin (DRB). The estimate includes total population within the DRB boundary and major exports (NYC diversion, NJ D&R Canal diversion) and imports (Chester Water Authority). The estimated 2016 population in the basin is 8.34 million. The NYC and NJ D&R Canal exports are estimated to serve about 5.2 million people, while the Chester Water Authority import serves 200,000 people. Total equivalent 2016 population served by DRB water is estimated at 13.3 million.

The presentation is available online at https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/10162018/DRB_PopServed.pdf.

CONSUMPTIVE USE COEFFICIENTS

Chad Pindar, DRBC Manager of Water Resource Planning, presented an assessment to:

- Document the origin of DRBC's consumptive use coefficients;
- Identify current consumptive use coefficients used by DRBC for each sector; and
- Compare coefficients to published research.

The comparative analysis showed that DRBC's default consumptive use factors for 3 sub-sectors (Bottled Water, Mining, and Ski) are higher than those previously reviewed (SRBC, Domber and Hoffman (2004), and Shaffer & Runkle (2007)). DRBC's factor for the Public Water Supply sector is lower than the references. The assessment found that DRBC does not currently have regulations or a formal policy on consumptive use coefficients. This comparison triggered an internal review of the Commission's water use database to confirm that we were assigning proper withdrawal sectors for water use reporting as well as the development of a standardized reporting procedure document.

The presentation is available online at

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/10162018/ConsumptiveUseCoefficients_overview.pdf.

ROUNDTABLE

Updates by WMAC Members

- Carolyn Olynyk (NJ DEP) – Water Quality Accountability Act (WQAA)
 - The Water Quality Accountability Act, P.L. 2017, c. 133, enacted on July 21, 2017, established new requirements for public water suppliers in New Jersey to improve the safety, reliability, and administrative oversight of water infrastructure. The WQAA became effective on October 19, 2017. The Act applies to water purveyors with more than 500 service connections, which is approximately 300 water systems in New Jersey. The Act requires purveyors to create and implement an asset management plan designed to inspect, maintain, repair, and renew its infrastructure consistent with standards established by the American Water Works Association. October 19, 2018 is the deadline to submit certification plans. More information about the WQAA can be found at https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g_reg-wqaa.html.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm by Vice Chair John Thader.

WMAC Meeting Attendance – October 16, 2018			
SECTOR	WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	REPRESENTING	ATTENDANCE
Delaware	Steven Smailer Bill Cocke (A) Allison Diggins	DE DNREC	- GoToMeeting -
New Jersey	Carolyn Olynyk Jeff Hoffman	NJ DEP NJDEP-NJGS	In person -
New York	Erik Schmitt (A)	NY DEC	GoToMeeting
Pennsylvania	Hoss Liaghiat Dave Gordner (A) Mike Hill	PADEP	GoToMeeting - -
US Army Corps of Engineers	Laura Bittner	Phila. District	GoToMeeting
US Env. Protection Agency	Katie Lynch	Drinking Water Protection	GoToMeeting
US Geological Survey	Dan Goode	Water Science Center	In person
	Curtis Scheffler (A)		-
City of New York	Dana Olivio	NYC DEP	GoToMeeting
City of Philadelphia	Kelly Anderson Hesson, Molly (A)	Phila. Water Dept.	- GoToMeeting
County Water Agency	Jan Bowers	Chester Co. WR Authority	In person
Water Resource Association	Preston Luitweiler (C)	WRA of the DRB	In person
Industry	Jim Mershon	Merrill Creek Owners Group	In person
Water Utility	John Thaeber Virginia Eisenbrey (A)	Artesian Water	In person In person
Agriculture	Sandra Howland	NJ Dept. of Agriculture	In person
Civic	Jill Greene	PA League of Women Voters	-
Environmental Organization	Mary Ellen Noble	Delaware Riverkeeper Network	GoToMeeting
Watershed Organization	Golod, Pete	Upper Delaware Council	-
Academia	Jerry Kauffman	University of Delaware	-
Recreation	Ann Pilcher	Pocono Mts. Visitors Bureau	GoToMeeting
Fisheries	Sheila Eyler	US F&W Service	GoToMeeting
<i>(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson</i>			
DRBC STAFF	Byun, SeungAh	WMAC Liaison	In person
	Najjar, Ken	Water Resource Management	In person
	Pindar, Chad	Water Resource Planning	In person
	Rowland, Doug	Water Resource Planning	In person
	Tambini, Steve	Executive Director	In person
GUESTS			
	Cupo, Alexander	PennFuture	In person
	Rosenfeld, Rachel	Sierra Club PA	In person

Approved: February 21, 2019