



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
 Executive Director

Water Management Advisory Committee

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

| WMAC Meeting Attendance – October 21, 2020 | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| SECTOR | WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE | REPRESENTING | ATTENDANCE |
| Delaware | Steven Smailer (A) | DNREC | - |
| | Bill Cocke | | X |
| | Allison Diggins | | - |
| | Patricia Murray | | X |
| New Jersey | James (Andy) MacDonald | NJ DEP | X |
| | Jeff Hoffman | NJDEP-NJGS | - |
| New York | Erik Schmitt (A) | NY DEC | - |
| Pennsylvania | Hoss Liaghiat | PADEP | X |
| | Mark Matlock (A) | | - |
| US Army Corps of Engineers | Laura Bittner Gregory Wacik | Phila. District | X X |
| US Env. Protection Agency | Katie Lynch | Drinking Water Protection | X |
| US Geological Survey | Dan Goode | Water Science Center | X |
| | Curtis Scheffler (A) | | - |
| City of New York | Dana Olivio | NYC DEP | X |
| City of Philadelphia | Kelly Anderson | Phila. Water Dept. | X |
| | Molly Hesson (A) | | - |
| County Water Agency | Jan Bowers (V) | Chester Co. WR Authority | - |
| | Seung Ah Byun (A) | | X |
| Water Resource Association | Preston Luitweiler | WRA of the DRB | X |
| Industry | Jim Mershon | Merrill Creek Owners Group | - |
| Water Utility | Kathy Thaeuder (C) | Artesian Water | X |
| | Virginia Eisenbrey (A) | | - |
| 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 | Dan Van Abs | Rutgers University | - |
| Recreation | Keith Fritschie (temp) | Trout Unlimited | X |
| Fisheries | Sheila Eyler | US F&W Service | X |
| <i>(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson</i> | | | |
| DRBC STAFF | Steve Tambini | Executive Director | X |
| | Kristen B. Kavanagh | Deputy Executive Director | X |
| | Chad Pindar | Water Resource Planning | X |
| | Anthony Pruecil | Water Resource Operations | X |
| | Amy Shallcross | Water Resource Operations | X |

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|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Michael Thompson | Water Resource Planning | x |
| | Evan Kwityn | WMAC Liaison | x |
| | | | |
| GUESTS | Jennifer Shourds | NJ USGS | x |
| | Alec Bernstein | Sage Services LLC | x |
| | Kirk Barrett | Mott MacDonald | x |
| | Bob Collings | WRA of the DRB | x |
| | Brian Chalfant | PADEP | x |
| | Caroline Houlihan | Drexel University | x |
| | Mark Bowen | Newell Tereska & Mackay | x |

Meeting Summary

CALL TO ORDER

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Kathy Thaeder, Committee Chair, and was held with remote attendance only using GoToMeeting and its call-in capabilities. Information pertaining to the WMAC, including member listing and past meeting materials, are available at http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WMAC_index.html.

ADMINISTRATION

- The highlights of the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage (<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061820/meeting-highlights.pdf>).
- Kathy Thaeder welcomed Evan Kwityn, Water Resource Scientist, DRBC as the new WMAC Liaison.
- Membership: The two expiring WMAC positions for Fisheries, and the Environmental Organization will be expiring on 6/30/2021. Additionally, Jim Mershon will be retiring at the end of calendar year 2020 the Industry sector. All three position openings will be advertised on ~ January 1, 2021. Further information for the following positions can be found at https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/102120/pindar_WMAMembership-updates.pdf.
- Proposed WMAC Meeting Dates for 2021 are as followed:
 - February 25, 2021 (Thursday)
 - June 17, 2021 (Thursday)
 - October 21, 2021 (Thursday)

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 Business Meeting on September 10, 2020 highlights and other Commission Meeting materials can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/archive/recent-drbc-mtg.html>.

- The review of proposals received for the “Storage Study” RFP resumed. The review of proposals was temporarily postponed in Summer 2020.
- The COVID-19 policy regarding late renewal fee forgiveness ends on 12/31/2020.
- The next DRBC public hearing is scheduled for November 12, 2020, followed by the Business Meeting on December 9, 2020.
- DRBC is operational with staff working remotely. Until further notice DRBC's office building is closed.

Mr. Pindar’s presentation can be viewed at

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/102120/pindar_DRBCupdate.pdf.

Presentations

Hydrologic Conditions

Anthony Preucil, DRBC Water Resource Scientist, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. The presentation is available on the WMAC webpage

(https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/102120/preucil_DRBhydrologic-conditions.pdf).

Resources for weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at

<http://www.nj.gov/drbc/hydrological/reports/>.

DRBC’s interactive dashboard (hydrosnap.drbc.net) also displays a daily-updated snapshot for flow and drought management in the basin.

F.E. Walter Dam Reevaluation Study

Laura Bittner (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) updated the Committee on the F.E. Walter Dam Reevaluation Study. The presentation is available on the WMAC webpage

(https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/102120/bittner_F.E.WalterDam_study-update.pdf).

Laura Bittner and Gregory Wacik replied to questions regarding details of the Environmental modeling. The Water Quality model conducted in 2009-2013 (i.e., temperature focused primarily) is available on the web at <https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Francis-E-Walter-Dam/Lehigh-River-Water-Quality-Model>. Those model results along with other available information will be applied to species specific needs (USFWS Blue Book HSI models) in the reservoir and downstream. The Habitat Evaluation Procedures model runs, summary, and incremental cost for habitat units for selected species under different alternatives will be provided in the environmental draft and final reports. Review of the associated model information will occur during the public review period of the draft report. The first documentation review by the public is planned as part of the draft report review in Summer 2021.

More information about the Francis E. Walter Dam & Reservoir Re-Evaluation 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 webpage, https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/hydrological/reservoirs/FEWalter_reeval-study.html.

Public Water Supply Projections

Michael Thompson (DRBC) updated the Committee on the Public Water Supply Projections Study being conducted by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The presentation is available on the WMAC webpage

(https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/102120/thompson_DRB_PWSprojections.pdf).

STATE UPDATES

- Pennsylvania – No time for updates
- New Jersey - No time for updates
- Delaware – No time for updates
- New York – (member not present)

OTHER MEMBER UPDATES

No time for updates

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm by Kathy Thaeber, Committee Chair.

Approved: March 17, 2021