



Delaware River Basin Commission

25 State Police Drive
 PO Box 7360
 West Trenton, New Jersey
 08628-0360
 Phone: (609) 883-9500 Fax: (609) 883-9522
 Web Site: <http://www.drbc.net>

Carol R. Collier
 Executive Director

Robert Tudor
 Deputy Executive Director

**MINUTES
 WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

ATTENDEES:

Members:	
NYS DEC Jason Fagel <i>(via telephone)</i>	DE DNREC Dave Wolanski <i>(via telephone)</i>
NJ DEP Debra Hammond	PA DEP <i>Not represented</i>
EPA Izabela Wojtenko, EPA, Region II <i>(via telephone)</i> Kuo-Liang Lai, EPA, Region III	Academia Representative John Jackson, Stroud Water Research Center
Environmental Organization Representatives Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper <i>(Chair of WQAC)</i>	Regulated Community Representatives Al Pagano, E.I. DuPont Bryan Lennon, City of Wilmington
National Park Service <i>Not represented</i>	Local Watershed Organization <i>Not represented</i>
DRBC: Greg Cavallo, Geologist Tom Fikslin, Manager, Mod. Mon. & Assess. Ken Najjar, Manger, Planning & IT Erik Silldorff, Aquatic Biologist Namsoo Suk, Supervisor, Modeling Bob Tudor, Deputy Executive Director John Yagecic, Supervisor, Standards	Other Attendees: Jason Cruz, PWD Phil Duzinski, PWD Jack Gibs, USGS-NJ Leonard Gipson, PWD Bob Hoke, DuPont Josef Kardos, PWD Frank Klapinski, NJDEP Leah Lowrie, DSM Nutritional Product Bonita Moore, PADEP Dan Mulvihill, Delaware Riverkeeper Angela Padeletti, Partnership Delaware Estuary Helen Pang, NJDEP Larry Sandeen Kirk White, USGS

1. Recognition of Service

WQAC Chair Maya Van Rossum recognized the many dedicated and productive years of service by Debra Hammond from NJDEP.

2. Announcements

Erik Silldorff described the status of the pH criteria revision for DRBC's water quality regulation, including the schedule for a public hearing in October 2013 and possible adoption of the revised criteria in December 2013. Discussion centered on the "natural conditions" provision currently proposed and how it would be implemented.

Erik Silldorff also reiterated the request from DRBC to the WQAC members for suitable candidates for an Expert Panel to deliberate on ecological endpoints or indicators for the Delaware Estuary that would be suitable for broadly assessing the health of the tidal river and, in particular, that would be suitable for developing nutrient criteria and/or understanding the effects of different nutrient regimes on the health of the estuarine ecosystem.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December 2012 WQAC meeting were reviewed and approved with one revision: including hyperlinks to presentations. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of posting meeting presentations and handouts; a broader discussion of the WQAC's policy on presentations and materials will occur during the next WQAC meeting in 2014.

Action Item: At its next meeting, the WQAC will discuss policies about presentations, submissions, and handouts provided at the WQAC and how these materials will be made available to the public

The minutes for the May 2013 WQAC meeting were reviewed, with substantial discussion about the details for item #6 (Existing Aquatic Life Uses of the Delaware Estuary). DRBC will review and revise the summary for this agenda item in preparation for the next WQAC meeting in 2014.

Action Item: DRBC staff will revise the May 2013 meeting minutes to more completely reflect the Committee's discussion and direction.

4. Petition from the Delaware Riverkeeper et al. 2013 regarding Existing Aquatic Life Uses

The petition to DRBC jointly from the Delaware Riverkeeper, the Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association, and the Lehigh River Stocking Association in March 2013 was discussed in greater detail. In particular, the Committee evaluated the overall merits of the petition and the appropriate steps that should follow from this petition. The idea of a formal "Finding" by the Committee and/or DRBC received favorable reception. Following the discussion, a draft resolution was proposed, revised, and voted on (the resolution passed unanimously). The final resolution is:

Resolution: The WQAC recommends that within one year the DRBC staff will prepare for the Committee a description of the existing aquatic life uses of the Delaware Estuary with citation to source materials which will be used to craft a formal Finding of Existing Uses that will be presented by the Committee to the Commissioners.

5. Philadelphia Water Department Models for the Delaware Estuary

Based on the request of the WQAC in May 2013, Josef Kardos presented an overview presentation¹ of the Philadelphia Water Department's modeling efforts for the Delaware Estuary. The modeling stems from agreements between the City of Philadelphia and the U.S. EPA surrounding the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) within the city. Both bacteria and dissolved oxygen serve as endpoints for the modeling work. Additional details can be found in the presentation, available on the DRBC website¹. The Committee had a number of questions about the modeling efforts, both about technical aspects and about the modeling implications. A proposed 2014 dye study was raised as a significant benefit to Philadelphia's modeling efforts, with the possible need for additional funding in order to complete an effective and thorough dye study.

6. Draft Nutrient Criteria Plan

Erik Silldorff summarized the organizations that had submitted comments on the draft DRBC Nutrient Criteria Plan for the Delaware River. The availability of these comments publicly or to the remaining members of the Committee was discussed, although it was not clear whether they could be shared more broadly. DRBC will continue to receive comments on the plan, with the goal of revising the plan and submitting the revised Nutrient Criteria Plan to U.S. EPA in December 2013.

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:56 pm.

¹ Presentations from WQAC meetings are available at <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/about/advisory/quality/>