



Delaware River Basin Commission

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**MINUTES (FINAL)
 WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 JULY 21, 2009**

ATTENDEES:

NY Not in attendance	DE DNREC Not in attendance
EPA Denise Hakowski, EPA Region III Izabela Wojtenko, EPA Region II	PA DEP (via telephone) Thomas Barron
NJ DEP Debra Hammond, Water Quality Standards & Assmt.	Academia Representative John Jackson, Stroud Water Res. Cntr.
Environmental Organization Representatives Tracy Carluccio, Del Riverkeeper (Alternate)	Regulated Community Representatives Alfred Pagano, E.I. DuPont Mary Neutz, City of Wilmington (Alternate)
National Park Service Allan Ambler, Biologist	Local Watershed Organization Not in attendance
DRBC Jessica Sanchez, Basin Planner John Yagecic, Supervisor, Stds. & Assmt. Kenneth Najjar, Manager, Plan & Information Tech. Thomas Fikslin, Manager, Modeling, Monitoring & Assmt. Erik Silldorff, Aquatic Biologist, Stds. & Assmt. Ed Santoro, Monitoring Coordinator Nicole Blake, DRBC Intern	Other Attendees: Jason Cruz, Philadelphia Water Dept. Josef Kardos, Philadelphia Water Dept. Bart Ruitter, E.I. DuPont Jack Gibs, US Geological Survey

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Committee Chair, Alfred Pagano.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The 2010 Integrated Assessment portion of the agenda was removed and a separate public meeting will be conducted; the WQAC, TAC, and MAC members will be invited. The agenda was approved by the committee with this change.

Minutes from the June 23, 2009 meeting were approved by the WQAC with the following changes:

- **Attendees:** If member is present, member's name should be listed under corresponding category. If alternate is present, alternate's name should be listed under corresponding category. If both are present, member is to be listed under corresponding category and alternate is to be listed under "Other Attendees". If neither is present, "Not in attendance" is to be listed under corresponding category.
- **Page 1** – remove reference to travel restrictions.

WQAC Practice and Procedures

The Practice and Procedures document was presented to the WQAC. The following changes were suggested:

- **Membership** – Community of environmental professionals should be changed to environmental community at large.
- **Committee Officers** – A - specify term of one fiscal year as July 1-June 30.
B - Remove "at the June meeting" and specify as "fiscal" year.
D – Delete.
- **Voting** – Add statement that quorum is needed for a vote or the official action and a quorum consists of 6 or more members.
B – Remove references to "alternates". Shall read "motions are passed if a majority of the members present affirm the motion."
D – shall be "In the event of a tie vote, the matter will be tabled."

The committee suggested that voting issues or possible voting issues be listed on the agenda as "voting matter."

Action: Revise and redistribute Practice and Procedures document to be voted on at September 15, 2009 meeting.

Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Motions for John Jackson of the Stroud Water Research Center as Committee Chair and Thomas Barron of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as committee Vice-Chair were voted on and passed unanimously.

Nutrient Management Measures (Erik Silldorff)

Erik Silldorff reported that the NSC shall finalize the recommendations during their next meeting and present to the WQAC at the September meeting.

At the June 2009 WQAC meeting, however, the need and process for revising Dissolved Oxygen criteria was raised and discussed. This discussion was continued based on a series of slides presenting the DRBC understanding and the options moving forward. DRBC staff suggested there are two sets of actions to be taken, one short-term and the other long-term. The short-term is the issue of existing use. There can be progress within the next year and a half in which Zones 3, 4, & 5 can be upgraded, but not to the highest attainable use, by simply changing the designated use, which is believed to be lower than the existing use and re-classifying the designated use to match the existing use. The long-term issue is the actual discussion of highest attainable use, which will involve the eutrophication model for the system, as well as questions of what can be attained by the various point source and non-point source loadings to the system in terms of all the water quality criteria affecting the designated and existing uses.

The DRBC therefore proposed a four step process to address both short-term and long-term revisions of the uses and Dissolved Oxygen criteria in the estuary:

- Step 1 – Change designated use to match existing uses in zones 3, 4, & 5.
- Step 2 – Develop DO criteria to support new designated use.
- Step 3 – Identify highest attainable use.
- Step 4 - Develop new DO criteria to support highest attainable use.

The role of an expert panel was again highlighted for many steps in the process. DRBC staff emphasized how the Fisheries Coop would be an important source for feedback along with a formal expert panel. A suggestion was made to develop a white paper for step 1 to be reviewed by the expert panel as part of the process.

Action: Based on the discussion by the WQAC, the Nutrient Subcommittee will present for a possible vote, revised recommendations at the September WQAC meeting.

Action: The expert panel process will be discussed at the WQAC September meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next WQAC meeting will be September 15, 2009 at the DRBC offices in Trenton, NJ.