



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Carol R. Collier
 Executive Director

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 Deputy Executive Director

**MINUTES
 WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 JUNE 23, 2010**

ATTENDEES:

Members:	
NYS DEC (via telephone) Scott Stoner	DE DNREC Dave Wolanski
NJ DEP Not in attendance	PA DEP Thomas Barron (Committee Vice-Chair)
EPA Denise Hakowski, EPA, Region III Wayne Jackson, EPA, Region II	Academia Representative (via telephone) John Jackson, Stroud Water Res. Center (Committee Chair)
Environmental Organization Representatives Maya K. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper Network	Regulated Community Representatives Alfred Pagano, E.I. DuPont City of Wilmington (not in attendance)
National Park Service Not in attendance	Local Watershed Organization Chris Kocher, Wildlands Conservancy
DRBC: Thomas Fikslin, Manager, Modeling, Monitoring, & Assessment Robert Limbeck, Watershed Scientist Ronald MacGillivray, Environmental Toxicologist Kenneth Najjar, Manager, Plan. & Info. Tech. Jessica Sanchez, Basin Planner Erik Silldorff, Aquatic Biologist, Stds. & Assmt. John Yagecic, Supervisor, Stds. & Assmt.	Other Attendees: Jason Cruz, Philadelphia Water Dept. Sean Duffy, City of Wilmington Josef Kardos, Philadelphia Water Dept. J. Bart Ruiter, E.I. DuPont (Alternate) Jay Springer, NJDEP

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair, John Jackson.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The Agenda and the Minutes from the 3/23/10 meeting were approved.

Membership

As of meeting of 6/23/10 John Jackson has ceded Chair to former Vice-Chair, Thomas Barron of PADEP. Colleen Arnold from the City of Wilmington was nominated as Vice-Chair to commence at the June meeting of 2010, pending her approval due to absence. Sean Duffy will transmit the good news to Colleen.

2010 Integrated Assessment Results

John Yagecic gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Results of the 2010 Delaware River and Bay Integrated List Water Quality Assessment*. The report included; assessment units, designated uses and support of those uses, parameter specific assessments and issues that are nearing resolution, are on-going or new. The draft report was submitted to EPA, pending any comments. It is anticipated to be finalized on July 12th and posted on the DRBC website.

Highlights of the report and items of discussion are as follows:

- Non-attainment of designated use reported for several parameters in several zones of the River. The results were affected by a loss of 10% threshold as per the EPA Florida decision.
- Erik Silldorff spoke about the first use of interim bio-assessment methodology (6-metric IBI) in Zones 1A-1E.
- Ron MacGillivray discussed the findings of the copper and aquatic life assessment. Problems continue as a result of dependence on salinity (flows/tidal cycle) and hardness, and lack of effective assessment guidance for applying acute and chronic freshwater and/or marine criteria to Zone 5 estuarine conditions.
- John Yagecic and Ron MacGillivray reported on drinking water. Issues remain regarding arsenic exceedances in Zone 1C and 1E which could be related to natural conditions; parameter toxicity is under review by EPA.

Integrated Assessment Issues:

- Temperature and pH issues in Zone 1 are being addressed via criteria development.
- Lack of continuous monitors hampers assessments, especially DO and temperature.
- Lack of toxics criteria for Zone 1; EPA criteria used as default.
- Thermal exceedances in estuary dependent on relative impact of meteorological conditions and anthropogenic inputs; permitting new loadings is an issue.
- Absence of guidance on use of salinity and hardness values confound toxics assessments.
- Loss of the 10% threshold may require that statistical methods to account for uncertainty need to be established with regulatory criteria.
- DRBC expects to change Report title to “305(b) Report” in 2012 to more accurately reflect purpose and use.

Temperature

Bob Limbeck presented Proposed Rule Language for Ambient Temperature Criteria, Delaware River Zones 1B-1E to the Committee.

- The discussions included issues of ambient vs. natural temperature, meteorologic conditions, air temperature, heat dissipation, regulations and thermal loads. Recommendations were made by the Committee to clarify definitions and terminology.

Task: DRBC staff to continue revisions to Zone 1 temperature criteria

Nutrients

Erik Silldorff discussed the Water Quality Criteria for Point Source Nutrient Monitoring in the Delaware Estuary. DRBC has spoken with the Commissioners in great detail regarding nutrient monitoring for point source facilities. The Commissioners agree that it is something that they support. DRBC is in the process of crafting a resolution that the Commissioners can vote on at the next meeting in July which will allow the Commission to implement its water quality regulations and a requirement for nutrient monitoring.

- Specific discussion items included; monitoring frequency, need for historic data, exclusions, parameters, methods specification, wet v. dry weather monitoring, reporting template and deliverables format, and potential use of NJ WQDE.
- It was also determined that the timing and mailing of materials need to be sensitive to municipal facility budget cycles and a fact sheet was suggested that should accompany the DRBC Executive Director letter to all affected permit holders

Task: DRBC staff to incorporate Committee recommendations into estuary nutrient monitoring requirements for Commission approval July 14th

Task: States to work with DRBC staff on discharger lists for nutrient monitoring

Other Business

WQAC Meetings remaining for 2010

- August 3rd (tentative date, if needed)
- October 19th

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next WQAC meeting will be August 3, 2010, at 9:30 am, at the DRBC offices in West Trenton, NJ.