



The Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership  
Quarterly Meeting Summary held via webinar on May 6, 2020

## Attendees

### Water Suppliers

#### Berkeley County PSWD:

Steve DeRidder  
Dereck Seckman  
Brooks Waybright

#### City of Rockville:

Glenn Maggard  
Susan Strauss

#### DC Water:

Anjuman Islam  
Matt Ries  
Maureen Schmelling  
Ying Tan

#### Fairfax Water:

Nicki Bellezza  
Jojean Bolton  
Steve Edgemon  
Doug Grimes  
Susan Miller  
Gregory Prelewicz  
Niffy Saji  
Michele Siminari  
Joel Thompson

#### Frederick County

DUSWM:  
Terri Snyder-Kolovich

#### Loudoun Water:

Thomas Barrack  
Cathy Cogswell  
Jessica Edwards-Brandt  
Pam Kenel  
Roddy Mowe  
Mark Peterson

#### Town of Leesburg:

Russell Chambers

#### Washington Aqueduct:

Anna Hayden  
Anne Spiesman

#### WSSC Water:

Robert Hsu  
Jin Shin  
Martin Chandler  
Robin Forte  
Nicole Horvath  
Steven Nelson  
Priscilla To  
Daniel Yuan

### State and Local Agencies

#### DOEE:

Joshua Rodriguez

#### MDE:

Paul Emmart  
John Grace  
Saeid Kasraei  
Jonathan Leiman  
Robert People  
Michael Roberts  
Rebecca Warns

#### PA DEP:

Patrick Bowling

#### VA DEQ:

Sara Jordan

#### WV DHHR:

Brian Carr  
Monica Whyte

### Federal and Regional Agencies

#### EPA Region 3:

Heather Arvanaghi  
Michelle Audi  
Renee Bryant  
Sherri Comerford  
Nicholas Holomuzki

#### ICPRB:

Renee Bourassa  
Claire Buchanan  
Curtis Dalpra  
Rikke Jepsen  
Andrea Nagel  
Michael Nardolilli  
Erfaneh Sharifi

#### MWCOG:

Steve Bieber  
Christine Howard

#### USGS:

Mary Kay Foley  
Anne Timm

### Others

Jefferson Co. Water  
Advisory Committee:  
Mary Sell

Loudoun County  
Government:  
David Ward

Smithsonian Institute:  
Iara Lacher

WV Rivers Coalition:  
Tanner Haid

## Business Meeting

Due to government-mandated social distancing requirements resulting from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak, the May 6, 2020 Quarterly Meeting was held via webinar. There were 69 attendees, including the moderator and presenters.

A recording of the webinar is available on the [ICPRB YouTube page](#).

## Presentations

### **Safe Water Conservation Collaborative's GIS Prioritization Model (v1)**

*Tanner Haid, West Virginia Rivers Coalition ([presentation](#))*

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition coordinates the [Safe Water Conservation Collaborative](#), a network of over 25 partners including water utilities, land conservation organizations, and community groups that collaborate on land conservation and stewardship practices to protect safe, clean drinking water for communities in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Mr. Haid discussed the group's strategies for protecting drinking water through land conservation and provided an overview of a recent project that prioritized high-value land for conservation through a GIS Prioritization Model.

### **Changing Landscapes Initiative**

*Dr. Iara Lacher, Smithsonian Institute ([presentation](#))*

The Changing Landscapes Initiative (CLI) is a Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute-led initiative working to understand the impacts of land use change in order to protect wildlife and natural resources that sustain human health and well-being. CLI bridges the gap between scientists and communities by working closely with regional stakeholders to produce relevant, objective science. CLI provides this useful information to local leaders to help prioritize conservation efforts, support strategic zoning and planning policies, and garner support for conservation of natural resources.

Dr. Lacher's presentation reviewed the approach CLI takes in producing scientific information, results of modeled land use change in the future, and impacts of land use on water quality metrics within northwestern Virginia.

A PDF of the project overview can be found on this website:

<https://jumpshare.com/v/DP2m811deeWYJ6v9AYDg>

## Workgroup Updates

### **Agricultural Issues**

*Pam Kenel, Loudoun Water*

The AWWA Journal (April 2020) article on [USDA Source Water Protection Funding: Successes and Opportunities](#) was shared.

### **Contaminants of Emerging Concern**

*Martin Chandler, WSSC Water*

Workgroup members have been monitoring the following:

- PFAS – This is still a very active topic nationally and locally. Related news includes:
  - The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC, <http://itrcweb.org/>) has recently released a PFAS Guidance Document and Training Videos.
  - EPA has issued a preliminary regulatory determination under the Safe Drinking Water Act for PFOS and PFOA, which ultimately may lead to MCLs for these substances. This would supersede the health advisories (70 ppb) for these substances.
  - Meanwhile, the California State Water Resources Control Board lowered its reporting level for PFAS to below the threshold set by EPA, requiring water agencies in CA to take action earlier than water agencies anywhere else in the country (source: [Law.com/The Recorder, 02/24/2020](#)).
  - EPA has published a new analytical Methods for PFAS: Method 537.1 “Determination of selected per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances in drinking water by solid phase extraction and LC-MS/MS” which was published in November 2018; and Method 533 in December 2019, which focuses on short chain PFAS (C4-C12), and which complements Method 537.1 by adding 11 additional PFAS.
  - WSSC Water resumed PFAS monitoring quarterly using an expanded list of analytes and lower reporting limits than used previously for UCMR3. Traces of two substances were found, barely above analytical detection (PFOA and PFHxA).
  - EPA held a webinar on April 29, 2020, on drinking water treatment modeling tools for removing PFAS and other contaminants. A recording of the webinar will be available soon on the [EPA’s Water Research Webinar Series website](#).
- UCMR4 – EPA’s database update was provided in April, and the running summary of monitoring results from Potomac River Basin water utilities was distributed. Similar patterns of frequent detection for haloacetic acids and manganese continue, while no cyanotoxins have been found, and a few traces of Semi Volatile Organic Compounds and one pesticide.
- HABs & Cyanotoxins – EPA provided a webinar on these topics on April 28, focusing on water treatment plant evaluation protocol for HABs, and treatment options for HAB impacted waters. A recording of the webinar will be available soon on the [EPA’s Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series website](#).

## **Early Warning & Emergency Response**

*Joel Thompson, Fairfax Water*

The spill exercise is scheduled for October 14 – 15 with the first day on site at Loudoun Water and the second day with everyone at their locations. This could change depending on Covid-19. The scenario for the exercise is still being developed.

The Water Quality Workgroup has compiled a list of parameters being monitored on the river. We are looking at those that are online to set alarms that will detect a contaminate. Fairfax Water is testing the Toxicity monitor as one that could work well with the minimum of nuisance alarms.

## **Reaching Out**

*Lisa Ragain, MWCOG*

The Partnership's 2019 Annual Report is available on the [DWSPP website](#).

## **Urban and Industrial Issues**

*Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water*

The workgroup members track NPDES permit applications and renewals. One recent request was a permit modification request by GenOn/NRG Dickerson Powerplant. The GenOn facility has permit requirements for bottom ash transport and flue gas desulfurization by Nov 1, 2020 which eliminates voluntary incentives for flue gas desulfurization. They have requested to delay the requirements through Dec 31, 2023. MDE proposes to deny the request for the delay. Some of the DWSPP utility members are planning to submit a letter of support for MDE's decision.

A poultry processing facility in the Shenandoah valley, George's Chicken, has an NPDES permit up for renewal. The workgroup has made initial outreach to the closest downstream water utility, the Town of Woodstock, to see what source water issues they might be experiencing from the facility. If no significant water quality issues are found, then the public comment could include requesting any spills or incidental discharges be reported to both Va. DEQ and ICPRB (to run the spill model and facilitate further communication with downstream water suppliers and government agencies).

More information for these facilities can be found on the DWSPP Samepage site.

There is a public comment period open for a superfund site in Hagerstown, MD. The facility blended fertilizers and agricultural pesticides until the 1980's. The permit modification is to change the superfund site wastewater route from the municipal wastewater plant to a stormwater conveyance system. More information can be found on the [EPA website](#).

There is a WaterSuite Users Meeting on May 14.

## **Water Quality**

*Niffy Saji, Fairfax Water*

The workgroup plans on updating the [HABs Monitoring Locations](#) map on the DWSPP website. Workgroup members will be reaching out to the states to get updated information.

The workgroup members were also interested in looking into what regional monitoring is done on road salts.

The workgroup will work with ICPRB staff to plan a webinar in the fall to learn about the different spill modelling options that can be utilized during a contamination event in the river.

The workgroup will utilize the [Utility Spill Response Plan](#) during the upcoming spill exercise to see if any updates are needed to the plan.

## **Other Updates**

### **DWSPP Land Prioritization Project**

*Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water*

The project team, comprised of eight DWSPP member utilities and ICPRB, held a kickoff meeting on April 16. The group discussed some of the factors involved with source water protection. The group is looking at what metrics to prioritize in the GIS mapping project.

It was noted that the previous presentations are great examples of how the Land Prioritization Project can move forward.

### **USGS Next Generation Water Observation System**

*Mary Kay Foley, USGS*

\*This project update was provided after the webinar\* The USGS plans to announce the next two Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) basins next year. Early indications are that the two new basins will be in the mid-west. The NGWOS Potomac application is still active and we appreciate the support received from ICPRB. USGS continues to support the Potomac as a potential basin for future selection.

### **Administration Updates**

*Renee Bourassa, ICPRB*

R. Bourassa will be going on maternity leave in June. ICPRB will work to ensure the transition of the Partnership goes smoothly.