

Brief Meeting Summary

From the Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting held on January 9, 2013

Attendees:

Philadelphia Water Department

Kelly Anderson
Alison Aminto

USGS

Jacob Gibbs
Marla Stuckey (phone)

New Jersey DEP

Leslie McGeorge
Victor Poretti

National Park Service

Al Ambler

Pennsylvania DEP

Tony Shaw

University of Delaware

Jonathan Sharpe, Ph.D. (phone)

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Faith Zerbe

USFWS

Jerre Mohler (phone)

US Army Corps of Engineers

Barbara Conlin (phone)

Delaware River Basin Commission

Thomas Fikslin, Ph.D. John Yagecic, P.E.
Namsoo Suk, Ph.D. Greg Cavallo, P.G.
Jeff Iudicello, Ph.D. Erik Silldorff, Ph.D.
Bob Tudor Ron MacGillivray, Ph.D.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Angela Padeletti

- Marla Stuckey (USGS) updated the group on USGS' cooperative effort with Pennsylvania and SRBC on optimizing the stream gage network in PA. Bob Tudor asked whether the states would be interested in cooperating on a similar product in the Delaware Basin in NJ, NY, and DE.
- Erik Silldorff (DRBC) updated the group on the status of ecological flow work group.
- John Yagecic (DRBC) reported out on Eutrophication Modeling Expert Panel recommendations for monitoring needs. The panel recommended that PAR and productivity measurements be added to the Boat Run, and additional characterization of spatial and temporal DO depression in the estuary.
- John Yagecic (DRBC) reported out on monitoring work and modeling performed in response to the Paulsboro, NJ vinyl chloride spill. DRBC staff used their spill model to predict worst case concentrations near the Philadelphia and NJ American Water drinking water intakes. Vinyl chloride was not detected in the 9 samples collected by DRBC on the day of the spill and 3 days later.
- John Yagecic, Erik Silldorff, and Ron MacGillivray (DRBC) updated the group on results to date of baseline monitoring prior to natural gas development. Monitoring categories include specific conductance, hydraulic fracturing related parameters in surface water, biological monitoring, and toxicity testing using mayflies. Anticipated future work includes monitoring for radionuclides and upgrading USGS gages to include specific conductance.

Attendees reported out current and future monitoring activities for each organization including:

- NPS has installed 3 water quality sondes with telemetry at Delaware River at Lordville and Barryville, and Lackawaxen River at Rowland. Deployment at Montague expected soon. Other sondes rotating through tributaries without telemetry.
- PWD will be adding a tidal spill model to the Early Warning System in 2013 including a mapping feature. The monitor at Baxter (Pennypack Woods) has been upgraded to year-round.
- USGS is investigating impact of permanganate addition at Morrisville Water Plant to the WQ monitor at Trenton. A new monitor ~30 miles upstream from Calhoun St. Bridge is under development. Highlighted USGS growing expertise in monitoring chl-a and nitrate with spectral analyzers.
- PADEP developed strong expertise in data logger deployment and maintenance, including grading resultant data. They will be presenting this topic at Mid-Atlantic Biologists Meeting in Cacapon this spring.
- NJDEP is implementing their headwaters IBI with sampling at 18 sites in 2013 including 3 on Delaware tributaries. NJDEP will be assessing 8 sites under EPA's National River and Streams Assessment in 2013, with DRBC assistance on 2 mainstem sites.
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary reminded participants about the Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental summit January 28th through 30th in Cape May, NJ.
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network is continuing monthly baseline specific conductance monitoring at about 85 sites in the upper basin, with some measurement of barium and strontium for most sites. Riverkeeper is continuing to develop pre- and post-pipeline crossing monitoring approaches. Also, they are coordinating with USGS on a groundwater monitoring initiative.
- USFWS reported that the Fisheries Cooperative reinstated young-of-year shad surveys at 5 sites between the Lackawaxen River and Trenton, NJ.
- Jonathan Sharpe reported that the Lewes-Cape May Ferry has been outfitted with a water quality sonde and collected data in summer 2011 and 2012. Work is underway to outfit a vessel to allow year-round data collection.
- USACE reported the completion of 3-years of data collection in the mainstem near sturgeon habitat and oyster reefs, including sturgeon tracking and DO. In addition, USACE has 9 water chemistry mooring stations near the main channel in the vicinity of oyster reefs.