



## Delaware River Basin Commission

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Executive Director

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### Water Management Advisory Committee

#### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, February 18, 2016

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) chaired by Dana Olivio, NYC DEP, was held at the DRBC offices in West Trenton, New Jersey on Thursday, February 18, 2016. Some members participated via webinar. Presentations from the meeting are available online at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/management/oct222015.html> and via the links provided in the body of this summary.

#### ADMINISTRATION

- The meeting summary from October 22, 2015 was approved.
- Brian Oram, P.G., was welcomed as a new member representing the agricultural sector. Member and contact information on the website will be updated accordingly.
- Proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule: June 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Members were apprised that an alternative space for one or both meetings would be announced pending renovations to the Goddard Conference room.

**OCTOBER SURVEY RESULTS:** The presentation is available at:

[http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02182016/DRBC\\_survey-results\\_sanchez.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02182016/DRBC_survey-results_sanchez.pdf).

Results of the survey developed as a follow-up to the October WMAC meeting were presented by Jessica Sanchez. The survey asked questions based on a brief discussion regarding future WMAC topics at the end of the October 2015 meeting. Fourteen of the 20 WMAC members (70%) responded. Overwhelmingly, members showed interest in more detailed information about:

- the SEPA GWPA, especially changes in conditions and underlying reasons for same
- uniform groundwater measurement and management issues, especially GWPA metrics vs. others
- water audits and use of results

Discussion centered on a number of topics (based on responses to open-ended survey questions) summarized below.

1. Status of USGS-State cooperative programs, including monitoring and reporting of quality and use. An overview of the cooperative programs by USGS and a status report from individual states on theirs will be scheduled in a future meeting/s as time permits.
2. Implications of migrating from groundwater to surface water withdrawals in a basin-wide setting, with consideration of the effect, if any, on overall use and supply, and the implications of climate change for supply resiliency. The USGS DRB Water Census results are expected to lay a foundation for future discussions on this topic. DRBC will keep the WMAC apprised of progress on the 2060 water supply planning effort and climate change assumptions to be incorporated therein.

3. Increased understanding of how DRBC reviews groundwater withdrawal applications, especially states' roles in the process.
4. Economic considerations in long-range planning and as a tool for conservation. DRBC will investigate this topic with Jerry Kauffman, U. Delaware and a member of the WMAC.
5. Drought management in the DRB. At a future meeting, staff will provide a review of the tools available for drought management in the basin.

**SEPA GROUNDWATER PROTECTED AREA:** The presentation is available at:

[http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02182016/DRBC\\_gwpa\\_barr.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/02182016/DRBC_gwpa_barr.pdf)

Kent Barr and Chad Pindar presented an assessment of condition changes in seven SEPA GWPA subbasins over three annual reporting years (2003, 2008 and 2012). Overall, total GW withdrawals in the SEPA GWPA are declining. Reasons for these changes include increased areas of conjunctive use, facility closures, and data re-characterization, including quarry withdrawals and reporting. The presentation answered the questions remaining after the October meeting. Discussion included ways to improve the visualization of water withdrawals (mapping). Dan Goode provided a copy of his paper "Map visualization of groundwater withdrawals at the sub-basin scale" published in the *Hydrogeology Journal* in January 2016.

**WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM 2016-2018:** The documents is available at:

[http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WRP\\_FY16-18draft.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WRP_FY16-18draft.pdf)

Ken Najjar reviewed the draft Water Resources Program 2016-2018, focusing on the conditions section, which provides current and historic water use by sector, a topic that was of interest on the survey results.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Betty Tatham suggested that committee members might be interested in an article on NASA's satellite imagery and analysis (2003-2013 data) that 21 of the world's 37 largest aquifers have exceeded sustainability tipping points and are being depleted, with 13 being considered significantly stressed: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=4626>.

#### **SUMMARY**

DRBC will provide copies or links to meeting materials, updated members list and additional information as suggested by members.

Future meeting topics include an update on USGS cooperative initiatives, a primer on drought operations, and the exploration of water pricing/economics as a conservation tool.

**Next Meeting:** June 23, 2016.

**Location:** TBD

Approved: June 23, 2016

WMAC MEETING ATTENDANCE – October 22, 2015

<b>WMAC MEMBER</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Barndt, John*	Delaware DNREC
Bittner, Laura	US Army Corps of Engineers
Bowers, Jan*	Chester County (PA) Water Resources Authority
Goode, Dan	USGS
Jostenski, Dave	Pennsylvania DEP
Liaghat, A. (Hoss)*	Pennsylvania DEP - Alternate
Lynch, Katie*	US EPA Region 2
Mershon, Jim	Industry - Merrill Creek Owners Group
Noble, Mary Ellen	Environmental - Delaware Riverkeeper Network
O'Dell, Travis	Upper Delaware Council
Olivio, Dana	New York City DEP
Oram, Brian	Agriculture – BF Env. Consultants
Tatham, Betty	Civic - League of Women Voters
Thaeder, John	Water Utility – Artesian Water
<b>DRBC STAFF</b>	
Barr, Kent	Planning & IT Branch
Najjar, Ken	Planning & IT Branch
Pindar, Chad	Planning & IT Branch
Rittler Sanchez, Jessica	Planning & IT Branch, WMAC Liaison
<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Hesson, Molly	PWD, for K. Anderson
Myer, Jennifer	New Jersey DEP, for C. Olynyk
Cocke, William*	DNREC
Diggens, Allison*	DNREC
McGuire, Meg	Publisher, <i>River Currents</i> , Port Jervis NY
Vowinkle, Eric	Rutgers, Env Sci
* Attended via webinar/phone	