



Delaware River Basin Commission
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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

**Water Management Advisory Committee
Meeting Highlights**

Thursday, February 19, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dana Olivio	NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, Chair
Joanne Rufft	Artesian Water Company, Vice-chair
Ferdows Ali	NJ Dept. of Agriculture
John Barndt	DE Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Laura Bittner	US Army Corps of Engineers
Janet Bowers	Chester County Water Resources Authority (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
David Jostenski	PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
George Kunkel	City of Philadelphia Water Department
John Mello	US EPA, Region II
Kathy Klein	Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin
Michael Holt	NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
Mark Hartle	PA Fish and Boat Commission (<i>via Conference Call</i>)

Other Attendees

Jan Gheen	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Hoss Liaghat	PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
Bill Cocke	DE Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Allison Diggins	DE Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Kelly Anderson	Philadelphia Water Department (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
John Weidman	NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (<i>via Conference Call</i>)
Betty Tatham	PA League of Women Voters (<i>via Conference Call</i>)

DRBC Staff

Kent Barr, Water Resource Analyst
Pam Bush, Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel
Kenneth Najjar, Manager, Planning & Information Technology Branch
Chad Pindar, Supervisor, Watershed Planning & Compliance Section
Jessica Sanchez, River Basin Planner
Jessica Sanko, Secretary
David Sayers, Supervisor, Information Technology & Water Use Section
Steven Tambini, Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION

- New representatives were introduced: Ms. Kathy Klein, Water Resource Association of the Delaware River Basin, and Dr. Dan Goode, USGS.

- Edie Stevens, League of Women Voters, has resigned from the Committee. Staff will work to fill this new vacancy as well as those for the Industry, Watershed Organization, and Recreation sectors.
- The Meeting Highlights of the October 16, 2014 meeting were approved.
- WMAC agreed to meet on June 18th and October 15th, with the understanding that a special joint meeting with the WQAC may be scheduled in May to discuss the *One Permit/One Process* program.
- Representatives are reminded to submit the names of their official Alternates.

SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE 2060

- Ken Najjar spoke to the elements of the 2060 planning work and how the following presentations from the Corps and DRBC fit into the overall strategy and work of USGS and DRBC. Responding to the Committee's request, a list of DRBC documents and links has been distributed and posted on the WMAC web page.
- Laura Bittner, US Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics, gave an overview of the *Corps Water Management System (CWMS)*, an automated information system that integrates real-time data acquisition, database storage, flow forecasting of runoff, reservoir operation decision support, river profile modeling, inundated area determination, consequence/damage analysis, and information dissemination in a suite of software products. Principally an internal operational model for the Corps, there is interest among Basin stakeholders for a Delaware River Basin model. The Corps is planning to develop the model for watersheds in the basin containing three Corps reservoirs: F.E. Walter, Beltsville and Blue Marsh. The modeling effort can be extended to the entire basin if the Corps chooses to support that request. A Fact Sheet and the presentation will be posted with the meeting materials on the WMAC webpage.
- Kent Barr, DRBC Water Resources Analyst, shared information about recent work on Agricultural Water Use estimates for the Delaware River Basin. This work adds to the trend analyses already done for public water supply, power and industry sectors. Although not as great in total volume, agricultural use has high seasonal and consumptive components. Estimates of seasonal use were presented for 2008 and 2013. Generally, agricultural land use is decreasing, while irrigation is increasing. Details of where agricultural irrigation is occurring in the DRB and which crop types are dominant were also covered. Committee discussion focused on differences in agricultural practices and use reporting across the basin. The presentation will be posted on the WMAC web page.

WATER AUDIT PROGRAM

David Sayers, Supervisor, DRBC Information Technology and Water Use, gave an update on the Water Audit Program, which is entering its third reporting year. Building on national reporting on water system efficiencies, local interest has increased. Interviews of PWD and DRBC on the water audit program will be aired in the near future on WHY. Next steps involve outreach and training, responses to a ten-question feedback survey on the audit

experience, and a cross-walk of audit responses and conditions in the PA GWPA. Other items of interest:

- There will be a national AWWA conference on *North American Water Loss*, Dec. 8-9, 2015, in Atlanta (see: <http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/water-knowledge/water-loss-control.aspx>)
- A report on the results of the 2012 audit program for public water systems is available at: <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/wateraudits/CY2012audit-report.pdf>.
- NRDC has a website that tracks state progress on cutting water losses: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/water-loss-reduction.asp>

STATE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM UPDATES

Delaware: John Barndt reporting.

- PFOS contamination in wells of the City of New Castle, which shut down that system, is being treated; Artesian Water Company has supplied the City through the interconnections constructed to drought-proof the region; EPA is investigating the contamination which also affected some of Artesian's supply
- DE has expanded its water allocation staff by 50% (from one to two), and its online reporting;
- DNREC is looking to review allocation permits for reasonableness; they recently reduced allocation for Dover
- Kent County has requested a demonstration project in areas with demand conflicts for public water supply and agricultural use; awaiting response from general assembly

New Jersey: Jan Gheen reporting.

- The state-wide Water Supply Plan has been returned from the Governor's office with extensive comments;
- The Water Infrastructure Protection Act passed, facilitating sale of municipal water infrastructure systems;
- Renewal of the Permit Extension Act for another year will increase the total number of permits expiring on June 30th, 2016 to 570, more than half are Ag Certifications. NJDEP is working with County Ag agents to help streamline the process
- NJDEP is working with coastal and northeast communities over 50,000 population to update Emergency Response Plans; Second round to include others with systems vulnerable to coastal flooding.

Pennsylvania: David Jostenski reporting.

- Safe Drinking Water training for the water audit was successful; hoping for additional training for small systems, possibly at Southeast Regional Office.

New York: Mike Holt reporting.

- In process of getting water use reports for 2014 for the approximately 40 facilities outside NYC diversion (~15 MGD)
- Passby flow guidance document under development to be discussed with DRBC

- Working on an agreement with DRBC to coordinate permitting processes and conditions
- Current conditions: water main breakages extensive with recent cold weather; lots of snow pack

New York City: Dana Olivio reporting.

- NYC reservoir storage is below normal, but there is a lot of snow pack
- Average diversion to NYC for the year is 551 MGD
- NYC is starting an initiative to reduce hotel water use in the City by 10% during the Rondout-West Branch tunnel shutdown.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- Administrative Agreements – *One Permit/One Process Program*
- Groundwater Supply/Demand Benchmarking: GWPA, and other state and regional programs

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- May – TBA
- June 18, 2015
- October 22, 2015