



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

Minutes Water Quality Advisory Committee

March 29, 2018

Members & Alternates:

NYS DEC

Sarah Rickard (remotely)

EPA

Kuo-Liang Lai
Brent Gaylord (remotely)
Wayne Jackson (remotely)

NJDEP

Frank Klapinski
Biswarup Guha

Environmental

Erik Silldorff (Delaware Riverkeeper Network)

Regulated Community Industrial

Bart Ruitter (Chemours)
Kim Long (Exelon, remotely)

DNREC

Dave Wolanski

PADEP

Tom Barron
Matthew Kundrat

Academia/Science

John Jackson

Local Watershed Organizations

Not in attendance

Regulated Community Municipal

Jay Cruz (PWD)

National Park Service

Don Hamilton (remotely)

Other Attendees:

Evelyn MacKnight (EPA)
John Yagecic (DRBC)
Namsoo Suk (DRBC)
Li Zheng (DRBC)
Tom Fikslin (DRBC)
Elaine Panuccio (DRBC)
Ron MacGillivray (DRBC)
Pam Bush (DRBC)
Ken Najjar (DRBC)
Ian Piro (DELCORA)
Curtis Schreffler (USGS)
Dan Caprioli (USACE)

Angela Padeletti (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, remotely)
Meg McGuire (Delaware Currents)
Eric Vowinkel (Rutgers University)
Michael Dillon (Manko Gold Katcher & Fox)
Brenda Gotanda (Manko Gold Katcher & Fox)
Steve Seeberger (NJDEP)
Jean Malafronte (Greeley and Hansen)
Kinsey Hoffman (Hazen and Sawyer)
Andy Thuman (HDR, remotely)
Sheila Eyler (USFWS)
Molly Hesson (PWD)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:35 AM by Frank Klapinski.

Election of New Chair

Frank Klapinski's term as chair ended. A review of previous Chairs indicated that the Regulated Community – Industrial Representative (Bart Ruitter) would be next in line to serve as Chair. Bart Ruitter indicated that he would be available to serve as Chair. Jay Cruz moved that Bart Ruitter be

elected chair, and Frank Klapinski seconded the motion. The motion carried with Bart Ruiter abstaining and all others in favor.

Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from the March 1, 2018 and August 24, 2017 meetings had been previously provided to members for review. John Jackson moved that both sets of minutes be accepted, and Jay Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Final minutes for those meetings are available at:

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/082417/meeting-summary.pdf>

And

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/030118/meeting-summary.pdf>

Resolution 2017-4

Dr. Namsoo Suk presented highlights of Resolution 2017-4, approved by the Commissioners in September 2017. The resolution recognizes that evidence supports further study on the inclusion of propagation as a designated use in Zones 3 and 4 and the upper portion of Zone 5 of the Delaware River Estuary; provides for studies to be undertaken in consultation with co-regulators and dischargers; and directs the Executive Director to initiate DRBC rulemaking to revise the designated aquatic life uses consistent with the results of the identified studies and the objectives and goals of the federal Clean Water Act.

John Jackson recommended that the WQAC should discuss the definition of fish propagation and that tributaries may reflect an opportunity for water quality improvement. Biswarup Guha indicated that importance of synchronizing monitoring.

Dr. Suk's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/suk_resolution2017-4.pdf

Resolution 2017-4 is available at:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/Res2017-04_EstuaryExistingUse.pdf

DO Early Action Workgroup

John Yagecic presented the status and activities of the DO Early Action Workgroup. The Workgroup was called for by Resolution 2017-4. The Workgroup met twice (once in January and once in March 2018). Mr. Yagecic's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/yagecic_DOearly-action-workgroup_update.pdf

RFP for Engineering Evaluation and Cost Estimating of WWTP Upgrades

John Yagecic presented the status of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to professional engineering services for technical evaluations and cost estimation for upgrades of wastewater treatment plants in Delaware River Basin. The goal of the contract is to develop information on the relationship between various levels of wastewater effluent ammonia and total nitrogen

concentration targets and the estimated expenditures needed to achieve those targets. Mr. Yagecic's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/yagecic_RFPengineering-evaluation_update.pdf

Delaware Estuary DO Improvement Partnership

Jason Cruz of the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) presented the status of PWD's Delaware Estuary DO Improvement Partnership. Mr. Cruz's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/cruz_EstuaryDOimprovement-partnership_update.pdf

DO Needs Evaluation

John Yagecic presented the status of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Needs Evaluation being performed by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANSDU). Mr. Yagecic's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/yagecic_DOnneeds-evaluation.pdf

Numeric Nutrient Criteria Development Plan Update

John Yagecic discussed the status of a revised Numeric Nutrient Criteria Development Plan. The revised plan was subsequently e-mailed to WQAC participants with a request that any comments be provided within 60 days.

Monitoring Update for Eutrophication Model

Elaine Panuccio presented the status of monitoring being performed in support of the development of the estuary eutrophication model. Ms. Panuccio's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/panuccio_eutrophication-model-monitoring2018.pdf

Freshwater Chloride Trends and Options

Elaine Panuccio presented a summary of existing reports documenting increasing concentrations of surface water chlorides and related parameters in the Delaware River and nationwide. Group members highlighted other reports documenting the extent of the problem including an article from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) citing freshwater salinization syndrome of a continental scale. The group discussed other efforts underway to control increases in chloride. Both Pennsylvania and New Jersey have workgroups investigating this issue. General consensus was to retain awareness on this topic and re-investigate once PA and NJ workgroups are in a position to report out. Ms. Panuccio's presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/032918/panuccio_chloride-trends.pdf

The PNAS freshwater salinization syndrome article is available at:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/01/03/1711234115>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.