



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

Minutes
Water Quality Advisory Committee
May 11, 2017

Members & Alternates:

NYS DEC

Sarah Pickard (remotely)

EPA

Kuo-Liang Lai

Brent Gaylord (remotely)

NJDEP

Frank Klapinski

Biswarup Guha (remotely)

Environmental

Maya van Rossum (Delaware Riverkeeper Network)

Regulated Community Industrial

Bart Ruitter (Chemours)

Chris Conroy (Exelon)

DNREC

Dave Wolanski (remotely)

PADEP

Tom Barron (remotely)

Academia

Not in attendance

Local Watershed Organizations

Abigail Pattishall (Wildlands Conservancy)

Regulated Community Municipal

Jay Cruz (PWD)

National Park Service

Richard Evans

Other Attendees:

Angela McFadden (EPA)

Evelyn MacKnight (EPA)

Wayne Jackson (EPA) (remotely)

Erik Silldorff (Delaware Riverkeeper Network)

John Yagecic (DRBC)

Namsoo Suk (DRBC)

Tom Fikslin (DRBC)

Robert Limbeck (DRBC)

Ron MacGillivray (DRBC)

Greg Cavallo (DRBC)

Julia Ragazzo (DRBC)

Jennifer Orr (PADEP) (remotely)

Don Hamilton (NPS) (remotely)

Brenda Gotanda (Manko Gold) (remotely)

Siegi Pylpchuk (remotely)

Josef Kardos (PWD)

Hernan Quinodoz (DRBC)

Jeff Fischer (USGS)

Emily Rinaldi (Penn Future)

Andy Thuman (HDI)

Jean Malafronte (Greeley and Hansen)

Meg McGuire (Delaware Currents)

Report out from November 2016 Estuary Eutrophication Model Expert Panel Meeting – Tom Fikslin (DRBC) presented the summary slides from the November 2016 meeting of the Eutrophication Model Expert Panel. A copy of the presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/fikslin_expert-panel.pdf

In response to questions, DRBC confirmed that the Expert Panel had been fully briefed on their charge. The group discussed technical issues surrounding utilization of 3D model versus the 1D screening model and options for each. Bart Ruitter inquired about the Commission's intention to employ a dynamic

model to allow for dynamic waste load allocations. The group discussed the frequency of additional point discharge monitoring.

Maya van Rossum recommended that the procedures used for the PCB Expert Panel be employed again here, specifically with a direct report from the Expert Panel to the WQAC; remote presentation and access technology should make this very simple; not sufficient to have DRBC filter this and present the for the Expert Panel.

Status of Commission Resolution – Tom Fikslin (DRBC) gave a brief update on the status of the draft resolution pertaining to designated aquatic life uses in the Delaware Estuary released February 23, 2017. The comment period on the draft resolution closed on April 13, 2017. A copy of the presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/fikslin_drbc-existing-use-rule.pdf

EPA recommended that comments on the draft resolution and responses be made public.

Review of point discharge nutrient monitoring results – John Yagecic (DRBC) presented a review of point discharge nutrient monitoring results collected in response to a Commission Resolution in July 2010. A copy of the presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/yagecic_point-source-nut-mon.pdf

The group discussed the frequency of follow up point discharge monitoring to occur in 2018. EPA recommended that point discharges be required to monitor twice per week for significant discharges similar to monitoring in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Other participants, including DRBC, expressed concern that based on the existing data some of the smaller loading facilities would be unlikely to impact model variability. DRBC proposed seeking recommendations for additional point discharge monitoring from the modeling consultant and Expert Panel. EPA indicated that regulators should be part of the discussion regarding point discharge monitoring frequency. After a recommendation by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, DRBC agreed to provide the co-regulators with an advance proposal for the point discharge monitoring approach (once developed) with the understanding that there would be a limited opportunity for response. Philadelphia Water Department recommended notifying point discharges as early as possible regarding additional monitoring to allow for budgeting. Bart Ruitter recommended sending an early notification letter while details were still under development to increase lead time.

Status of model development – Namsoo Suk (DRBC) presented the status of estuary eutrophication model development. A copy of the presentation is available at:

http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/suk_model-status.pdf

EPA questioned for detailed allocation plan for non-tidal portion of watersheds from this modeling work. DRBC clarified that the current modeling work will provide the allocation target at a given tributary monitoring point and there will be no individual wasteload allocations for point sources upstream of the tributary monitoring point. PWD highlighted the need to clearly define policy on critical conditions. NJ suggested that a 3-D model be pursued to adequately capture fate and transport in this system and for setting appropriate water quality criteria. NJ shared its problematic

experience in developing new linkages between hydrodynamic and water quality model (WASP), and that utilizing existing model linkages (via EFDC) would be encouraged.

Monitoring activities – John Yagecic (DRBC) presented ongoing and planned monitoring activities in support of estuary eutrophication model development. A copy of the presentation is available at: http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/yagecic_estuary-nutrient-mon.pdf

SPW explorer app – John Yagecic (DRBC) briefly demonstrated an interactive web app developed by Elaine Panuccio for exploring the Delaware River water quality data collected under the Special Protection Waters (SPW) program. Links to SPW explorer and other apps is available at: http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/yagecic_data-dashboard-links.pdf

Response to WQAC comments on non-tidal temperature criteria and next steps – John Yagecic (DRBC) presented responses to comments received during the July 2016 WQAC meeting regarding potential non-tidal temperature criteria. A copy of the presentation is available at: http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WQAC/051117/yagecic_feedback-non-tidal-temp.pdf
This presentation provided responses to feedback given during the July 2016 WQAC meeting. The group discussed the challenge in separating meteorological influences from other thermal loads to surface water temperature and the states' deferral to DRBC criteria in the main stem Delaware. As a possible template, DRBC uses state and EPA recommended numeric criteria to interpret its narrative standard when developing its 305b water quality assessment. Some members questioned whether adoption of temperature criteria was a priority action for DRBC. Frank Klapinski indicated that he would confer with others at New Jersey. DRBC agreed to touch base with the states to determine next steps.

Next WQAC Meeting – Several participants requested more frequent regularly scheduled WQAC meetings, reflecting interest in the ongoing estuary eutrophication modeling work. DRBC concurred and proposed early August 2017 as a target time frame for the next meeting, which would closely follow the scheduled Expert Panel meeting. DRBC committed to send a poll to voting members to pick the next date.

Adjournment – Bart Ruiters moved to adjourn, Kuo-Liang Lai seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.