



## Delaware River Basin Commission

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**Steven J. Tambini, P.E.**  
Executive Director

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### Water Management Advisory Committee

#### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 23, 2016

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) chaired by Dana Olivio, NYC DEP, was held at the USGS NJ Water Science Center in Lawrenceville, NJ on Thursday, June 23, 2016. Some members participated via web conference and telephone, as noted on the attendance sheet. Materials and presentations from the meeting are available online at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/management/june232016.html>.

#### ADMINISTRATION

- Rick Kropp, Director of the USGS NJ Water Science Center, welcomed the Committee.
- Pete Golod, participating remotely, was introduced as the Upper Delaware Council's Member representing watershed organizations. Mr. Golod replaces Travis O'Dell. Member and contact information on the website will be updated accordingly.
- The Committee approved the February 18, 2016 meeting summary. Next meeting date was affirmed as Thursday, October 27, 2016.

#### DRBC UPDATE

Ken Najjar, Director of Water Resource Management, provided an update on DRBC activities.

- On May 9<sup>th</sup> DRBC announced a proposal to adjust its project review fee structure and water supply charges. A public hearing is scheduled for July 27; the public comment period will be open until August 12. More information is available at: [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/newsbytes/approved/20160610\\_info-mtg-fees.html](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/newsbytes/approved/20160610_info-mtg-fees.html)
- On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners authorized a contract for the development of a data management tool for water supply planning simulations that will link the USGS hydrologic model (WATER) and DRBC's Planning Support Tool (DRB-PST) to simulate flow management scenarios under future hydrologic conditions in support of the Sustainable Water Resources 2060 project. [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ResForMinutes061516\\_water-supply\\_data-mgmt-tool.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ResForMinutes061516_water-supply_data-mgmt-tool.pdf)
- On February 8<sup>th</sup>, DRBC received an application from PennEast Pipeline Company LLC for construction of a 100+ mile natural gas pipeline in the Delaware River Basin (DRB). <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/pr/penneast.html>
- Richard C. Gore, Director of Finance and Administration, recently announced that he will be retiring from the Commission on April 1, 2017. [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/spotlight/approved/20160616\\_gore.html](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/spotlight/approved/20160616_gore.html)
- The Delaware River Basin Commission is saddened to report the recent passing of former colleague, scholar, and champion of water resources Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone on May 7. [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/spotlight/approved/20160527\\_featherstone.html](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/home/spotlight/approved/20160527_featherstone.html)

## **USGS COOPERATIVE WATER USE SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Following up on the results of the October 2015 survey, the focus topic was the USGS cooperative program and how the Basin states are engaged.

Cheryl Dieter, USGS Northeast Water-Use Specialist, provided an overview of the USGS Cooperative Water Availability and Use Science Program (WAUSP) and the Water Use Data and Research Program (WUDR).

WAUSP: The DRB is one of several USGS focused basin-area studies to respond to the question “*Does the nation have enough fresh water?*” by improving inputs to water budget calculations, including estimates of flow in ungaged basins, groundwater information, evapotranspiration and ecological needs. USGS is also improving its web application for delivering information on water availability. The DRB is one of several WAUSP focus areas. The USGS National Water Census data portal is: <http://cida.usgs.gov/nwc/>.

WUDR: In 2009, Congress approved a budget of \$12.5M for a multi-year program to improve water use data recording and management via state grants (\$250,000 max per state). An initial appropriation of \$1.5M in 2015 provided grants of \$26,000 to states for work plan development. FY 2016 funding will provide competitive grants (\$40,000-\$100,000) for projects ready to start between November and December, 2016.

**DELAWARE** – John Barndt presented on Delaware’s Water Use and Allocation Permitting Improvement Efforts. Currently, data is collected (paper or online) for public, industrial, irrigation, aquaculture, thermoelectric, mining and commercial facilities in excess of 50,000 gallons per day (gpd); data is not collected for livestock, domestic, hydroelectric and wastewater treatment. The state’s 2016 proposal for USGS funding includes an initial phase to integrate existing water allocation permitting and use databases into a new Microsoft SQL database. Subsequent efforts will focus on quality control, user training, data processing and reporting improvements for currently unreported uses.

**PENNSYLVANIA** – Mike Hill reported on Pennsylvania’s Water Use Workplan to improve online data delivery and reporting using a Microsoft SQL database. Currently all public water suppliers (PWS), hydropower facilities and unconventional gas operators must report regardless of amount (no floor/threshold), although reporting requirements vary. Other sectors (industrial, mining, agriculture, etc.) must report if they use over 10,000 gpd. PA systems in DRB withdraw nearly 1.2 billion gpd. PA reporting for PWS, industrial and agricultural irrigation meets the majority of USGS baseline data standards. The new system will have improved reporting viewers including summaries by use, source, watershed and county.

**NEW JERSEY** – Steve Domber summarized New Jersey’s unique cradle-to-grave water use MS Access data tool where over 37,000 withdrawal *sites* are joined by 25,000 *conveyances* for which water *transactions* (transfer volumes) are recorded, creating a water network to track monthly water use from source to discharge point. Goals of the cooperative agreement include meeting USGS data standards and improving data related to saline diversions, aquifer designations, private well and consumptive use estimates, and interbasin transfers.

**NEW YORK** – Mike Holt reported on New York’s online annual water withdrawal reporting for 1,600 systems of 100,000 gpd or greater capacity capturing source, average and maximum daily withdrawals, transfers and consumptive use, etc. Agricultural facilities follow slightly different reporting protocol. NY has not participated in the USGS cooperative program to date, but may re-consider now that more robust funding available.

**DISCUSSION** – There were few questions and very limited discussion. The WMAC would like to know the results of the USGS 2016 funding decisions, which may not be available by the next meeting date in October. DRBC will post the presentations online.

**Next Meeting:** October 27, 2016

**Location:** DRBC

Approved: October 27, 2016

WMAC MEETING ATTENDANCE – June 23, 2016

<b>WMAC MEMBER</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Barndt, John*	Delaware DNREC
Bittner, Laura	US Army Corps of Engineers
Cocke, William*	DNREC - Alternate
Eisenbrey, Virginia	Water Utility – Artesian Water - Alternate
Golod, Pete*	Watershed - Upper Delaware Council
Goode, Dan	USGS
Hesson, Molly*	City of Phila. Water Department - Alternate
Holt, Michael*	NYS DEC
Klein, Kathy	WRA - DRB
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
Olivio, Dana	New York City DEP (Chair)
Olynyk, Carolyn	NJ DEP
Schmitt, Erik*	NY DEC - Alternate
Tatham, Betty	Civic - League of Women Voters
<b>DRBC STAFF</b>	
Barr, Kent	Water Resource Planning
Najjar, Ken	Water Resource Management
Pindar, Chad	Water Resource Planning
Sanchez, Jessica	Water Resource Planning, WMAC Liaison
<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Burlingame, Dan	Veolia Water Technologies
Chepiga, Mary	USGS NJ WSC
Dieter, Cheryl	USGS (Keynote speaker)
Diggins, Allison*	DE DNREC
Domber, Steve	NJ DEP
Guidetti, Beth	NY DEC
Hill, Michael	PA DEP
Mercuri, Matthew	Mercuri Assoc.
Shourds, Jennifer	USGS NJ WSC
Tarrier, Brennan*	NYS DEC
Vowinkle, Eric	Rutgers, Dept. of Environmental Sciences
	* Attended via webinar/phone