

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BSECTION

THIRD QUARTER 2019

JUNE 4, 2019

**THE LODGE AT LITTLE SENECA CREEK
BOYDS, MD**

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sussman called the Third Quarter 2019 CO-OP Meeting to order at 8:35 AM on June 4, 2019. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests were in attendance in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Chair, Commissioner)
Amy Guise (Alt. Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Hamid Karimi (Commissioner)
Willem Brakel (Commissioner)
Tiffany Potter (Commissioner)
Kimberly Jones (Alt. Commissioner)
James Tsai (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Virginia Kearney (Alt. Commissioner)

Virginia

Paul Holland (Commissioner)
Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)
Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

John Wirts (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff and Guests

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)
Robert Bolle (General Counsel)
Bo Park (Dir, Administration)
Cherie Schultz (Dir, COOP Operations)
Curtis Dalpra (Communications Manager)
Claire Buchanan (Dir, Program Operations)
Heidi Moltz (Assoc. Dir, Water Resources)
Dorothy Hunter (Administrative Coordinator)
Renee Bourassa (Outreach Program Manager)

Guests

Valerie Cappola (USCOE, NAD)
COL. John Litz (USCOE, Baltimore District)
Jennifer Orr-Greene (PA)
Ronald Stanley (PA)
Chris Kimple (Rep. Del. Moul, PA)
Jeff Seltzer (DC, DOE)
Mary Jane Bolle (Visitor)

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Chairman asked for a modification to the agenda to add under New Business, Item #B, DC Water Concept. Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to approve the modified agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Holland. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A revised minutes from the March 5, 2019 meeting was sent out last week by email to all commissioners, different version from the meeting book. Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the revised March 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Kearney. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up from December Action Items: Dr. Schultz informed that there were no action items from the previous meeting.

Section's Quarterly Report

Dr. Schultz summarized some of the notable activities from the last quarter. A detailed information is included in the meeting book in Tab 3, Attachment 2.

The Water Supply Coordination Agreement workgroup originally consisted of two staff members from the utilities, and two from Loudoun Water and two from ICPRB. Since May 2, 2018, at the request of Fairfax Water, Loudoun Water has not participated in meetings which include discussions on the cost-share issues for the current CO-OP suppliers. The workgroup is also drafting a report to document the discussions to included issues, consensus, and areas of disagreement. This report will be finalized in summer. A copy was sent to each water suppliers for review. A deadline to finalize the report will be set by the next Commission meeting in September. **Commissioner Kudlas made a motion to the inform the CO-OP Operational Committee to complete the report in time for the next Commission meeting in September. Commission Holland seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

The CO-OP Section continues to work on a collaborative scoping project with the Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (COE) on a potential update to the Jennings Randolph Lake (JRL) Water Control Plan (WCP) through their project assistance to states (PAS) funding mechanism, which requires non-federal matching that the CO-OP is providing. This is related to one of the operational alternatives to improve water supply reliability in the future. For the Phase 2 scoping study, staff has been working on water quality trends analysis report and artificial varied flow (AVF) releases, looking at the scientific basis for releases and the reason for the releases. The shutdown of the Luke paper mill is one of the reasons that the COE will want to reevaluate AVF releases, since these releases flush out carbon deposits from the paper mill discharge. This study is a further possible motivation for changing the artificial releases. The COE also is thinking about changing the artificial releases into white water releases. White water releases are shorter, saving water from the reservoir. A recommendation for a drought contingency plan may also result from this project. In addition, as a result from the studies, a standalone report from the Commission is in progress, which will be posted on the website. However, prior to publishing, Ms. Heather Cisar from the COE is looking into any legal conflicts that may be prohibitive. Commissioner Kudlas offered to provide assistance for the study. Commissioner Guise advised that Section 216 is a specific authority for projects, also a method to provide federal funding to external entities. However, the PAS is an easier path for the same outcome without changing the COE commitments. The PAS is a partnering project to meet federal allocations. Commissioner Guise further added that the COE has used the PAS mechanism at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). The next step is to determine the change of flow using environmental assessment which would be a decision document, requiring a signature from the Commander. Dr. Schultz continued that the study is a preliminary step and that once adequate study has been established, the next step will be to utilize modeling and apply operational tools.

Staff is working to acquire funding to develop a 2-dimensional Potomac River Spill Model to simulate the spills of floating contaminates, based on the General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME). As precursor to this effort, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has expressed an interest in developing bathymetric LiDAR data and contributing \$150k towards this effort. In addition, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) was awarded funding by the Department of Homeland Security through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. This project is considered a third national pilot project for the USGS. Chairman Sussman commended the CO-OP Section for making advances to address this important and challenging issues for the watershed.

For the 2020 Water Supply Study, staff is soliciting and compiling data from the water suppliers, county agencies, and the MWCOG. A literature review of end use efficiency was done to use in a new projection for water savings for the demand forecast of 2020. A simulation of upstream decisions is also being analyzed. Staff is also looking at a paleo-historical records to possibly combine with the Chesapeake Bay Program climate change study scenarios. The next step over the summer is some modeling work.

Progress continues to be made in the Travilah quarry effort. Washington Sewer and Sanitary Commission (WSSC) met with representatives of Aggregate Industries, the quarry owner, on May 22. From the meeting, the parties have agreed to enter into an MOU (memorandum of understanding), however non-binding to outline the desire for purchasing. The owner also requested a confidentiality clause in the agreement. The quarry owner is interested in mining the valuable rocks from the quarry, but is willing to sell the property. Chairman Sussman expressed that it is important for the Commission to understand the extent of the confidentiality.

Financial Statement: Dr. Schultz reported that all water supplier payments have been received and the budget is track and on target as of April 30, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Nominating Committee for FY2020 CO-OP Section Officer: Commissioner Kudlas (chair), Karimi, and Kearney have volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Kearney informed due to her retirement either she or her successor will serve on the committee.

DC Water Concept: Commissioner Kearney made the Commission aware of a new water concept that the DC Water is currently pursuing. This concept would be similar to Hampton Roads project in Virginia. The method is to inject treated wastewater into aquifers. This concept explores an alternative water source as DC Water solely depends on the Potomac River. This exploration is very early in its stages. Commissioner Kudlas added that many factors need to be evaluated including the ability for the aquifers to hold water, precipitation of metal from the sediments caused by water injections, and the high ratio of clay that may hinder injections. Hampton Roads also has a treatment plant at the end of the process. The total cost of Hampton Roads is a billion dollars. **Commissioner Potter asked that updates be provided as progress is made.**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Karimi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Potter. All were in favor. The CO-OP Section meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Draft Minutes written by: Bo Park, Director, Administration
Reviewed by: Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations
Approved by: Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director