

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
SECTION FOR COOPERATIVE WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS
ON THE POTOMAC RIVER (CO-OP)**

**FOURTH QUARTER FY2023
September 12, 2023**

**National Conservation Training Center
SHEPERDSTOWN, WV**

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Catherine McCabe called the Fourth Quarter FY2023 CO-OP Section Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on September 12, 2023. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Willem Brakel (Commissioner)

James Tsai (Alt. Commissioner)

Tiffany Potter (Commissioner)

Hamid Karimi (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Catherine McCabe (Chair, Commissioner)

Lee Currey (Alt. Commissioner)

Virginia

Scott Morris (Alt. Commissioner)

Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)

Paul Holland (Commissioner)

Del. Alfonso Lopez (Commissioner)

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (Alt. Commissioner)

Pennsylvania

Susan Weaver (Alt. Commissioner)

Adam McClain (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)

Cherie Schultz (Dir., CO-OP Operations)

Renee Bourassa (Director of
Communications)

Laurel Glenn (Director of Administration)

Heidi Moltz (Director of Program
Operations)

Serena Moncion (Outreach Program
Manager)

Alimatou Seck, Senior Water Resources
Scientist

Guests

Chris Kimple (Rep. Commissioner Moul)

Megan Jadrosich (USACE)

1. WELCOME, ROLL CALL, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Catherine McCabe, Chair of the CO-OP Section, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present identified themselves as present in a “round-robin” manner. Commissioner McCabe then introduced the Director of the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Mr. Steve Chase. Mr. Chase welcomed meeting attendees to the NCTC and discussed the history of the facility, as well as the land, culture, and geography of the region.

2. ADOPTION OR MODIFICATION OF DRAFT AGENDA

Commissioner McCabe asked if there were any additions or modifications to the agenda that anyone would like to propose, and there were none. **Commissioner Holland made a motion to approve the agenda, and this was seconded by Commissioner Tsai. All were in favor.**

3. MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2023

Commissioner McCabe asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June minutes, which appear under Tab 3, Attachment 2 of the Commission Meeting Book. **A motion to adopt the June 21, 2023, minutes as circulated was made by Commissioner Karimi and seconded by Commissioner Potter. All were in favor.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on June 2023 Action Items: Dr. Schultz reported there were no June agenda items that required follow-up.

B. Section’s Quarterly Report

Dr. Schultz reviewed the CO-OP Section’s fourth quarter activities, which are described in detail in the Section’s Quarterly Report, available in Tab 3, Attachment 3 of the Commission Meeting Book. Highlights of Dr. Schultz’s brief were:

- CO-OP Operations Meeting, established by the Water Supply Coordination Agreement, took place on August 25th, 2023.
- CO-OP met with the National Park Service on upstream hydroelectric Dams 4 & 5 on September 5th and discussed how those dams might impact water supply in our region.
- Daily drought monitoring commenced in June and continued intermittently throughout the summer; enhanced drought monitoring commenced on August 25th and continued through September 11.
- Design and construction continue on New PRRISM, which is CO-OP’s new planning model.
- CO-OP supported the LFAA Workgroup and participated in the most recent meeting on August 17th.
- Dr. Schultz provided an overview of the summer’s drought operations to include the history of CO-OP, how our regional drought management system works, the various drought stages, recent events and how CO-OP deals with uncertainty in river flow forecasts.

C. Effort to secure Federal funding for supplemental storage.

Executive Director Nardolilli briefed meeting attendees on the progress that the Supplemental Storage Workgroup (SSWG) has made. He stated that the SSWG has been successful in persuading the Senate Committee on Appropriations to include \$500K for the “Washington Aqueduct Backup Water Supply” in S. 2443. He explained that, unfortunately, the companion bill in the House (H.R. 4394) does not include this provision. Because the Senate version passed the Committee by a vote of 29-0, there was a good chance that the backup water supply provision would be included in the legislation.

D. LFAA

D(a) Workgroup Next Steps.

Commissioner McCabe reminded meeting attendees that the mission of the LFAA Working Group was to review and make recommendations on 10 issues raised by the 2018 Cruden Report. She reported that the work has been completed and the Final Report is in the Commission Meeting Book at TAB 6, Attachment 2.

She elaborated that the Workgroup reached *agreement by consensus* on most issues (9 of 10). There was some divergence of views on the 10th issue, regarding the environmental flow-by provision of the LFAA.

She reviewed the issues that the LFAA Group *agreed to by consensus* and said they concerned proposed language changes. She summarized them as follows:

- To update the 1978 LFAA to incorporate subsequent developments.
- To add qualifications and a term of office for the LFAA Moderator
- To clarify the dual role of the Washington Aqueduct.

She shared that the LFAA group *agreed by consensus not to recommend* the following:

- Changes in the roles of the “governing” and “member” parties
- Changes in the Stages of Flow (that trigger Alerts, Restrictions or Emergency measures)
- Changes in the allocation formula
- Bringing in more upstream users such as Loudoun Water or West Virginia, as parties

The environmental flow-by issue that the LFAA Group had a divergence of views on is whether to recommend a new study of environmental flow-by needs. Accordingly, Commissioner McCabe stated there is no consensus or recommendations on this issue.

Commissioner McCabe stated that the LFAA Workgroup agreed to recommend adding references in the LFAA to the 1981 study on which the current flow-by amount is based and also specifying that any future changes must be based on data and scientific studies conducted jointly by the governing parties (in consultation with the member parties). Commissioner McCabe said

that all governing party Workgroup members agreed on the language to implement these modifications. (She highlighted the fact that any Amendment of the LFAA requires concurrence of all Governing Parties.)

Commissioner McCabe stated that this report concludes the charge of the LFAA Workgroup and that it now will be dissolved.

In summary, Commissioner McCabe noted that the discussions about possible future changes in environmental flow-by needs assessments revealed some underlying concerns about how to ensure, in the long-term, that full and careful consideration is given to assessing and balancing environmental and human needs for the waters of the Potomac in the Washington metropolitan area. Accordingly, she said that the group proposed to the Executive Committee that a new, collaborative process be set up to address that concern. The Executive Committee approved this proposal on September 11, 2023, and it has prepared a Resolution for that purpose.

D(b) Standby Moderator

In the interest of time, there was no discussion of the Standby Moderator.

E. Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz stated that CO-OP is within budget and on track.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of FY2024 CO-OP Section Officers

Commissioner Holland thanked fellow Commissioners Potter and Madden for serving on the FY2024 CO-OP nominating committee. **Commissioner Holland then made a motion to nominate Bob Sussman as Chairman of the CO-OP for FY2024. Commissioner Karimi seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner Holland made a motion to nominate Scott Morris as Vice Chairman of the CO-OP for FY2024. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to transact, **Commissioner Holland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Karimi seconded the motion. All were in favor.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:37 a.m.

- Minutes drafted by Laurel D. Glenn, Director of Administration
- Edited by Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations
- Approved by Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director