



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.

Executive Director

Advisory Committee on Climate Change

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, 12 October 2022

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

MEETING ATTENDEES (52)

Members and Alternates (17):

Delaware - Robert Scarborough, Ph.D.; DNREC

New Jersey - Nicholas A. Procopio, Ph.D., GISP; NJDEP

New York - Mark Lowery; NYSDEC

Pennsylvania – James Horton; PADEP

United States Government - Amanda L. Babson, Ph.D.; NPS

United States Government - Arthur DeGaetano, Ph.D.; NOAA NRCC

New York City - Alan Cohn, NYC DEP

City of Philadelphia – Kelly Anderson, PWD (alternate for Julia Rockwell, PWD)

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - Danielle Kreeger, Ph.D.

William Brady III, P.E.; Exelon Corporation

James J. Chelius, P.E.; American Water, Inc.

Marjorie B. Kaplan, Dr.P.H.; Rutgers Climate Institute, Rutgers University

Upmanu Lall, Ph.D.; Columbia Water Center, Columbia University

Christopher Linn, AICP; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Howard Neukrug, P.E.; The Water Center at Penn, University of Pennsylvania

David Velinsky, Ph.D.; Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Drexel University

John Callahan, Ph.D.; Department of Geography, University of Delaware

DRBC Staff (20):

Sarah Beganskas, Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Pam Bush, Fanghui Chen, Elba Deck, Eric Engle, Karl Heinecke, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Denise McHugh, Elaine Panuccio, Chad Pindar, Kevin Pregent, Anthony Preucil, Patrick Rago, Sara Sayed, Amy Shallcross, Namsoo Suk, Steve Tambini, Michael Thompson, Li Zheng

Other Attendees (15):

Anonymous (@MerrillCreek.com), Stefanie Baxter (DGS), Carol Collier (ANSDU), Paul DiRenzo (Peak Hour Power, LLC), Steven Domber (NJDEP), Jennifer Farmwald (NYCDEP), Skelly Holmbeck (WRADRB), Richard Horwitz (ANSDU), Garret Kratina (PAFBC), Ben Lorson (PAFBC), Preston Luitweiler (WRADRB), Meg McGuire (Delaware Currents), Amy McHugh (USGS ODRM), Brenan Tarrier (NYSDEC), Gina Tonn (Verdantas). Reference acronyms: Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANSDU), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), New York City Department of

Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRADRB), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC), U.S. Geological Survey Office of the Delaware River Master (USGS ODRM), and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

MEETING SUMMARY

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Howard Neukrug, The Water Center at Penn and Committee Chair, and held with remote attendance only using Zoom webinar and its call-in capabilities.

Member Roll Call – Attendance was taken by Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC. All members present. New reserved member for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, James Horton, was introduced.

Approve Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the 1/26/22 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction to the affiliation of member, John Callahan, submitted in advance (replace Delaware Geological Survey to Department of Geography). No discussion. Motion to approve was made by Christopher Linn and seconded by Robert Scarborough.

Election of Officers – Kristen Bowman Kavanagh announced that a new committee Chair and Vice Chair needed to be elected. Terms are for one year each, with no term limits. Christopher Linn moved to nominate Howard Neukrug for another term as Chair and Marjorie Kaplan for another term as Vice Chair. Nominations were taken one at a time. David Velinsky seconded the nomination of Howard Neukrug for Chair; no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. Danielle Kreeger seconded the nomination of Marjorie Kaplan for Vice Chair; no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

DRBC Announcements – Kristen Bowman Kavanagh provided multiple announcements as follows:

Format – Thanked members of the public for attending today’s meeting. Noted that DRBC's advisory committees provide a forum to exchange information and viewpoints on a variety of issues, enhancing communication and coordination. Advisory committee and subcommittee meetings are open to the public and the safety and security of all participants is a primary objective of the DRBC. In response to recent experience this past summer, DRBC has taken steps to enhance the security of our committee meetings with several best practices for public meetings. This includes transitioning to a webinar format. Zoom Webinar attendees will not have the same meeting features as before or on other remote meeting platforms. Specifically, attendees will not have camera or microphone access by default. DRBC expects that participants may express differing opinions and points of view; however, all expect all participants to act in a respectful manner. DRBC may remove attendees, suspend the meeting or take other steps in response to disruptive or threatening conduct, behavior, or language. To receive meeting information and materials, attendees encouraged to sign up for the committee’s mailing list at <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/contact/interest/> or check the website for materials and updates. Materials will not be emailed.

Chat – Noted that chat function is available for asking questions, or people may raise their hand to ask a question. All questions will be held until the end of each presentation, and we will take questions from committee members first.

2023 Climate Change Forum – The DRBC’s ACCC is pleased to be hosting its second Climate Change Forum as part of the Partnership for Delaware Estuary’s biennial Science Summit. The Summit will be held at Harrah’s Resort in Atlantic City from January 30 – February 1, 2023 and registration is live on the website at <https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>. This year’s theme is “Estuary on the Rise.” The Climate Change Forum will be a full day track at the Summit on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Presentations are being firmed up for the two technical sessions, which will feature a combination of speakers curated from submitted abstracts as well as members of the ACCC. There are also several special sessions confirmed as follows:

- A morning keynote address by Dr. Philippe Hensel who is the Project Analysis Branch Chief at the NOAA National Geodetic Survey. Dr. Hensel is an engaging and charismatic speaker whose presentation will focus on geodetic data control methods of measuring changes in land elevation and their contribution to sea level (rise) measurements.
- The afternoon will feature a panel discussion co-moderated by DRBC Executive Director, Steve Tambini, and Kristen Bowman Kavanagh. The panelists confirmed so far include: Shawn Garvin, Secretary, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Rohit "Rit" Aggarwala, Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and Randy Hayman, Esq., Commissioner and CEO, Philadelphia Water Department.
- This panel discussion will be immediately followed by the Summit Keynote Speaker, Catrin Einhorn. Catrin is a Senior Staff Editor of the New York Times, serving as their biodiversity reporter with the Climate Desk.

Prior discussions on DRBC priorities – Past meetings have included discussion on climate change priorities and considerations and ideas around development of a potential climate change policy for the DRBC. While this meeting is focused on other areas, DRBC will loop back to that topic in the future. In the interim, considering input received to date on priorities for our work plans for the coming year.

Upcoming meetings – Visit <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/index.html> for details on several upcoming advisory committee meetings: WMAC tomorrow at 10 am, MACC on 11/2 at 1:30 pm, WQAC on 11/15 at 9:30 am, and FFAC on 12/13 at 9 am. Also DRBC Public Hearing on 11/9 and Business Meeting on 12/7; details to be posted soon at https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/annual_dates.html.

Presentations:

“Potential Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Salinity in the Delaware River Basin,” by Fanghui Chen, Ph.D., P.E., Senior Water Resource Engineer at DRBC, and Amy Shallcross, P.E., DRBC Manager of Water Resource Operations

Questions/Discussion: Nick Procopio (SLR projections), Kelly Anderson (same as DO model?, opportunity for RFAC members to see and comment), John Callahan (storms), David Velinsky (how salt front defined), Howard Neukrug, Skelly Holmbeck (validation – see report), and Bill Brady comment on estimating economic impacts.

“DRBC Storage Study Update” by Chad Pindar, P.E., Manager of Water Resource Planning, DRBC
Questions/Discussion: Howard Neukrug asked about water quality concerns from use of quarries. Steve Domber noted that it would be an easier (closeout) than to remediate (see comment).

Member Roundtable Updates – Committee members had the opportunity to provide updates on their/their organizations’ work. Updates provided by James Horton (PA State Water Plan), David Velinsky, Upmanu Lall, Bob Scarborough (now Senior Scientist for the Division of Water in the Resource Protection Section, working on use and availability and affects of SLR intrusion thereon), Marjorie Kaplan (heat island research), Howard Neukrug (Cities of Life), Nick Procopio (NJ finalizing first round regulatory reforms, implementing plan guidance, finalizing Climate Action Plan), Alan Cohn (Water Utility Climate Alliance), and Art DeGaetano (see link).

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by Howard Neukrug at approximately 2:55 pm.

REFERENCE LINKS/INFO EXCERPTED FROM MEETING CHAT:

From Danielle Kreeger, PDE: In addition to the Tuesday Climate Forum, the Monday morning plenary will be by Dr. Ray Najjar, Penn State, discussing the climate change indicators in the forthcoming State of the Estuary and River Basin report (TREB). Science Summit 2023: <https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>

From Elizabeth Koniers Brown, DRBC: Links mentioned in Kristen's announcements: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/contact/interest/>, <https://delawareestuary.org/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>, <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/index.html>, and https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/annual_dates.html.

From William Brady, comment on First Presentation: Thank you for the very insightful modelling work. It would be interesting to use these results to assess the potential economic and social implications on the region. Understanding such impacts will be important for shaping policy and management measures, especially considering the need for addressing environmental and climate justice considerations, i.e., the affordability of implementing various control measures and the broader economic impacts.

From David Velinsky, Ph.D., ANSDU, question on First Presentation: Maybe I missed it but how are defining the salt front? (what salinity?). *Response from Amy Shallcross, DRBC:* The salt front is the 7-day average 250 mg/l Chloride concentration. The associated salinity is 0.45 ppt

From Anthony Preucil, DRBC: Information on the storage study including past presentations is available on the DRBC website here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/reservoir-storage-study.html>

From Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC: For more information on the storage study, there will be a similar but more detailed presentation given by Chad Pindar, P.E., at tomorrow's Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) meeting, 10/13 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. You can register for that meeting here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AjnmYFzgTIWe-EYAVLPjKQ

From Steven Domber, Comment on Second Presentation: Quarry owners may like the idea of being included in the study as water supply represents a 'simpler' remediation plan for the site when it is mined out.

From Arthur DeGaetano, Ph.D.: For the NOAA update https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/pns22-59_atlas_15.pdf

From Alan Cohn: The Water Utility Climate Alliance (NYCDEP and PWD are 2 of the 12 members) recently released Beyond Barriers to Implementation: A Water Sector Perspective on Sea Level Rise Adaptation <https://www.wucaonline.org/adaptation-in-practice/sea-level-rise/index.html>

From Marjorie B. Kaplan: If folks are interested in learning about the key issues to watch at COP27, a consortium of R1 universities in N.America plus the RINGOs constituency have a gret webinar on Oct 24th at 7 pm Eastern: <https://secondnature.org/cop27-webinar-series/>

Approved 12/20/2023.