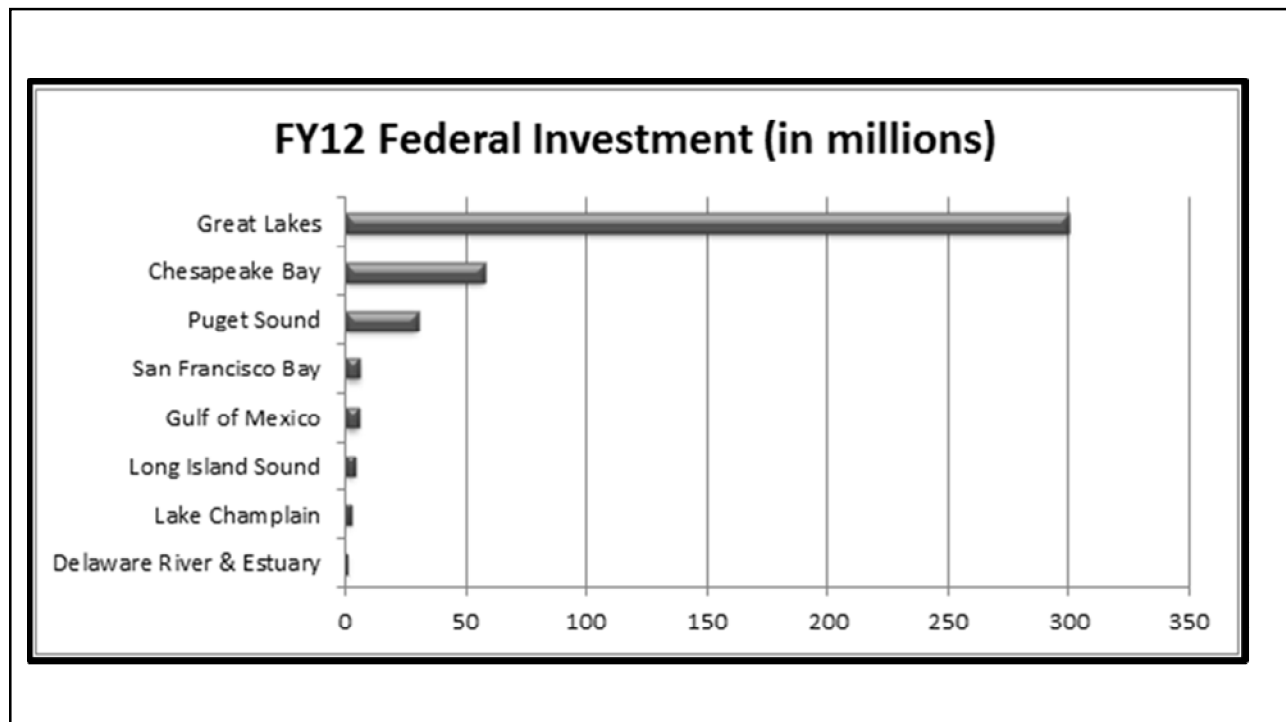


Delaware River Basin Commission
Regulated Flow Advisory Committee

Presentation by
Friends of the Upper Delaware River
Jeff Skelding, Executive Director
12/3/15

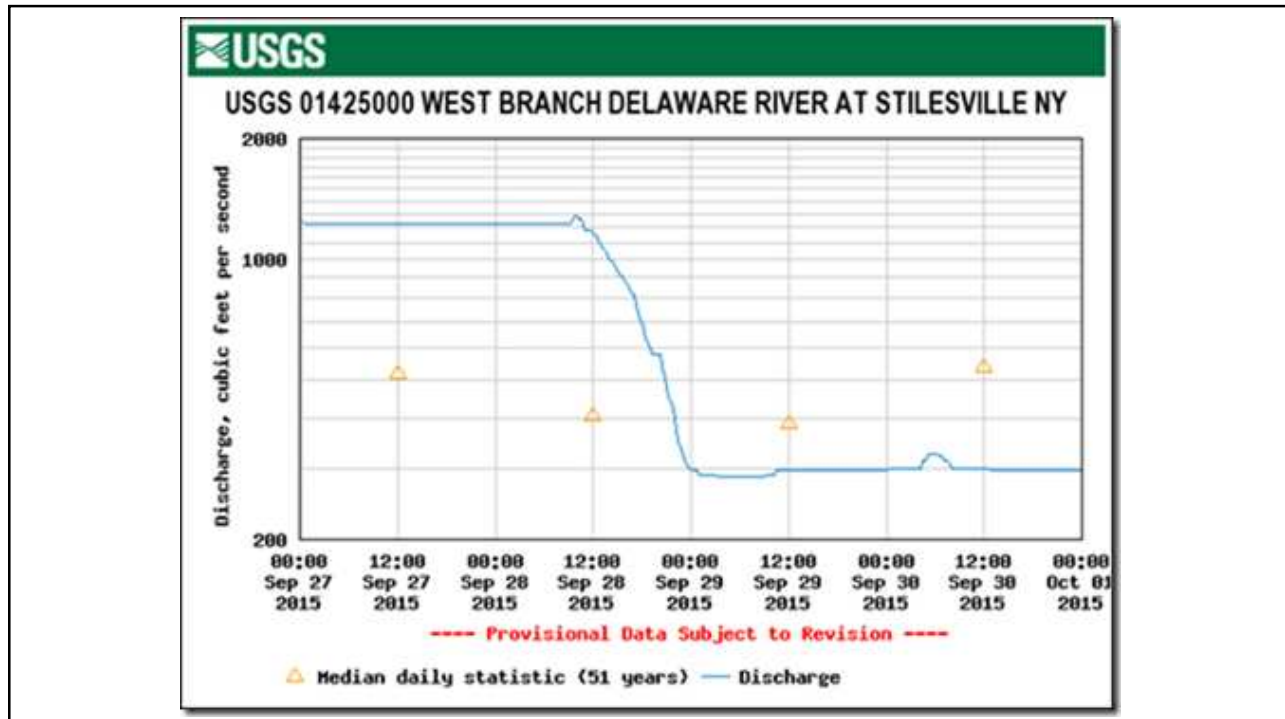
Upper Delaware River Conservation
Community – It's Getting Bigger

- Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition
- Upper Delaware River Tailwaters Coalition
- Upper Delaware River Business Coalition
- Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed
- America's Great Waters Coalition



2015 was a Rocky Year in the Upper Watershed

- Early spring – dry conditions, low water releases, water temperature challenges
- Multiple requests for water denied
- Cannonsville Dam accident, billions of gallons of cold water dumped
- 2 “yo-yo” releases significantly dewatered the river in the fall



Yo-Yo Water Releases = Habitat Destruction & Economic Loss





2016 Fair Share Requests Underlying Principles

- Fair Share requests have watershed wide implications
- Impacts are neutral or beneficial for all parties
- Not perfect for anybody, but good enough for everybody
- Factors in multiple resource needs for downstream states and NYC water supply needs
- It's about the collective good
- Is not a burden during stressful times (i.e. FFMP drought conditions)

Assumptions are Risky (but we're going to do it anyway)

- A willingness to let the sunshine in with more public participation
- Decree Parties are willing to work together and compromise
- Recognition that the Delaware River watershed need to be managed holistically
- Willingness to view the FFMP as another important watershed management tool versus a “what’s in it for us” and “you don’t get yours until we get ours”

OK, so what do we want?

- Improved baseline releases from NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs
- Thermal Release program formally adopted
- Eliminate yo-yo releases when adjusting for the Montague Target
- Increased transparency in FFMP development
- More visibility from Decree Party Principals
- Need some help from DRBC and others with science
- Recalculated IERQ

IERQ

- The IERQ is water set aside for the down basin states for multiple purposes
- An important factor in the IERQ calculation is NYC water supply demand
- Conservation measures and shifts in water use sectors have resulted in a steadily and significantly reduced NYC demand
- 2015 FFMP uses 2002-2006 NYC demand when calculating the IERQ. Why?
- If NYC demand figures reflected the most recent timeframe (2010-2015), our calculations indicate the IERQ would be 4 times its current level

Summary

- There is dysfunction in the process and no evidence of a pathway to recovery
- Our constituencies feel left out which engenders suspicion, frustration and occasional hostility
- The watershed needs to be managed holistically for long term sustainability
- Has anybody ever considered professional facilitation?