
Water Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights

Thursday, June 16, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Kathy Thaefer (Artesian Water), Committee Chair, and was held with remote attendance only using Zoom and its call-in capabilities. Information pertaining to the WMAC, including member listing and past meeting materials, are available at http://www.nj.gov/drbc/about/advisory/WMAC_index.html.

Administration

- Administrative:
 - Committee Liaison Michael Thompson (DRBC) gave explanations as to why the meeting format was changed from a Zoom meeting to a Zoom webinar. Committee members were elevated to a panelist position, while non-committee members remained as attendees with more restricted meeting access. It was communicated that at any time during the meeting, attendees may raise their hand or post in the meeting chat.
- Roll Call:
 - Roll call was performed by Committee Liaison Michael Thompson (DRBC).
- Public Participation:
 - Kathy Thaefer (Artesian Water) inquired if there were any members of the public wishing to make comments, or if there were items to raise which may warrant additional time for public comment at the end of the meeting. No comments or items were offered.
- Highlights:
 - The highlights of the February 17, 2022, meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage. A motion for approval was made by Kelly Anderson (PWD) and seconded by Preston Luitweiler (WRA-DRB). There was no discussion and there were no abstentions; the motion passed unanimously.
(<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/021722/mtg-highlights.pdf>)
- Membership:
 - Kathy Thaefer (Artesian Water) reported the WMAC positions for the Agriculture constituency and the League of Women Voters/Civic Organization constituency expiring on 6/30/2022 were filled by Sandra Howland (New Jersey Department of Agriculture) and Kathy Cook (League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania), respectively. Additionally, Seung Ah Byun (CCWRA) has replaced Janet Bowers (CCWRA) as the representative.
 - Michael Thompson (DRBC) reported that the current Chair & Vice Chair elections expire 6/30/2022. Per the WMAC rules of Practices and Procedures, the current Vice Chair (Seung Ah Byun, CCWRA) becomes the new Chair starting July 1, 2022. Michael Thompson (DRBC) opened the floor for nominations. Preston Luitweiler (WRA-DRB) nominated Kelly Anderson (PWD) who accepted the nomination; there were no more nominations, and Michael Thompson (DRBC)

closed the floor for nominations. Brenan Terrier (NYDEC) motioned to appoint Kelly Anderson (PWD) as the WMAC vice-chair beginning July 1, 2022. Preston Luitweiler (WRA-DRB) seconded the motion. There was no discussion and were no abstentions; the motion passed unanimously.

Hydrologic Conditions Report

Anthony Preucil, DRBC Water Resource Scientist, provided a report on basin-wide hydrologic conditions. The presentation is available on the following WMAC webpage:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/preucil_hydrologic-conditions_drbc.pdf

- Resources for weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at the following webpage: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/flow/hydrologic-reports.html>
- DRBC's interactive dashboard also displays a daily-updated snapshot for flow and drought management in the basin: <https://drbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/690464a9958b49e5b49550964641ffd7>

DRBC Update

Chad Pindar (DRBC) provided an update on DRBC activities, upcoming advisory committee meetings, Commission actions, and other items of interest:

- The DRBC Business Meeting on June 8, 2022 was the first hybrid meeting (in-person and remote), and was held at the Chase Center, Wilmington, DE. Highlights and other Commission Meeting materials can be found at the following link. (<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/archive/recent-drbc-mtg.html>)
- Written comments on DRBC's rulemaking on importations of water into and exportations of water from the Delaware River Basin regarding discharges of wastewater from high volume hydraulic fracturing and related activities were due February 28, 2022. There were five public hearings held on the below dates, and information can be found at the following link. Staff are preparing a Comment & Response document. The date for Commissioner action is TBD.
 - (2) on December 8, 2021; (2) on December 15, 2021; (1) on February 3, 2022
 - https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/proposed/notice_import-export-rules.html
- The next DRBC Business Meeting is scheduled to be held on September 8, 2022

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/pindar_DRBCUpdate.pdf

Presentations

Population Served

Chad Pindar (DRBC) provided a summary of previous efforts to estimate a population which is served by water withdrawn from the Delaware River Basin, which was performed in 2018 based on population data from 2016. The recently approved FY2023-2025 Water Resources Program includes a task to update the Population Served estimate for the Delaware River Basin. The general proposed methodology was outlined. The presentation can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/pindar_DRBpopulation-served_drbc.pdf

DRBC Storage Study Update

Chad Pindar (DRBC) provided an update on the Storage Study currently being performed by Mott McDonald, in cooperation with the DRBC. Of note, the contract length was extended to December 31, 2022. The current project activities include overcoming significant delays obtaining technical information on some sites, finalizing evaluation criteria, and completing Storage Project Summaries (SPS) for about 40 projects (including associated scoring sheets). A timeline with anticipated milestones was provided through mid-October when it was expected that a final report will be available.

Mr. Pindar's presentation can be viewed at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/pindar_StorageStudyUpdate_drbc.pdf

Estimated Groundwater Availability in the Delaware River Basin

Sara Sayed (DRBC) gave a presentation on a project currently underway by the DRBC Water Resource Planning Section which assesses groundwater withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin on the basis of calculated availability. This presentation is largely an update to a similar presentation given at the February 17, 2022 WMAC meeting. This presentation highlights changes which were incorporated to the project based on comments received from committee members during the last meeting.

Ms. Sayed's presentation can be viewed at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/sayed_GWAvailability_drbc.pdf

**Due to time constraints, the presentations by Michael Thompson (DRBC) and Brandon Flemming (USGS) were reversed from the order on the agenda.*

Evaluating low flow patterns, drivers and trends in the Delaware River Basin and Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Brandon Fleming, (Groundwater Specialist at the USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center) gave a presentation covering two recent publications related to low-flow streamflow patterns, drivers and trends. The publications are:

- Fleming, B. J., S. A. Archfield, R. M. Hirsch, J. E. Kiang, and D. M. Wolock. 2021. Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Low Streamflow and Precipitation Changes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 57(1), pp 96-108.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.12892>
- Hammond, John C. and Brandon J. Fleming. 2021. Evaluating low flow patterns, drivers and trends in the Delaware River Basin. *Journal of Hydrology* 598, pp 1-13.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2021.126246>

One question was asked about the definitions of a "flash drought", to which Mr. Fleming responded that "flash drought is rapid onset and often very localized drying conditions. The designation of this can be subjective and vary in different regions."

Water Withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin: 2020 Update

Michael Thompson (DRBC) gave a brief presentation on a summary of water withdrawal data reported from 2018, 2019 and 2020 as it compares to the projections estimated in the 2021 DRBC projection report. Mr. Thompson's presentation can be viewed at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/061622/thompson_DRBwater-withdrawal_drbc.pdf

State Updates

- **Pennsylvania** – No Updates
- **New Jersey** – No Updates
- **Delaware** – No Updates
- **New York** – No Updates

Other Member Updates

No Updates

Public Comment

No public comment

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brenan Tarrier (NYS-DEC), seconded by Seung Ah Byun (CCWRA) and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 pm.

Approved: October 13, 2022

WMAC Meeting Attendance			
SECTOR	WMAC MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	REPRESENTING	ATTENDANCE
State of DE	Murray, Patty	DE-DNREC	X
State of DE (A)	Smaier, Steve	DE-DNREC	
State of NJ	MacDonald, James (Andy)	NJ-DEP	
State of NJ (A)	Miri, Joe	NJ-DEP	X
State of NY	Tarrier, Brenan	NYS-DEC	X
Commonwealth of PA	Liaghat, Hoss	PA-DEP	X
Commonwealth of PA (A)	Matlock, Mark	PA-DEP	
USACE	Bittner, Laura	USACE	X
USACE (A)	Wacik, Gregory	USACE	
USEPA	Lynch, Katie	EPA	
USGS	Fleming, Brandon	USGS	X
USGS (A)	Scheffler, Curtis	USGS	
City of New York	Olivio, Dana	NYC	X
City of Philadelphia	Anderson, Kelly	PWD	X
City of Philadelphia (A)	Hesson, Molly	PWD	X
County Water Agency (V)	Byun, Seung Ah	CCWRA	X
County Water Agency (A)	Trego, Cory	CCWRA	
Water Resource Agency	Luitweiler, Preston	WRA-DRB	X
Industry	Rajan, Jordan	Exelon Limerick	X
Water Utility (A)	Eisenbrey, Virginia	Artesian Water	
Water Utility (C)	Thaeder, Kathy	Artesian Water	X
Agriculture	Howland, Sandra	NJ DeptAg	
League of Women Voters/Civic Org.	Cook, Kathy	LWV	
Environmental Organization	Knutson , Kelly	Coalition for the DRW	
Environmental Organization (A)	Murphy, Eileen	Coalition for the DRW	X
Watershed Organization	Ramie, Laurie	UDC	X
Academia	Van Abs, Dan	Rutgers University	
Recreation	Baldauff, Emily	Trout Unlimited	X
Fisheries	Eyler, Sheila	USFWS	X
<i>(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson</i>			
Guests	DiRenzo, Paul		X
	Korpics, Karen	Merril Creek Reservoir	X
	Kratina, Garret	PFBC	X
	McGuire, Meg	Delaware Currents	X
	Petcu, Madelyne	DEC	X
	Shourds, Jen	USGS	X
DRBC Staff	Adams, Baily	DRBC	X
	Beganskas, Sarah	DRBC	X
	Bush, Pam	DRBC	X
	Heinicke, Karl	DRBC	X
	Kavanagh, Kristen	DRBC	X
	Pindar, Chad	DRBC	X
	Pregent, Kevin	DRBC	X
	Preucil, Anthony	DRBC	X
	Sayed, Sara	DRBC	X
	Shallcross, Amy	DRBC	X
	Suk, Namsoo	DRBC	X
Tambini, Steve	DRBC	X	

* 1 other participants were identified by phone number only.