

Water Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by the Committee Chair, Kelly Anderson (PWD), and was held via remote attendance capabilities using Zoom. 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

- **Roll Call:**
 - Committee liaison Michael Thompson, P.E. (DRBC) performed roll-call for reserved and non-reserved committee constituencies. A list of attendance is provided at the end of these meeting highlights.
- **Public Participation:**
 - Kelly Anderson (PWD) 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. One comment was received regarding the availability of groundwater for food security, and time was marked for the end of the meeting on the agenda.
- **Highlights:**
 - The highlights of the June 26, 2024, meeting were approved and will be posted on the WMAC webpage. A motion for approval was made and seconded. There was no discussion and there were no abstentions; the motion passed unanimously.
(<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/021424/mtg-highlights.pdf>)
- **Administration:**
 - **Membership:** Committee liaison Michael Thompson, P.E. (DRBC) provided the following updates regarding committee membership:

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Status</u>
Water Resource Agency	7/1/2024 – 6/30/2029	Preston Luitweiler (WRA-DRB)
Environmental Organization	Vacant – 6/30/2026	Advertised, no applications to date
Recreation	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2030	Will advertise in January 2025
Academia	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2030	Will advertise in January 2025
Watershed Organization	7/1/2025 – 6/30/2030	Will advertise in January 2025
 - **Meeting dates 2025:** It was recommended to move the proposed February WMAC meeting date from 2/12/2025 to 2/19/2025 to avoid conflicting dates with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Science Summit. A motion was made to adopt the proposed meeting dates, but with the revised February date of 2/19/2025. The motion was seconded, none opposed, no abstentions. The meeting dates are as follows: 2/19/2025, 6/18/2025, 10/15/2025

Hydrologic Conditions Report

Sara Sayed (DRBC) provided a report on Basin-wide hydrologic conditions. Resources for weekly, monthly and annual hydrologic reports are archived at the following webpage. DRBC's interactive dashboard also displays a daily-updated snapshot for flow and drought management in the basin.

Presentation: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/101624/sayed_hydrologic-conditions.pdf

Report archives: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/flow/hydrologic-reports.html>

Dashboard: <https://drbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/690464a9958b49e5b49550964641ffd7>

DRBC Update

Chad Pindar, P.E. (DRBC) provided an update on DRBC activities, upcoming advisory committee meetings, Commission actions, and other items of interest. The presentation can be viewed at the following link. https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/101624/pindar_DRBCupdate.pdf

SSWP Update

Chad Pindar, P.E. (DRBC) provided an update on the Subcommittee on Source Water Protection (SSWP). The presentation can be viewed at the following link.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/101624/pindar_SSWP.pdf

Presentations

Water Audit introduction

Michael Thompson, P.E. (DRBC) gave a presentation providing a brief refresher on DRBC's Water Audit Program. A specific focus was placed on the recent December 2023 publication which assessed the first 10 years of data collected via the program, and the recommendations which were made to improve the program.

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/101624/thompson_water-audit.pdf

Water Audit Level 1 Validation

A presentation was given by guest speaker Drew Blackwell (Cavanaugh) on the importance of "Level 1 Validation" of water audits. This presentation was building off the DRBC December 2023 report recommendation to investigate how Level 1 Validation may help the DRBC Water Audit Program. Additional information was presented by Andrew McCarthy (Cavanaugh) as to how reducing water losses can help reduce carbon emissions. The presentation can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/WMAC/101624/blackwell_water-audit.pdf

State Updates

- **Pennsylvania** – No updates.
- **New Jersey** – No updates.
- **Delaware** – No updates.
- **New York** – No updates.

Other Member Updates

None

Public Comment

Robert Tallon (Crafts Creek Spring Hill Brook Watershed Association) raised concerns about groundwater availability as it is related to food security via irrigation of farmland. He noted that large percentages of New Jersey farmland are not irrigated, and if irrigation were to be required in the future, his question was whether or not there is enough water for them – specifically as it related to the process of NJDEP water allocation permitting. Some discussion was had, but due to the specific nature of his question, it was recommended that he reach out to NJDEP as well to discuss his concerns.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Approved: 02/19/2025

WMAC Meeting Attendance				
CONSTITUENCY		LAST, FIRST	REPRESENTING	ATTENDANCE
State of DE		Murray, Patty	DE-DNREC	X
State of DE	A	Rambo, Doug	DE-DNREC	X
State of NJ		Snook, Ian	NJ-DEP	X
State of NJ	A	Maute, Donald	NJ-DEP	X
State of NY		Tarrier, Brenan	NYS-DEC	X
Commonwealth of PA		Liaghat, Hoss	PA-DEP	X
Commonwealth of PA	A	Horton, James	PA-DEP	X
USACE		Bittner, Laura	USACE	X
USACE	A	Lewis-Coker, Christine	USACE	
USACE	A	Wacik, Gregory	USACE	X
USEPA		Lynch, Katie	EPA	X
USGS		Fleming, Brandon	USGS	X
USGS	A	Chaplin, Jeffrey	USGS	
City of New York		Bucci, Dana	NYC	X
City of Philadelphia	C	Anderson, Kelly	PWD	X
City of Philadelphia	A	Whalon, Will	PWD	X
County Water Agency		Byun, Seung Ah	CCWRA	X
County Water Agency	A	Hutelmeyer, Kate	CCWRA	
Water Resource Agency		Luitweiler, Preston	WRA-DRB	X
Industry	V	Rajan, Jordan	Exelon Limerick	X
Water Utility		Eisenbrey, Virginia	Artesian Water	
Agriculture		Howland, Sandra	NJ DeptAg	X
Agriculture	A	Wenczel, Amanda	NJ DeptAg	
League of Women Voters/Civic Org.		Cook, Kathy	PA-LWV	
League of Women Voters/Civic Org.	A	Xiao, Jinghua	PA-LWV	
Environmental Organization		VACANT	VACANT	
Watershed Organization		Ramie, Laurie	UDC	
Watershed Organization	A	Engelhardt, Kerry	UDC	
Academia		Van Abs, Dan	Rutgers University	X
Recreation		Baldauff, Emily	Trout Unlimited	
Fisheries		Eyler, Sheila	USFWS	X
(A) indicates Alternate (C) indicates Chairperson (V) indicates Vice Chairperson				
	Blackwell, Drew	Cavanaugh		X
	DuPoldt, Carl	Darby Creek Valley Association		X
	Gotsch, Brent	NYCDEP		X
	Kunkel, George	Kunkel Water Efficiency Consulting		X
	Mateyak, Gayle	Lehigh County		X
	Mauro, Douglas	Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages		X
	McCarthy, Andrew	Cavanaugh		X
	McCoy, Arlene	Merrill Creek Reservoir		X
	Sommer-Sayre, Alison	Delaware River Greenway Partnership		X
	Shourds, Jennifer	USGS New Jersey Water Science Center		X
	Tallon, Robert	Crafts Creek Spring Hill Brook Watershed Association		X
DRBC	Amato, Matthew	DRBC		X
	Beganskas, Sarah	DRBC		X
	Bush, Pam	DRBC		X
	Fogarty, Joseph	DRBC		X
	Heller, Mike	DRBC		X
	Kavanagh, Kristen	DRBC		X
	McCann, Chris	DRBC		X
	Munchback, Amber	DRBC		X
	Pindar, Chad	DRBC		X
	Rago, Pat	DRBC		X
	Sayed, Sara	DRBC		X
	Shallcross, Amy	DRBC		X
	Tambini, Steve	DRBC		X
	Thompson, Michael	DRBC		X