

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

**FOURTH QUARTER FY2024
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

**IN-PERSON MEETING
GETTYSBURG, PA**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Robert Sussman called the Fourth Quarter FY2024 CO-OP Section Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on September 10th, 2024. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Chair, Commissioner)
Amy Guise (Alt. Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Willem Brakel (Commissioner)
James Tsai (Alt. Commissioner)
Tiffany Potter (Commissioner)
Hamid Karimi (A. Commissioner)
Kim Jones (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Lee Currey (Alt. Commissioner)
Birthe Kjellerup (Commissioner)
Catherine McCabe
(Commissioner)

Virginia

Paul Holland (Commissioner)
Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)
Kathy Tran (Commissioner)
Jonathan Rak (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (Alt. Commissioner)

Pennsylvania

Susan Weaver (Alt. Commissioner)
Adam McClain (A. Commissioner)
Chris Kimple (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)
Cherie Schultz (Dir., CO-OP Operations)
Serena Moncion (Outreach Program
Manager)
Laurel Glenn (Director of Administration)
Heidi Moltz (Director of Program
Operations)
Renee Bourassa (Director, Communications)
Sarah Ahmed (Senior Water Resources
Engineer Analyst)
Alimatou Seck (Senior Water Resources
Scientist)
Renee Thompson (Water Resources Planner)
Rick Masters (General Counsel)

Guests

Megan Jadrosich (USACE)
Joseph Chandler (USACE)
Anne Spiesman (Fairfax Water)
Joel Caudill (WSSC Water)

1. WELCOME, ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Robert Sussman, Chair of the CO-OP Section, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Executive Director (ED) Nardolilli stated that a sign-up sheet was going around the meeting room which would be used in place of a roll call.

2. ADOPTION OR MODIFICATION OF DRAFT AGENDA

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

3. MINUTES FROM JUNE 18, 2024

Commissioner Sussman asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June minutes, under Tab 3, Attachment 2 of the Commission Meeting Book. There were no comments. **A motion to adopt the June 18, 2024, minutes was made by Commissioner Karimi and was seconded by Commissioner Potter. All were in favor.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on June 2024 Action Items: Dr. Schultz said there were no June meeting 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 was:

- Sarah Ahmed has developed a new drought trigger tool which displays real-time status of triggers that emanate from the Low Flow Allocation Agreement (LFAA), the Water Supply Coordination Agreement and the MWCOG Drought Response Plan. These agreements all have varying metrics that determine drought conditions, and this new tool creates tables and graphics which reflect the different triggers and compares them to each other.
- Pennsylvania State University (PSU) has built CO-OP an alternative watershed model with groundwater simulation that has SWAT+ capabilities and is comparable to the USGS Modflow model. CO-OP's next steps with this model will be verification, additional calibration and perhaps incorporating it into the Low Flow Forecasting System.
- ICPRB interns continued to work on the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite data which measures gravity variations to estimate changes in groundwater storage. Data collected for the Potomac Basin has potential implications for the supply outlook and low flow forecasts.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) had a scoping workshop on August 21, 2024, to determine the scope and constraints for the Supplemental Storage Study. Besides ICPRB and USACE, attendees included local water suppliers and members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). The meeting covered the need for such a study, our current vulnerabilities, and how they would determine to what extent the focus would be on drought versus spills. Discussion ensued on what ICPRB's role would be in the

study. Dr. Schultz explained that it was too early to know for sure but certainly ICPRB would contribute its technical expertise in the form of analysis about how various alternatives address drought. Dr. Seck's new 2D Flow Model for Oil Spills would be especially helpful for contamination concerns as well. Nardolilli explained that COG is the primary non-Federal partner for this exercise, and they are the ones who will actually sign the agreement with USACE. He added that ICPRB has sent a letter to COG that expresses the Commission's willingness to offer its technical services as an in-kind contribution to the study. Commissioner Guise stated that the study would focus on both drought and contamination, emphasizing that it was not an "either/or" situation. She said the study would look at future conditions of the Basin, time horizons, characterizations of possible water contamination, and cost.

- Dr. Schultz discussed an important administrative component of the CO-OP proposed FY25 workplan and budget that was presented to the CO-OP Operations Committee on August 29. At that meeting, a proposal was discussed for the CO-OP section to have a separate accounting system set up. Such a system would provide more detail on revenue and expenses, would allow for the integration of Commissioner requested efforts and might increase ICPRB's capacity to accommodate requests from the water suppliers for special projects. Dr. Schultz expressed another motivation to move towards an independent accounting system is the Travilah Quarry Feasibility Study that the water suppliers want to fund. More work is required to determine how this would be accomplished, and a plan will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

C. Update on hydrometeorological conditions. Dr. Seck provided a brief on the water supply outlook for September, the current seasonal drought forecast and groundwater level projections.

D. Update on 2025 water supply study. Sarah Ahmed provided a brief on the FY25 Water Demand Forecast and Resources Reliability Analysis for the Washington Metropolitan Area, which is conducted every five years.

E. Efforts to secure Federal funding for supplemental storage. Nardolilli reported that \$500,000 was appropriated by Congress for a USACE feasibility study on supplemental storage, which will research how to make the water supply of the DC area more resilient. On the appropriations side, the House began but suspended debate on HR8997, which is legislation that includes \$600,000 for the feasibility study. If Congress approves this, the law will add \$600,000 for the study that was previously appropriated by Congress, but it needs to marry up with the Senate version which does not currently have that language. In the House, WRDA (Water Resources & Development Act of 2024), was passed which would authorize the Federal government to pay 100% of the cost for the feasibility study. But that bill's language must be aligned with the Senate version. Nardolilli highlighted that the language in the House version, Section 121, has a statement that includes: "water supply as a primary mission of the Corps of Engineers."

F. LFAA next steps. Commissioner McCabe said that the LFAA is winding its way through the legal review and a few minor issues have been raised. It's still in the planning process.

G. Financial Statement. Dr. Schultz said that CO-OP Financial Statement may be reviewed in the Commission Meeting book at Tab 3, Attachment 4. She stated that CO-OP is under budget this year, which is positive. She also shared that in the recently completed FY23 audit, the CO-OP Reserve fund had a beginning balance of \$298,460. These are funds that the water suppliers have contributed to CO-OP which was unspent for various reasons over the years, and it can now be used for special

projects when ICPRB proposes something that they think is worth doing.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Election of FY25 CO-OP Section Officers. Commissioner Karimi, head of the FY25 Nominating Committee said that Commissioner Sussman had agreed to continue to serve as chair of the CO-OP Section and that Commissioner Morris had agreed to serve as Vice Chair. **Commissioner Tsai made a motion to approve that Commissioner Sussman be appointed Chair and Commissioner Morris be appointed as Vice Chair of the CO-OP Section for FY25. A second motion was not required. All were in favor.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, **Commissioner Karimi moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. All were in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 9:40 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