

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
SECOND QUARTER CO-OP SECTION MEETING FY2025
MARCH 17, 2026**

**IN-PERSON MEETING, ICPRB HEADQUARTERS, ROCKVILLE, MD
APPROVED MINUTES**

Call to Order: Executive Director Michael Nardolilli called the CO-OP Section Meeting to order at 8:30am on March 17, 2026. The following commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

District of Columbia

Willem Brakel (*)
Tiffany M. Potter
Steve Saari
Hamid Karimi (a)

Maryland

Lee Currey (*)
Birthe Kjellerup
Randy K. Rowel, Jr.
Dan Strodel (a)
John Holmes (a)

Pennsylvania

Jason Minnich (*)
Will Willis

United States

Bob Sussman (*)
Amy Guise (a)

Virginia

W. Weedon Cloe III (a*)
Mark E. Peterson (a)

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (a*)

Staff

Sarah Ahmed, Senior Water Resources Engineer
Lily Bedwell, Administrative Coordinator
Renee Bourassa, Director of Communications
Claire Buchanan, Dir. Emerita Program Operations
Laurel Glenn, Director of Administration
Heidi Moltz, Director of Program Operations
Serena Moncion, Community Outreach Manager
Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director
Garett Pignotti, Environmental Scientist
Cherie Schultz, Director of CO-OP Operations
Alimatou Seck, Senior Water Resources Scientist

Guests

Joel Caudill, WSSC Water

(a) - Alternate Commissioner
(*) - Executive Committee

1. Roll Call

Executive Director Michael Nardolilli asked the meeting participants to go around the room and introduce themselves by jurisdiction. CO-OP Chair Lee Currey began the meeting at 8:35 am.

2. Welcoming Remarks

Chair Currey recognized the importance of the Commission and the work that the group does to manage the basin. He discussed the break of the Potomac Interceptor and commended the DC Water staff that worked to repair the damage and stop the flow of raw sewage into the Potomac River. He recognized the growing importance for resilience of water infrastructure and emphasized the importance of ICPRB in fostering interstate cooperation. Chair Currey thanked the Commission for the critical role of facilitating collaboration between the states to protect the shared resource of the Potomac River.

3. Adoption or Modification of Agenda

Chair Currey asked if there were any modifications to the draft agenda. Hearing none, **he asked for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. Commissioner Hamid Karimi made the motion and Commissioner Tiffany Potter seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the agenda was adopted as circulated.**

4. Minutes from December 16, 2025, CO-OP Section Virtual Meeting

Chair Currey asked for any modifications to the draft minutes from the Q1 FY26 CO-OP Section meeting on December 16, 2025. **Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Commissioner Potter made the motion and Commissioner Karimi seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as circulated.**

5. Old Business

A. Follow-up on December Action Items

Dr. Cherie Schultz shared that no action items require follow-up from the Q1 FY26 meeting.

B. Section's Quarterly Report

Chair Currey directed the meeting to Dr. Schultz for the presentation of the CO-OP Section Quarterly Report. In the last quarter, CO-OP focused on the finalization of the 2025 water supply study, drought preparedness, the USACE Feasibility Study, the Potomac Interceptor sewage release, and the meeting of the CO-OP Operations Committee meeting on February 26.

Finalization of the 2025 Water Supply Study: CO-OP continued to receive requests for presentations on the results of the study. Senior Water Resources Scientist Dr. Alimatou Seck was interviewed by Japanese public television on February 11, Ms. Sarah Ahmed presented to MWCOG planning managers on February 20, Dr. Schultz and Dr. Seck presented to the Fairfax Water Board on March 5, and Mr. Nardolilli presented to the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) on March 11. Dr. Schultz commented that since the study was dense, CO-OP prepared a two-page [factsheet](#), requested by Chair Currey, to summarize the study, as well as a second [factsheet](#) and [webpage](#) summarizing data center water use in the Potomac River basin. Dr. Schultz believed that these summaries put the information in an easily digestible and accessible format for a larger audience.

Drought conditions and preparedness: Dr. Schultz reported on the status of CO-OP's drought monitoring over the last quarter, noting that the basin has seen substantial precipitation deficits most months from August 2025 through February 2026. This resulted in low Potomac River flows that required CO-OP to conduct daily drought monitoring from September 2 to February 19. Dr. Schultz shared that drought monitoring through the winter is something she has not experienced before. The river saw record minimum flows this quarter. Savage Reservoir and Jennings Randolph Reservoir water quality storage was low. Later this week, Dr. Schultz and CO-OP will participate in a meeting of the Drought Coordination Technical Committee (DCTC) on a potential declaration

of regional water use restrictions. The DCTC is organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOG).

Potomac Reservoir and River Simulation Model (PRRISM): CO-OP's new version of PRRISM has been configured to be used as a drought response tool, in "operational mode". It was used in the 2025 Water Supply Study to evaluate the future reliability of the regional water supply system, in "planning mode". Operational mode is now available in a "beta" preliminary status version. PRRISM will help answer the following questions during drought operations:

- What is the probability that reservoirs will be 90% full on June 1?
- What is the probability that releases will be required this summer from upstream reservoirs?
- If extreme drought occurs, what is the probability of not meeting demands in the next 30 days?
- If things are "looking bad," what's the benefit of potential measures, say, restricting demands?

Dr. Schultz reported that the model predicts that the region will have enough water this summer, based on a "medium" climate projection. Next steps include verifying, refining, and improving PRRISM in operational mode and constructing other forecast time series inputs. Dr. Schultz opened the floor for questions. Commissioners discussed the variability of the river, and that although it is like a "rollercoaster," it is possible that the flows may not spike back up after a low flow period, and the jurisdictions must be prepared for this possibility.

Mr. Nardolilli asked Dr. Schultz what recommendation she will make to the Drought Technical Committee who will meet on March 19. She shared that she doesn't think this year differs much from other dry winter years.

C. Update on USACE Feasibility Study

Mr. Nardolilli gave some background on the USACE Feasibility Study on a secondary water source emphasizing the regional approach of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA22) and reminded the Commission of the Act's language on the federal/non-federal cost-share for the study (90/10). The study was paused due to lack of funding. New guidance came out in January requiring USACE to reduce the scope of the study from a broader regional approach to focus on the Washington Aqueduct. It now must be completed in three years at a maximum cost of \$3 million and include a 35% design. Mr. Nardolilli reported that the option of evaluating turning Travilah Quarry into a reservoir will not fit into that framework, but that this smaller study can serve as a component in the larger goal of water resilience for the region. He read the following statement from the Executive Committee:

"The Executive Committee of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) met on February 17, 2026, to discuss the New Guidance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the reduction of the scope of the ongoing feasibility study (Study) of the secondary water source and additional water supply capability for the Washington Metropolitan Area. ICPRB is disappointed and disturbed by the sudden narrowing of the scope of the Study without notice and an opportunity to comment. Moreover, ICPRB finds this significant change in direction to be not helpful in achieving the regional solution that is needed and that was authorized by the Congress in Public Law 117-263, Section 8201 (a)(14)."

The USACE is proposing that the scaled down feasibility study will evaluate a small-scale alternative: the expansion of Dalecarlia Reservoir. This alternative is meant to secure an additional 12 hours of water for the Aqueduct and Arlington County. Federal funding received to date is about \$500k and the non-federal cost-share received to date is about \$219k. FY26 federal funding will

be \$1.8million and non-federal cost-share will be \$180k. Mr. Nardolilli invited federal Commissioner Amy Guise from USACE to comment on his summary. She commented that guidance from Congress to USACE is often broad, and it is common to see a very focused feasibility study to avoid fiscal delays. She clarified that USACE has not received the appropriated \$1.8million, so work has not begun. She asserted that the three year/three-million-dollar approach does allow for USACE to meet guidelines set in WRDA 2028, which they wouldn't have met otherwise. Chair Currey asked how much time the hypothetical storage of Travilah would allow in contrast to the 12 additional hours of the Dalecarlia Reservoir expansion and Mr. Nardolilli shared that it could be anywhere from 14-30 days. He also asserted that Travilah is a necessary but incomplete solution to a feasible secondary source. Commissioner Sussman shared his concern about the unpreparedness of the Nation's Capital with the current and projected plans for allocation. He asserted that another option must be found quickly. Chair Currey shared that MDE wants to support ICPRB in the effort with water suppliers to take the lead on a Section 203 study. Commissioner Guise clarified that a Section 203 study is the same as a USACE feasibility study, but the non-federal proponent funds it fully, avoiding fiscal delays. The report would then be submitted directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Commissioner Sussman shared his concern for the clarity of the role of USACE in a 203 study and suggested that ICPRB and water suppliers need to work hard to establish an understanding if they were to go through with it.

D. Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz shared that CO-OP is on track and on budget with a substantial reserve of about \$337,000.

6. New Business

Potomac Interceptor Break: Mr. Nardolilli discussed the letter that ICPRB sent to EPA Region 3, which provides federal oversight of the Potomac Interceptor. ICPRB urged EPA to make sure that DC Water notifies ICPRB promptly if there is a spill or collapse. Mr. Nardolilli also asked them to prioritize repairs above the drinking water intakes and urged them to improve communication with the public because the perception and reputation of the river is at risk. Mr. Nardolilli noted the potential impact of economic damage to parts of the basin because of possible damage to the reputation of the river.

7. Adjourn

Chair Currey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Karimi made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Darryl Madden seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

These minutes were written by Ms. Lily Bedwell, revised by Dr. Cherie Schultz, and approved of by Mr. Michael Nardolilli.