

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

**THIRD QUARTER 2022
June 14, 2022**

**VIRTUAL MEETING
ROCKVILLE, MD**

**MINUTES
AS APPROVED**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Seltzer called the Third Quarter 2022 CO-OP Section Meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. on June 14, 2022. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

United States

Robert Sussman (Vice Chair, Commissioner)

District of Columbia

Jeff Seltzer (Chair, Commissioner)

Willem Brakel (Commissioner)

Hamid Karimi (Alt. Commissioner)

Maryland

Catherine McCabe (Commissioner)

Lee Currey (Alt. Commissioner)

Virginia

Paul Holland (Commissioner)

Scott Kudlas (Alt. Commissioner)

Mark Peterson (Alt. Commissioner)

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (Alt. Commissioner)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli (Executive Director)

Bob Bolle (General Counsel)

Cherie Schultz (Dir., COOP Operations)

Wendy Wang (Acting Dir., Administration)

Curtis Dalpra (Dir., Communications)

Sarah Ahmed (Senior Water Resources Engineer)

Alimatou Seck (Senior Water Resources Scientist)

Michael Selckmann (Assoc. Dir., Aquatic Habitats)

Carlington Wallace (Assoc. Dir., Water Resources)

Christina Davis (Senior Water Resources Planner)

Stephanie Nummer (Water Resources Post-doc)

Claire Buchanan (Emerita Dir., Program Operations)

Hermela Mengesha (IT Administrator)

Guests

Valerie Cappola (COE, NAD)

Joel Caudill (WSSC Water)

Greg Prelewicz (Fairfax Water)

Allison Keller (WV DHHR)

Lisa Davies (PA DEP)

Kristina Peacock-Jones (PA DEP)

1. EXPLANATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Executive Director Mike Nardolilli started the meeting by explaining that this meeting is being conducted under Section V (g) of the Commission Bylaws that allows for the Commission or any of its Sections to conduct public meetings via “virtual conferencing” during the period of a state of emergency declared by either the President of the United States or the Governor of the State in which the Commission’s headquarters are located, currently in Maryland. Section V (g) was approved by email vote of the Commission on April 17, 2020, pursuant to Section XIII of the Bylaws. On April 12, 2022, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra renewed the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). This means that the telehealth and other waivers and flexibilities that have been implemented during the PHE remain in effect. Accordingly, the Commission’s “virtual” bylaw remains applicable.

CO-OP Section Chair, Commissioner Jeffrey Seltzer called the meeting to order, then thanked the participants for joining this meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

This meeting being virtual, Mr. Nardolilli called the names of the attendees by jurisdiction, the staff, and guests. Those in attendance acknowledged their presence when called, as noted above.

3. ADOPTION OR MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Currey. The motion was adopted without objection.

4. MARCH 1, 2022, DRAFT MINUTES

A motion to adopt the March 1, 2022, minutes as circulated was made by Commissioner Kudlas and seconded by Commissioner Karimi. The motion was adopted without objection.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on March Action Items: Dr. Schultz reported on follow-up on one Action Item: ICPRB Executive Director, Michael Nardolilli, drafted a template letter for use by the chief executives of the jurisdictions that are governing parties under the Low Flow Allocation Agreement (LFAA). The purpose of the letter was to authorize representatives of the governing parties to make decisions at the annual LFAA meeting regarding the LFAA Moderator compensation.

B. Section’s Quarterly Report

Dr. Schultz briefly discussed current meteorological/hydrological conditions in the Potomac basin, noting that the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center’s estimate of the 90-day cumulative past precipitation in the basin, which was 33% below average at the March Commission meeting, is now near the historical average. She then reported on the CO-OP Section’s second quarter activities, with a focus on the outcome of CO-OP’s request for proposals (RFP) on assistance with seasonal forecasting. The RFP was sent out in January to researchers at 12 universities. Five pre-proposals and three final proposals were received. Because of the high quality and the importance of the proposed work in two of the final proposals, CO-OP staff requested and obtained approval from the water suppliers for funding two rather than just one of the proposed projects. The two successful projects are

- *Streamflow forecasting for CO-OP water supply operations*, Jim Smith, Princeton University;
- *Integrating Weather/Climate Forecasts, Coupled Surface-Groundwater Interactions, and Machine Learning to Enhance Seasonal Flow Forecasting in the Potomac River Basin*, Alfonso Mejia and colleagues, Penn State University.

The complete 3rd Quarter report is included in the meeting book in Tab 3, Attachment 3.

Commissioner Kudlas echoed the improvement in hydrologic conditions and noted that because of relatively low groundwater levels, flows could quickly fall again if a period of low rainfall occurs.

C. Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz stated that the CO-OP Section is on budget and on track. The budgeted revenue from the CO-OP Reserve Fund to cover the cost of a seasonal forecasting contract in FY2022 will be carried over to FY2023.

D. Effort to secure Federal funding for supplemental storage

ICPRB Executive Director, Mr. Nardolilli reported on recent progress on securing supplemental storage to address water supply vulnerabilities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. At the April 20th meeting of the Supplemental Storage Work Group, Bridget Lawson from Congresswoman Norton's Office talked about the Congresswoman's efforts, including legislative text authorizing a feasibility study in the House version of the draft Water Resources Development Act of 2022. Mr. Nardolilli also reported on the initiation of ICPRB's economic impact study, being conducted under contract by Delta Point Solutions, LLC. Finally, he reported on a meeting on May 19 organized by Catherine Libertz of EPA Region 3 to identify potential funding sources for studies and for project construction. Ms. Libertz and Rudy Chow of Washington Aqueduct planned to follow up on this discussion.

Commissioner Sussman asked to what extent the findings and conclusions of the economic impact study will be publicly available. Mr. Nardolilli replied that there will be a public-facing document that will be vetted by the suppliers and other stakeholders. A full report with background information on methodology and sources will also be available to be shared with Congressional offices.

Commissioner McCabe complemented Mr. Nardolilli on the progress that has been made and asked about the timing of potential funding and whether the appropriation process will need to be relied upon. Commissioner Sussman said there was a possibility that Congresswoman Norton might be able to include a line item in the FY 2023 budget before it becomes final. Mr. Nardolilli will follow up on this with Bridget Lawson. Dr. Schultz added that the Banner Policy consulting group, under contract with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, is developing a strategy on how to reach out to members of the Appropriations Committee.

E. LFAA Moderator/Standby Moderator

CO-OP Section Chair, Jeffrey Seltzer, noted that the position of LFAA Moderator is still vacant. Maryland's efforts to identify and nominate a candidate have been delayed due to recent changes in leadership at the Maryland Department of Environment. In case this position remains vacant this year, the 2022 Standby Moderator, Dr. Peter Grevatt, will carry out the responsibilities of the Moderator.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed new CO-OP staff position funded by ICPRB

Dr. Schultz described the intended purpose and needs addressed by a proposed new CO-OP staff position to be funded by the jurisdictions. The position would allow CO-OP to better support all of the goals listed in the 1979 Resolution to create the CO-OP Section.

Commissioners Kudlas and Seltzer expressed general support for further conversations to try to move this idea forward. Commissioner Sussman asked that more information be developed on the position purpose and funding requirements to allow a consideration of a motion to support creation of such a position at the next Section meeting. Commissioner Brakel said that he was generally supportive, but that the listed goals appeared in the Whereas section rather than the body of the 1979 Resolution.

B. Selection of Nominating Committee for FY2023 CO-OP Section Officers

FY2023 CO-OP Section Officers will be elected at the 4th Quarter CO-OP Section meeting.

Commissioner Sussman moved that Commissioners Seltzer, Holland, and Karimi be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Kudlas seconded this motion and all were in favor.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Seltzer adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:41 a.m.

Draft Minutes written by: Sarah Ahmed, Senior Water Resources Scientist

Reviewed and edited by Cherie Schultz, Director, CO-OP Operations

Approved by: Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director