

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
THIRD QUARTER CO-OP SECTION MEETING FY2025
JUNE 16, 2026

VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order: ICPRB Executive Director and Director of CO-OP, Michael Nardolilli, called the CO-OP Section Meeting to order at 8:30am on June 16, 2026. The following Commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

District of Columbia

Willem Brakel (*)
Tiffany M. Potter
Hamid Karimi (a)
Kimberly Jones (a)

Maryland

Birthe Kjellerup
Dan Strodel (a)
K. John Holmes (a)

Pennsylvania

Jason Minnich (a*)
Chris Ann Kimple

United States

Darryl Madden
Amy Guise (a)

Virginia

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

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (a*)

Staff

Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director
Alimatou Seck, Dir. of CO-OP Operations
Cherie Schultz, Dir. Emerita CO-OP Operations
Sarah Ahmed, Assoc. Director Spill Response
Lily Bedwell, Administrative Coordinator
Renee Bourassa, Director of Communications
Ernest Parker, Director of Finance and Admin.
Heidi Moltz, Director of Program Operations
Serena Moncion, Community Outreach Manager
Stephanie Nummer, Water Resources Scientist
Garett Pignotti, Environmental Scientist
G. Mike Selckmann, Assoc. Dir. Aquatic Habitats

Guests

Anne Spiesman, Fairfax Water
Benjamin Hermerding, Office of Delegate Tran
Duke Adams
Greg Busch, MDE
Jayne Brown, DOEE
Jessica Edwards-Brandt, Loudoun Water
Jim Palmer
Joe Chandler, USACE
Mik Hotha
R. Brian Paul, USACE

(a) - Alternate Commissioner

(*) - Executive Committee

1. Virtual Roll Call

Executive Director Michael Nardolilli asked Administrative Coordinator Lily Bedwell for an announcement about meeting logistics. She stated that the meeting was being recorded for note taking purposes, that AI note taking is prohibited, and asked participants to enter their name and affiliation in the chat for a virtual roll call.

2. Welcoming Remarks

CO-OP Vice Chair Weedon Cloe introduced himself as an alternate Commissioner for the state of Virginia and a Water Supply Manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He welcomed the group to the third quarter CO-OP Section Meeting of fiscal year 2026. He mentioned that he was chairing the meeting in place of Chair Lee Currey who could not attend this meeting. Chairman Cloe commended the work of the Commission and its partners on the challenging last few months of drought within the Potomac River basin.

3. Adoption or Modification of Agenda

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

4. Minutes from March 17, 2026, CO-OP Section Meeting

Chair Cloe asked for any modifications to the draft minutes from the Q2 FY26 CO-OP Section meeting on March 17, 2026. **Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Commissioner Hamid Karimi made the motion and Commissioner Birthe Kjellerup seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as circulated.**

5. Old Business

A. Follow-up on March Action Items

Dr. Alimatou Seck shared that no action items require follow-up from the Q2 FY26 meeting.

B. Update on Hydrometeorological Conditions

Dr. Seck gave a comprehensive update on current drought conditions in the Potomac basin, referencing precipitation, streamflow, groundwater levels, and water supply outlook. She noted that the basin remained in a long-term deficit despite mid-May storms that temporarily increased flows. Overall, groundwater levels remain low across Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, showing historically significant lows with limited recovery after recent rains. The US Drought Monitor map indicated that most of the basin experienced abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions. Regional drought warnings are in effect in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, and a drought watch was declared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWWCOG). Dr. Seck highlighted that the basin has been experiencing periods of extreme drought since 2023, but not as extreme as the drought of 2002. She indicated that NOAA forecasts show that drought is likely to persist through August. Reservoir storage remained high, with all CO-OP system reservoirs at 80% or higher and upstream reservoirs near 99% capacity.

Commissioner Holmes asked about base flow regression analysis for low flow predictions, mentioning that drought seemed to be due to groundwater levels rather than precipitation levels. Dr. Seck responded that CO-OP uses streamflow recession models and probabilistic methods to forecast river flows that could trigger reservoir releases. She summarized that

conditions are dire, and low groundwater levels caused in part by long-term precipitation deficits, are a great contributor to that. CO-OP remains confident about the resources available to address a dry summer.

C. Section's Quarterly Report

Chair Cloe directed the meeting back to Dr. Seck for the presentation of the CO-OP Section Quarterly Report. In the last quarter, CO-OP welcomed a summer intern from George Mason University: PhD candidate Malihe Nasibi. CO-OP focused on responding to the continued interest in the 2025 Water Supply Study results, a scoping effort for a follow-up study, outlook and communications regarding recent drought conditions and preparedness throughout the basin, data center water demand discussions, and the meeting of the CO-OP Operations Committee on June 3, 2026.

Continuing Outreach for the 2025 Water Supply Study: CO-OP Staff gave presentations on the 2025 WMA Water Supply Study to regional planning bodies, utility boards, and academic and professional audiences.

Data Center Water Use: Dr. Seck and the Communications team responded to multiple inquiries from stakeholders and media regarding data center development and water use. She noted that it was especially interesting to participate in discussions related to data center water demand and policy.

Drought conditions and preparedness: Dr. Seck reported that Dr. Cherie Schultz continued to advance and test the beta version of the PRRISM seasonal forecasting tool, which indicated (on June 1) a 47-50% probability of upstream reservoir releases this summer but only a 0-2% chance of triggering the MWCOC drought warning threshold (60% combined storage from Jennings Randolph and Seneca reservoirs). CO-OP Staff continued maintenance on drought dashboards and intend to produce a public-facing version soon. Water Resources Intern Malihe Nasibi worked to evaluate watershed model performance under low-flow conditions.

Follow Up to the 2025 WMA Water Supply Study: Dr. Seck reported that the 2025 demand study did not include water supply alternatives currently under consideration in the region because at the time of the study, the USACE Feasibility Study included such scope. Since then, the feasibility scope has been reduced. The follow-up study will be 1) evaluating supply alternatives and their impact on system reliability, 2) including a more detailed and explicit representation of data center demand. and 3) exploring risk-based approaches beyond traditional scenario planning. The study will begin in July 2026 and is expected to conclude by December 2027.

D. LFAA Related Updates

Mr. Nardolilli reported that the annual meeting of the Low Flow Allocation Agreement (LFAA) was held at ICPRB headquarters on April 14, 2026, with Maryland serving as the host jurisdiction. The meeting focused on drought preparations, infrastructure resilience, water quality, and long-term planning. Utilities provided updates on drought operations, algal monitoring, treatment for PFAS, and water reuse projects.

Mr. Nardolilli indicated that Proposed Modification 3 of the LFAA has received approval from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Office of the Secretary of the Army General Counsel. Staff are preparing a summary document for the signatories and Mr. Nardolilli expected the document to be distributed for signature very soon and hoped for full completion of the LFAA by the end of the calendar year 2026.

It was decided that the LFAA needed a separate process about addressing the current flow-by. Mr. Nardolilli reminded the Commission that Greg Busch of MDE chairs the Potomac River Environmental Flow-By Task Force as well as the Environmental Flows Technical Advisory Committee. Currently, the committee is developing a cost estimate for additional data collection.

Mr. Nardolilli discussed the development of a Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) led by NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), which aims to set up regional drought indicators and foster coordination.

Mr. Nardolilli indicated that WSSC is leading a Section 203 feasibility study for supplemental storage and resilience alternatives.

E. Financial Statement

Dr. Seck shared that CO-OP is on track and on budget with a reserve of \$346,629.

6. New Business

Selection of the Nominating Committee for FY27: Chair Cloe reported that the CO-OP Section is asking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Commissioner Kjellerup and Commissioner Peterson previously expressed interest in serving, and Commissioner Potter indicated her interest during this meeting. **Chair Cloe asked for a motion to approve the nominating committee members. Commissioner Karimi made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Madden seconded the motion.**

7. Adjourn

Chair Cloe asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Karimi made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27am.

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