

**INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN
FOURTH QUARTER CO-OP SECTION MEETING FY2025
DECEMBER 16, 2025**

**VIRTUAL MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS
DRAFT MINUTES**

Call to Order: Executive Director Michael Nardolilli called the CO-OP Section Meeting to order at 8:35am on December 16, 2025. The following commissioners, staff, and guests attended the meeting in whole or in part.

Commissioners

District of Columbia

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

Maryland

Lee Currey (*)
Randy K. Rowel, Jr. (a)

Pennsylvania

Jason Minnich (*)

United States

Bob Sussman (*)

Virginia

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

West Virginia

Mindy Neil (a*)

(a) - Alternate Commissioner

(*) – Executive Committee

Staff

Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director
Richard Masters, General Counsel
Cherie Schultz, Director of CO-OP Operations
Sarah Ahmed, Senior Water Resources Engineer
Alimatou Seck, Senior Water Resources Scientist
Heidi Moltz, Director of Program Operations
Laurel Glenn, Director of Administration
Lily Bedwell, Administrative Coordinator
Renee Bourassa, Director of Communications
Serena Moncion, Community Outreach Manager
Megan McClaugherty, Ecological Technician
Garett Pignotti, Environmental Scientist

Guests

Joe Chandler, USACE
R. Brian Paul, USACE NAD
Duke Adams, PA DEP
Anne Spiesman, Fairfax Water
Christina Davis, Loudoun Water

1. Virtual Roll Call via Microsoft Teams Chat

Ms. Renee Bourassa, Director of Communications at ICPRB, welcomed everyone noted that the meeting will be recorded for note-taking purposes. She also emphasized that ICPRB prohibits artificial intelligence transcription and note taking services from the meeting. Ms. Bourassa asked participants to enter their name and affiliation into the chat for a virtual roll call.

2. Welcoming Remarks

CO-OP Chair Lee Currey thanked the CO-OP Section for electing him and Vice Chair Weedon Cloe at the last meeting. He highlighted three points: commending CO-OP staff for daily drought monitoring and reporting during the consistent low precipitation and low flows since September, the major milestone of the finalization of the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) 2025 Water Supply Study, and the successful annual Drought Exercise led by Senior Water Resources Engineer Sarah Ahmed.

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 Kimberly Jones made the motion and Commissioner Tiffany Potter seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the agenda was approved as circulated.**

4. Minutes from September 9, 2025, CO-OP Section In-Person Meeting

Chair Currey asked for any modifications to the draft minutes from the Q4 CO-OP Section meeting on September 9, 2025. **Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Commissioner Potter made the motion and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved as circulated.**

5. Old Business

A. Follow-up on September Action Items

Dr. Cherie Schultz shared that no action items require follow-up from the Q4 FY25 meeting.

B. Section's Quarterly Report

Chair Currey directed the meeting to Dr. Schultz for the presentation of the CO-OP Section Quarterly Report.

Drought conditions: Dr. Schultz presented two maps from the US Drought Monitor, Middle Atlantic Region Forecast Center Region, showing the change in drought conditions from early September where the Potomac basin experienced mostly abnormally dry conditions, to early December where conditions widely deteriorated and much of the basin experienced moderate and severe drought conditions. The next graph she presented showed Potomac River daily flow percentile ranges at the USGS Point of Rocks gage in cubic feet per second for every day of the year since March. She shared that we are mostly in the “below” normal range of flows, 10-25%, and nearing the “much below” normal range of flows, 5-10%. She noted that winter precipitation is always important for groundwater recharge in case of a dry summer. She shared that the past 60-day cumulative precipitation deficit is 39%. Chair Currey asked Dr. Schultz to report on the current reservoir status, and she shared that Little Seneca reservoir is full, Jennings Randolph reservoir water supply storage is full, and the Jennings Randolph water quality storage has gotten quite low around 20%, Occoquan reservoir is doing well, and the Patuxent reservoir is at 61%. Chair Currey noted that we are entering the typical wet season and it could turn around with a few big rainfalls, but with deteriorating drought conditions, we remain prepared to put our allocation protocols in place.

Finalization of the 2025 Water Supply Study: Dr. Schultz commended the ICPRB staff who supported the study. She explained that every five years the study forecasts water demands using demographic data projections, rising temperature trends, and adjustments considering water saving fixtures and appliances. The study also forecasts water availability with adjustments for upstream

water users (including data centers). The third objective of the study is to assess future reliability of the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA) cooperative system based on simulations of demand, availability, and system operations by the Potomac Reservoir and River Simulation Model (PRRISM), including forecasted benefits of the two *planned* new reservoirs (Fairfax Water's Edgemon Reservoir and Loudoun Water's Milestone Reservoir). She reported that forecasted WMA demand rose with population growth, but technological advancements may keep the demand lower than forecasted. The 2025 demand estimate for the region is 465 million gallons per day (mgd) and the 2050 forecast is 538mgd.

Commissioner Sussman asked if our previous demand increase projections have materialized. He also asked what drove the increase in demand. Dr. Schultz said that water saving appliances and fixtures have kept the use lower, and Sarah Ahmed demonstrated the impact of such fixtures on water saving in the study. Ms. Ahmed noted that this forecast is very similar to the 2020 forecast, but when you remove the water saving appliance impact from the model, it looks much more like the 2015 study. Commissioner Sussman asked what kind of impact data centers have on the demand forecast and Dr. Alimatou Seck shared that CO-OP made the decision not to include the data center usage in the forecasts of WMA demand and to rather follow CO-OP's past approach. Commissioner Jones asked if it would be feasible for CO-OP to do interim reports between now and the next study and Dr. Schultz responded that CO-OP plans to report in the interim on assessments of alternative supply sources. She noted that the value of the study is to present the forecast and to alert water suppliers that forecasters need more resources for more accurate projections. Chair Currey mentioned CO-OP's alternatives analyses in its 2017 and 2020 studies, and asked if there are updates coming to those, and if the current USACE feasibility study is the next update. Dr. Schultz said that yes, the USACE study will assess water supply alternatives and that ICPRB is considering an additional CO-OP study. Chair Currey suggested that we consider the 2017 ICPRB alternatives analysis study and the 2025 Water Supply Study results to inform the region more accurately in this next possible CO-OP study.

Next, Dr. Schultz presented the water availability forecast considering the impact of meteorological change, also known as climate change. The projected increases in both precipitation and temperature have competing effects: increasing precipitation tends to increase river flow and rising temperatures tend to decrease river flow by increasing evaporation from the land and water surfaces. The methodology of the study balanced these competing effects and results indicated disparate impacts for high flow years versus low flow years. The study projects that extreme drought years could see river flows decrease by up to 29% driven by climate change by the 2070 - 2099 period. Commissioner Sussman noted that we have seen lower precipitation rates recently, but the forecast predicts more precipitation. Dr. Schultz explained that climate data are studied in 30-year periods where we see precipitation increasing on average, but the recent dryness is more of an example of the variability we see within these periods of study that is in line with other climate projections.

Impacts of Data Centers: Water consumed upstream reduces downstream river flow. Dr. Schultz noted that in 2025, the estimate of upstream use from data centers is negligible at fractions of 1mgd, at 0.1mgd on average and 0.3mgd for the peak use day. The forecast for 2050 shows an increase to about 5mgd on average and 16mgd for the peak use day. She asserted that more data is needed for more accurate projections.

Potomac Reservoir and River Simulation Model (PRRISM): CO-OP used the PRRISM to simulate daily demands, availability, system operations, and system reliability. CO-OP used the scenario approach to reflect uncertainty: three annual demand scenarios and three meteorological change scenarios. The nine scenarios showed the following probability of water system reliability in the given years: 2030 at 99-100%, 2045 at 95-100%, and 2050 at 95-100%. Dr. Schultz noted that this

is the first time we have seen an indication of a potential problem in the near term. She shared that we could find detailed information about each of the nine scenarios in the full study.

C. Finalization and Rollout of 2025 Water Supply Study

Dr. Schultz shared that the report was finalized on November 15 after the team addressed comments from the water suppliers. Since the finalization and rollout, ICPRB held a virtual press conference on December 5 and hosted a webinar in the 85th anniversary series on the results of the study on December 9. ICPRB will also host the American Water Resources Association National Capital Region Section (AWRA NCRS) on December 18, where an expert panel will discuss the results of the study. All discussions proved that the interest in data centers continues to grow and be at the forefront of questions and concerns.

D. Drought Exercises

Ms. Ahmed described the recent three-day exercise that she led which involved water utility staff in scenario-based training to support their use of data sharing tools. The exercise included one in-person meeting and two virtual meetings. Participants practiced using CO-OP's password-protected information exchange website, Data Portal, exercised load shifts for various water suppliers, and simulated reservoir releases. ICPRB and CO-OP aimed to bring the utility staff into conversation about user friendliness and collaboration to improve the regional drought response. Ms. Ahmed presented on how CO-OP plans to integrate PRRISM into operational decisions during droughts.

E. USACE Feasibility Study

Executive Director Michael Nardolilli reminded the Commission that the USACE study was paused during the government shutdown, but ICPRB is working to secure more funding for the continuation of the study. The study will resume once funding is secured. It was considering 11 alternatives for improving the region's water supply resilience and ICPRB supported narrowing the scope to seemingly more promising options like water reuse initiatives and turning Travilah Quarry into a new regional raw water storage reservoir.

F. Financial Statement

Dr. Schultz shared that CO-OP net assets were \$346,460 and the CO-OP reserve fund is estimated to be \$372,792.

6. New Business

Mr. Nardolilli presented the DC Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP). It intends to analyze if effluent from the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant could be brought up to drinking water standards and furthermore how it could be distributed throughout the DC area network. They have allocated \$21 million to explore and develop a pilot program. ICPRB will remain a participant but not a partner on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Given the fact that the meeting was already overtime, Chair Currey moved on to the next item with the caveat that this will be discussed again in the next meeting.

7. Adjourn

Chair Currey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Potter made the motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Karimi 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.