



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY-DRAFT

May 18, 2018

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2018/05/18/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee-chesapeake-baywatershed-water-quality/>

I. OPENING REMARKS

Carla Reid, WSSC General Manager and CEO

General Manager Reid said WSSC was honored to host the CBPC meeting and was glad to be among members who understood the importance and value of water. She then provided some general facts about WSSC:

- WSSC serves 1.8 M residents and has an annual \$1.4 B Operating and Capital Budget
- May 1st was WSSC's Centennial, and she's proud to say in its 100-year history, it has had no drinking water quality violations.
- WSSC has a Triple A bond rating, as well as a Triple A challenge: Aging workforce, aging infrastructure (40% of their water mains are over 50 years old), and affordability continues to be a critical issue as WSSC develops its new rate structure.
- She is the first woman General Manager of WSSC
- She thinks of WSSC as meeting 'Triple E' goals: Engineering, economic, and environmental.
- She values WSSC's innovation and collaboration.
- Some examples of innovation being used by WSSC:
 - Technologies to reduce main breaks, like the River Road 2008 break that made national news.
 - Using acoustic fiber optics for early detection of cracks in mains. Thus far, WSSC has been able to detect and avoid 20 major breaks.
 - Replacing small diameter water pipes with zinc-coated ductile iron pipe.
 - WSSC started using wind power in 2008, and 28% of power is wind power, reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) by 38,000 metric tons, the equivalent of removing 100,000 cars from the road. WSSC added solar power in 2013.
 - Bioenergy project at Piscataway, will turn waste into energy, producing cleaner Class A Biosolids, and will reduce ghg emissions by 15%, and generate 2.7 MW of natural gas power, while at the same time reducing the use of lime, resulting in significant cost savings.
- Some examples of collaboration/partnerships:
 - 1982 Water Supply Coordination Agreement
 - The 2012 Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA)

- COG's NCRWARN and Maryland's WARN mutual aid agreements among utilities
- COG's 2016 NCR Water Supply and Distribution System Redundancy Study
- The Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin's 2017 Water Supply Alternatives study

Member Discussion

- Laurie-Ann Sayles asked whether WSSC has lead service lines. Ms. Reid replied that WSSC replaced their lines in 2005, so they do not have lead in their utility lines. However, schools and private property have their own water lines on their property that could potentially contain lead services.

2. DEVELOPING A ROAD MAP FOR WATER SYSTEM RESILIENCE

Pamela Kennel, Loudoun Water's Director of Water Resource Programs

Ms. Kennel was the technical lead on COG's Water Resiliency Study.

- She said General Manager Reid's opening remarks set the stage, since the Resiliency Study is about raising water supply awareness and determining regional investment in infrastructure.
- As the region has grown, water infrastructure between utilities has not meshed as easily as roads: There are limited connections between metropolitan Washington water systems to transfer raw or treated water.
- This study, paid for by an Urban Area Security Initiative grant, examined high-consequence, low-probability water loss scenarios in broad scope and scale, and estimated the cost for greater than two days of loss of service, by setting model usage to be average winter water demand, and FEMA's figure for economic value of loss of water as \$114/person/day.
- This study only measured direct cost to the utility for repairs and did not measure loss of revenue, nor indirect costs for fire, hospitals, etc.
- They modeled six different risk scenarios, such as major main break, or Potomac River contamination.
- River contamination is one of the most substantial regional risks, which can be reduced via raw water storage (i.e., quarries), and water transfer improvements (i.e., interconnections).
- To advance such projects, need for:
 - Coordinated regional planning
 - Conveying of the potential risks, and need for risk reduction via interconnections and water storage
 - Identify funding opportunities
 - Advocate for action

Member Discussion

- Ms. Holman said we should emphasize that if the District of Columbia is without water, that includes the federal facilities. Mr. Bieber added, including Department of Defense facilities.
- Mr. Burrell inquired whether the Army Corps of Engineers could help fund the interconnections and/or off-river storage. He also asked how the Travilah quarry would be filled. Ms. Kennel said the quarry would be filled from the Potomac.
- Mr. Peterson said jurisdictions may resist projects if they don't see regional benefits. Therefore, it would be helpful to pursue options and funding using COG and ICPRB as regional entities.

3. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

Tanya Spano, COG staff

Ms. Spano presented updates on the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) schedule and issues that COG will track.

- The Bay Program's schedule has been delayed somewhat as technical issues continue to be addressed. The final Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning Targets release has shifted to mid-July and the final Phase III WIPs are due in late June (July) 2019. See more schedule details in Ms. Spano's presentation.
- COG is keeping an eye on the nitrogen planning targets and the implications for the wastewater sector as Maryland finalizes its nutrient trading regulations, which will detail what is allowed for trading between stormwater and wastewater sectors. The Conowingo WIP process is also evolving and needs to be monitored to see if/when it might have an impact on COG's members.
- In FY 2018 the Bay Program is currently fully funded (\$73 M). COG will continue to track Congressional appropriations for FY 2019. There is also some discussion about moving or splitting the CBP offices – an effort that the Bay Partners are working to resolve to ensure that program support is not compromised.
- WRTC and COG staff recommended that the CBPC send a letter to the CBP's Principals' Staff Committee to emphasize the need for early and local participation in the new Conowingo WIP process. Staff will draft a letter for the CBPC's consideration.

Action item:

- COG staff will draft a letter to the CBP regarding the Conowingo Dam WIP process, for CBPC member review.

4. CBPC OUTREACH

Ms. Bonnaffon shared updates with the committee on messaging and materials for Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 2-10), and encouraged active member participation.

5. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING, FOLLOWED BY PATUXENT WATER FILTRATION PLANT AND RESERVOIR TOUR

WSSC provided a guided tour of the Patuxent Water Filtration Plant (Laurel, MD).

- The tour included a briefing on WSSC's treatment process for manganese; turbidity testing; and corrosion control.

- As a second part of the tour, members visited reservoir (Rocky Gorge/Duckett Dam)

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Adam Ortiz, Prince George's County

Carla Reid, WSSC

Collin Burrell, DOEE

Dan Sze, Falls Church

Gretchen Mikeska, DOEE

J. Davis, City of Greenbelt

Joel Caudill, WSSC

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew
Enterprises

Laurie-Ann Sayles, City of Gaithersburg

Libby Garvey, Chair, Arlington County

Mark Charles, City of Rockville

Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water

Maureen Holman, DC Water

Pamela Kenel, Loudoun Water

Penny Gross, Fairfax County

Sam Rosen-Amy, District of Columbia

COG Staff:

Heidi Bonnaffon, COG DEP

Steve Walz, COG DEP Director

Tanya Spano, COG DEP