

OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

MINUTES
230th Meeting of the Technical Committee
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA
October 12, 2022

Chair Scott Mandirola, Presiding

Call to Order

The 230th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was called to order by Chair Mandirola at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Eight states, four federal agencies, and four advisory committees were represented (for Roster of Attendance see on page 12). Chair Mandirola welcomed all to ORSANCO's virtually-held meeting of the Technical Committee.

Minutes of 229th Committee Meeting

ACTION: Motion passed to accept the minutes of the 229th Technical Committee meeting.

Chief Engineer's Report

Director Harrison welcomed Jeffrey Hurst as a new Technical Committee member representing Virginia. He reported that development of the ORBA/Ohio River Restoration Plan is progressing. Jordan Lubetkin with the National Wildlife Federation has held a number of public listening sessions on the plan. A number of chapters for the restoration plan are under development, modelled somewhat after the Great Lakes plan, which are planned to be drafted by the spring, 2023. He reported that ORSANCO has pulled together a map of the basin listing all of the stream and lake impairments as reported by the individual states.

He reported on environmental inclusion, and that ORSANCO has recently formed an environmental justice committee. The committee is working to define what environmental justice means to ORSANCO and its work. ORSANCO is developing a grant proposal to USEPA for an environmental justice project including education and outreach to under-served communities. Staff is also developing a plan and evaluating IT contractors to upgrade the Commission's data systems to improve our ability to store, utilize and communicate ORSANCO's water quality information.

Ohio River Headwaters Source Water Protection Efforts in Western Pennsylvania

Thomas McCaffrey with PADEP made the following presentation. The headwaters of the Ohio River Basin include the Allegheny River Basin, the Monongahela River Basin and the Beaver/Shenango River Basin. The Allegheny River Basin occupies 11,747 square miles in the states of New York and Pennsylvania. It is 315 miles long and contributes 60% of the Ohio River flow. There are 8 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Locks and Dams on the river with the most upstream Lock and Dam at river mile 62.2. There are 13 Drinking Water utilities with intakes on the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh upstream to Emlenton, which is about 90 river miles upstream from the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. Total population served by these Drinking Water utilities is over 800,000. The Monongahela River Basin occupies 7,340 square miles in the states of Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is 130 miles long. There are 8 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Locks and Dams on the mainstem Monongahela River with the most upstream Lock and Dam at river mile 115.4. Within Pennsylvania, there are 10 Drinking Water utilities on the mainstem Monongahela, 3 on the Youghiogheny and 2 on the Cheat River. In West Virginia, there are at least 10 Drinking Water utilities within the Monongahela Basin.

Total population served in Pennsylvania and West Virginia is approximately 1.25 million. The Beaver/Shenango River Basin occupies 3,163 square miles in the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Beaver River is 21 miles long, the Shenango River is 82 miles long and the Mahoning River is 113 miles long. Within Pennsylvania, there are 6 Drinking Water utilities along the mainstem Beaver and mainstem Shenango Rivers. Total population served by these Drinking Water utilities is approximately 170,000.

In 2002, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) funded the development of the Allegheny Monongahela Early Warning Detection System (AMEWDS) with ORSANCO serving as the Grantee. But with no additional funding to support ongoing operation and maintenance of the spill detection monitoring network, AMEWDS water quality monitoring equipment began to fail after just several years of operation with no means to repair or replace the equipment. In 2013, PA DEP again funded AMEWDS, now renamed as River Alert Information Network (RAIN), to serve as a Total Dissolved Solids monitoring network due to high TDS in the Monongahela River. PA DEP provided O&M funds to RAIN for 4 years following the initial establishment of the TDS monitoring network equipment. RAIN secured additional funding through small SWP Grants and a few Corporate Sponsorships to help further its Source Water Protection efforts. During this time, RAIN managed the development of Source Water Protection Plans for all of its PA RAIN Member utilities. RAIN also established Annual Source Water Protection Meetings for the water utilities within each major River system. There was an expansion of the RAIN network into the Upper Monongahela River Basin in West Virginia. WV Department of Health and Human Resources provided O&M Grants to RAIN for two years after the PA DEP Grants ended.

Currently in Pennsylvania, the TDS monitoring equipment installed in 2013 is no longer operable. Several of the larger water utilities within RAIN has since purchased their own Source Water Monitoring equipment, though sharing that data with RAIN has proven to be troublesome (i.e. SCADA security issues). The Annual Source Water Protection Meetings in each of the major River systems (Allegheny, Monongahela, Youghiogheny, Beaver/Shenango and Ohio) continue to serve the RAIN Member utilities. But the lack of dedicated annual funding has derailed much of the other Source Water Protection services RAIN was intended to provide.

Biological Programs Update

Staff provided an update on ongoing 2022 field season activities including electrofishing surveys in Belleville, John T. Myers, and Olmsted pools along with targeted sampling in the open water portion of the Ohio River. Staff provided updates concerning collaborative projects with state partners including successful collection of fish tissue composites for IDEM and metals water samples for KDOW. Updates to biological programs webpages, digital field forms, and staff contribution to Ohio River Restoration Plan chapters were also provided. Lastly, staff provided the current plan for finalizing a draft report on PCB trends in Ohio River fish tissue and future participation in USEPA's National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA).

Source Water Protection Program & Emergency Response Programs Update

Staff provided an overview of the ongoing activities associated with the Commission's Source Water Protection and Emergency Response programs. This included an update on the Organics Detection System detailing the operational status of the system, the purchase of a new gas chromatograph with mass spec, and progress to develop a data management and alert system for the ODS network. The Committee was also briefed on continued efforts to identify the source of a benzene release which was first detected in February by ORSANCO's Organics Detection System. Subsequent sampling detected benzene in the Mahoning River near Lowellville, OH; the specific source, however, has yet to be identified. ORSANCO will continue to coordinate efforts to identify the source with Ohio EPA, Pennsylvania DEP, and USEPA Regions 3 & 5.

Broad Scan Survey of Unmonitored Parameters Contained in the Pollution Control Standards

Staff reported that a broad scan survey of unmonitored pollutants contained in the Commission’s Pollution Control Standards will be completed in FY23. The purpose of this project is to determine if additional parameters with water quality criteria should be added to the Commission’s routine monitoring programs. This effort was originally completed in 2013, when none of the 104 parameters were detected during two rounds of sampling at three Ohio River sites, using the EDI cross-sectional sampling methods. A work group of Technical Committee members or their designees recommended that the 2013 survey be repeated. This entailed completing two rounds of sampling, using the EDI cross-sectional sampling methodology, at three Ohio River sites, for over 100 parameters contained in ORSANCO’s Pollution Control Standards that are not routinely monitored. USEPA Monitoring Initiative funds will be utilized to complete the project.

Member Updates and Interstate Water Quality Issues

Illinois

Scott Twait reported the following:

Triennial Review

The Agency meet with the Environmental Justice (EJ) Commission on October 11th to solicit feedback on how the Agency can include the EJ community to enhance participation in the public involvement process and to harness meaningful feedback that IEPA can incorporate as it proceeds with the triennial review. We plan to public notice the Agency’s priorities for the next three years and let the public comment on our proposal.

PFAS (Groundwater Quality Standards)

The Agency proposed water quality standards for groundwater on December 7, 2021 (35 Ill. Adm. Code 620). PFAS parameters were included including: HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFOS, and PFOA.

620.410(b)

Constituent	Proposed Class I GQS (mg/L)	Updated ng/L
HFPO-DA (GenX)	0.000012	12
PFBS	0.0012	1,200
PFHxS	0.000077	77
PFNA	0.000012	12
PFOS	0.000077	7.7

PFOA based on Lower limit of quantification (LLOQ) or Lowest concentration minimum reporting level (LCMRL)

The third hearing is scheduled for December 7, 2022.

Chloride Time-Limited WQS (TLWQS) (Federal variance)

The Illinois Pollution Control Board has granted a chloride TLWQS (Variance) for the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). The goal of the TLWQS is for the affected chloride sources to apply BMPs to reduce the chloride loading to achieve the chloride water quality standard. The TLWQS is applicable for 15 years and must be reevaluated every 5 years. USEPA approved the TLWQS on May 11, 2022. The Agency issued the General Permit on September 29, 2022, to implement the provisions of the TLWQS.

Invasive Carp

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is unveiling of a new national name and brand for Asian Carp on June 22. In case you missed announcement, the rebranded name is “Copi”.

CCR Rule

The Agency proposed and the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted rules for Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) (35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 845) on April 15, 2021. The facilities had to apply for operating permits and file their closure plans. The closure plans due dates were based on EJ issues, threats to drinking water, flood plains, and structural issues. There were a lot of facilities that filed Adjusted Standards. The Agency has been busy with dealing with these Adjusted Standards. The Agency is starting to review the operating permits and closure plans. Since the Agency is expecting to get requests for public hearings on each surface impoundment, the plan is to issue the operating permit and closure plan at the same time for each site and have one hearing for all the CCR ponds/areas located at that site.

Environmental groups have filed a motion to modify certain provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 845.

3M - Cordova facility

The 3M - Cordova facility on the Mississippi has installed PFAS treatment for the wastewater, cooling water, and stormwater. The treatment consists of RO units, ion exchange, and GAC treatment. The PFAS treatment facility is currently running 5 days a week for 8 hours a day. It is scheduled to start running 24/7 by the end of the year. The second phase will include regeneration of the ion exchange and GAC on-site.

Indiana

Brad Gavin reported on the following items:

Drinking Water PFAS Sampling

Total number of community water systems by category:

Small: 567

Medium: 123

Large: 87

- Phase 1; medium community systems that serve a population between 3,300 to <10,000. About 40 systems were resampled due to detects of sampling errors. These should be complete by the end of October.
- Phase 2; small community systems that serve a population <3,300. Supply issues have caused some delays, so we are slightly behind schedule. There are 383 systems participating in this sampling; bottles have been sent to 285 and 221 systems have returned samples. As of August, IDEM has results for 185 systems. Twenty eight out of 185 (15%) had detections (most commonly detected compound = PFBS (30 samples), PFHxA (13), PFOS (12), PFOA (12)) Ten of these systems have PFOS or PFOA concentrations above the new EPA advisory level.
- Phase 3; large community systems that serve a population of >10,000. This testing is scheduled to start in January 2023 with sampling anticipated to be completed by May 2023.
- All PFAS sample results will be posted on our IDEM website at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/nonrule-policies/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas/>.

Watershed Assessment and Planning

- IDEM is still conducting monthly [fixed station](#) water quality sampling at 165 sites and will finish targeted monitoring for the [Black Creek](#) watershed characterization study in October 2022; and in November 2022, IDEM will begin the [Big Raccoon Creek](#) watershed characterization study (Black Creek and Big Raccoon Creek watersheds are tributaries to the Wabash River). [Watershed characterization projects](#) are for Total Maximum Daily Load and non-point source monitoring studies. IDEM completed sampling various sites around the State to see improvements from Watershed Management Plans and Best Management Practices ([Performance Monitoring projects](#)). Watersheds in the Ohio River Basin included Hogan Creek, Indian Kentuck Creek, and Silver Creek. Check out all of Indiana's Success Stories by visiting this U.S. EPA [website](#).
- [Harmful Algal Bloom](#) analyses and reporting were completed by sampling 21 beaches at 18 IN DNR sites and one state dog park lake. The sampling took place 2 weeks prior to Memorial Day weekend and ended with Labor Day in September. IDEM is using the Cyanotoxin Automated Assay System (CAAS) which automates the ELISA method to analyze for total microcystin, cylindrospermopsin, saxitoxin, and anatoxin a. IDEM also analyzes drinking water samples for the Drinking Water Branch throughout the year.

- IDEM finished [probabilistic monitoring](#) at 38 sites for water quality (3 events Spring, Summer, and Fall), *E. coli* (once a week for 5 consecutive weeks), diatoms, macroinvertebrate, and fish communities in the East Fork White River Basin. In 2023, IDEM will conduct probabilistic monitoring in the Great Miami Basin. IDEM is currently in the 5th cycle of probabilistic monitoring in the State of Indiana.
- [Reference site](#) sampling took place at 25 sites in various watersheds around the State (same parameters as probabilistic monitoring without *E. coli*). If resources allow, the program will continue in 2023 with another sampling of 25 site around the State.
- IDEM is nearly finished with the [Coolwater](#) IBI project in regards to sampling 45/90 sites in 2022 for water chemistry, macroinvertebrates and fish as well as thermologger data downloads. The project is being conducted with U.S. EPA Region 5 and Tetra Tech to revise the macroinvertebrate and fish indices for coolwater streams. IDEM deployed temperature loggers at 90 sites around the State beginning in April 2021 and will pull them all at the end of this year to get 2 years' worth of temperature data at stressed and reference coolwater streams.

NPDES Permits

Industrial Permits: IDEM is still processing NPDES permit renewals for 4 Ohio River power plants. These facilities are:

- Lawrenceburg Power
- A.B. Brown Generating Station -SIGECO
- F.B. Culley Generating Station - SIGECO
- Clifty Creek Generating Station-Indiana Kentucky Electric Corporation

All of these have cooling water intake structures regulated under Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act. IDEM is including conditions in each of these permits to address U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerns that the intakes at these facilities are harming endangered mussels.

Kentucky

Katie McKone reported the following:

Eastern Kentucky flood response and FEMA flood response station staffing

[Interim Report on Initial Fish Tissue Results for PFAS](#) is now available on DOW's PFAS webpage, along with an [FAQ document](#).

Kentucky's [Nutrient Reduction Strategy update](#) is now available online. To prioritize available resources, DOW used over 40 years of water monitoring data to create Nutrient Priority Areas that balance the needs of drinking water sources, open water recreation, and areas with greater nutrient concentrations (i.e., high yield watersheds).

Preparing to Public Notice the 2022 303(d) list, which will include updates to the Ohio River assessments. ORSANCO has completed 2 of 3 rounds of sampling probabilistically selected sites within the Olmsted and JT Myers pools for metals. DOW and ORSANCO staff have coordinated sample exchange, where DOW has delivered samples to DEP's laboratory for analysis.

Town Branch Commons Corridor received a [2022 Environmental Excellence Award](#) from the US Dept. of Transportation.

DOW staff continue participating in ORBA workgroups, such Toxics, AMD, and NPS.

New York

Melanie Wright reported the following:

- 1) New DEC CAFO General Permit becomes effective 1/23/23. Changes include requirement for electronic reporting, additional notification requirements, climate change resiliency measures under the Community Risk and Resiliency Act, and authorization of discharge of non-contact cooling water to groundwater.

- 2) DEC is conducting an alum treatment pilot project this fall on Honeoye Lake in the Finger Lakes region, which is an impaired lake with internal loading as the dominant phosphorus source. Results will inform the development of DEC policy on nutrient inactivants, including permitting policy.
- 3) \$4.2B Environmental Bond Act will be on the ballot for NY voters in November. DEC would get about \$500M for clean water projects over five years.

Ohio

Melinda Harris reported on the following items:

- Water quality survey work is wrapping up in the Upper GMR/Wabash, Hocking/Sunday/Monday and Yellow/Beaver/Pymatuning watersheds.
- Working on the WQS Triennial Review. Solicitation of public input on priorities for Ohio EPA to consider over the next 3 years should be out within a month
- Draft WQS rules that reference ORSANCO's fish and macro assessment methods should be available for public comment soon
- Ohio is receiving a \$1.7 million Gulf Hypoxia grant that will include:
 - Update to Ohio's Nutrient Reduction Strategy
 - Increase technical staff for conservation practice design and implementation with focus on nutrient reduction in the Ohio River basin
 - Assess home sewage treatment systems maintenance and septage disposal near Athens OH
 - Increase watershed based planning to develop implementation projects in 10-14 watersheds
 - Measure effectiveness of innovative BMPs like cascading waterways so they can be used with USDA efforts
 - Maintain three monitoring network gages in the Ohio River basin (Hocking, EFLMR and LMR(Milford))

Pennsylvania

Kevin Halloran reported on the following:

1. The Proposed Rulemaking for Manganese was published in the Pa Bulletin on July 25, 2020 (50 Pa.B. 3724). The Public Comment Period closed in September 2020. The proposed rulemaking was approved by the EQB, establishes 0.3 mg/L for human health. The Department presented the rulemaking to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on Sept 15, 2022 and received a disapproval from the Commissioners (4-1). The Department is currently awaiting receipt of IRRC's disapproval order and discussing next steps.
2. The Department is finalizing proposed rulemaking package for the 10th triennial review of water quality standards. Presentation of the package to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 17, 2022. Presentation of the proposed rulemaking to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is tentatively planned for the 1st quarter of 2023. The proposed rulemaking will include some revisions to human health criteria based on changes to exposure inputs and adoption of federal criteria for Cadmium, Carbaryl, and Tributyltin (TBT).
3. 2022 Integrated report is posted on our website - [Draft 2022 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Report \(arcgis.com\)](#).
4. Draft MCLs proposed PFOS 18 ppt and PFOA 14 ppt approved by EQB. The proposed rule published February 26, public comment period closed April 27. Currently reviewing comments. PADEP PFAS statewide results released. 412 totals samples, detections at 112 locations, only 2 above HAL. Two of the results were above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined concentrations of PFOS and PFOA: State of the Art, Inc. in Centre County, and Saegertown Borough in Crawford County. Results were non-detect for the other 10 PFAS that were tested.

- ALCOSAN: continuing wet weather plan. The current capacity of 250 million gallons per day (mgd) will be increased to 480 mgd by the end of 2025 and to 600 mgd by the end of 2029. This additional capacity will help reduce the number of overflows caused by excess stormwater entering the system.

West Virginia

Scott Mandirola reported the following:

WV PFAS Study update

USGS has final results for all 279 PWS, schools and daycare sites. The data has been reviewed and uploaded to the USGS NWIS database. The USGS has completed the report and final review is taking place now and it is scheduled to be released by the end of the June. I did a presentation to the WV legislative committee on Water Resource yesterday.

We have 5 sites with levels above the EPA current health advisory of 70ppt for PFOA or PFOS, and 37 systems have detected PFOA and PFOS above detection limit. Currently contracted with USGS to test the finished water at all 37 sites. All 37 sites have been tested and results are beginning to come back now as prelim.

Summary of PFAS Health Advisory Exceedances

These are the sites identified to have PFOA+PFOS in excess of the EPA health advisory limit of 70 ng/l.

WV PWSID	System Name	USGS Site ID	PFOA (ng/l)	PFOS(ng/l)
WV3302605	Glenn Dale	395643080453201	3.3	98
WV3305404	Lubeck	391407081411601	1500	ND
WV3305411	Vienna	392053081323101	150	9.2
WV3305407	Parkersburg	391717081333802	98	6.5
WV3300212	Martinsburg	392534077590401	11	60

All of these systems have carbon filter treatment except Glenn Dale, and this well was removed from use upon discovery of the level of PFOA/PFOS.

WQS Update

The review for the next triennial review has begun for presentation to the 2024 legislative session. This may be aggressive since we are taking on the challenge of putting together a workgroup to review the trout stream definition in the WQS rule. This subject is very controversial and of great interest to many stakeholders.

Legislative rules updates

- Reclamation of abandoned and dilapidated structures
- DMR Blasting rule to include quarry blasting in the cert requirement
- DAQ rule updates to meet federal updates
- DAQ rule to restructure the fees for title 5 permits (move away from emissions based fees)
- Reclamation of Solar and Wind electricity generation facilities.

Legislation

O&G funding bill being contemplated to bring back to full staff.

US Coast Guard

MST1 Robert Gowing, from the Pittsburgh office, reported that they completed ten pollution prevention inspections of active barge oil transfers over water, and that there was generally good compliance.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Erich Emery reported the following:

The Division office in Cincinnati is working with Dr. Patrick Ray, professor at the University of Cincinnati, to examine Ohio River low flow conditions over the last thirty years, to better understand flow augmentation from the Corps' reservoirs. This project will be completed in 2024. He also reported that they saw fewer HABs in their reservoirs this year than typical.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dave Pfeifer reported the following:

An update on PFAS work at EPA courtesy of Kim Harris:

Under EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap, EPA is working across the Agency to protect the environment and safeguard the public from the health impacts of PFAS. The Agency has undertaken a number of actions to address PFAS on multiple fronts, including efforts through EPA's water programs – under both the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Under SDWA

- EPA is moving forward with proposing [National Drinking Water Regulations](#) for PFOA and PFOS by 2022 and finalizing the rule by 2023. As EPA develops this proposed rule, the agency is also evaluating additional PFAS beyond PFOA and PFOS and considering actions to address groups of PFAS.
 - In support of our rulemaking, EPA's Science Advisory Board completed its review of updated draft science on the health effects of PFOA and PFOS and released their final [report](#).
 - The science indicates that negative health effects may occur at much lower levels of exposure to PFOA and PFOS than previously understood and that PFOA is a likely carcinogen.
 - On October 6, EPA sent the proposed rule to [OMB](#) for interagency review and is on track to release the proposal by the end of 2022.
- In December 2021, EPA finalized the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule ([UCMR 5](#)). Through this rule, the Agency is taking important steps to monitor drinking water in communities across the country—in significantly more drinking water systems nationwide than in prior UCMR5 efforts.
 - Drinking water systems will be required to test for 29 PFAS from 2023 to 2025. This action provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water.
 - UCMR 5 will provide new data that is critically needed to improve EPA's understanding of the frequency that 29 PFAS are found in the nation's drinking water systems and at what levels. This data will ensure science-based decision-making and help prioritize protection of disadvantaged communities.
- In June 2022, EPA released four [health advisories](#) – interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, and final health advisories for PFBS and for GenX chemicals.
 - Health advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water, are non-enforceable, non-regulatory, and include information on analytical methods and treatment.
 - These new health advisories represent a key data point for states and water utilities to inform decisions on water quality monitoring, optimization of existing technologies that reduce PFAS, new investments in controls, and regulatory approaches.

Under CWA

- EPA is working to develop discharge limits for industries that use PFAS through our Effluent Limitations Guidelines program. The Agency is working to proactively establish national technology-based regulatory limits, including progress on the nine industrial categories in the proposed PFAS Action Act of 2021.
- The Agency is working to leverage the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program to improve monitoring and to reduce PFAS discharges to waterways.

- In April 2022, EPA issued a [guidance memo](#) to EPA Regional offices on how to address PFAS discharges in EPA-issued NPDES permits and in pretreatment programs where EPA is the pretreatment control authority.
- This memo will enable EPA to proactively use its Clean Water Act permitting authorities to reduce discharges of PFAS at the source and to obtain more comprehensive monitoring information on potential sources of PFAS.
- The Agency plans to issue a subsequent memo that provides guidance to state permitting authorities.
- EPA is working on improved analytical methods to measure more PFAS in more types of environmental media. In April 2022, EPA published a new draft method to measure for Adsorbable Organic Fluorine in water samples. This new method, [draft EPA Method 1621](#), can broadly screen for the presence of chemical substances that contain carbon-fluorine bonds, including PFAS.
- In April 2022, EPA proposed the first Clean Water Act aquatic life criteria for [PFOA](#) and [PFOS](#). These draft recommendations reflect the latest peer-reviewed scientific knowledge regarding the toxicological effects of PFOA and PFOS on freshwater aquatic organisms.
- EPA continues its work to evaluate the risks of PFAS in biosolids. The Agency will complete the [risk assessment](#) for PFOA and PFOS in biosolids by December 2024 that will serve as the basis for determining whether regulation of PFOA and PFOS in biosolids is appropriate.

Power Industry Advisory Committee

Cheri Budzynski reported that the Power Industry remains focused on CCR and ELG implementation. Some of the Utilities have faced supply-side issues with equipment. The Ohio Utility Group recently hosted a CCR workshop with several consultants.

Watershed Organization Advisory Committee

Angie Rosser reported the following:

1. **Quarterly meeting.** The committee met on September 29 and discussed: ORSANCO updates from Richard Harrison
 - WOAC leadership succession
 - WOAC strategic planning
 - Items for WOAC's October report
2. **ORSANCO Strategic Plan.** WOAC is interested in reviewing and providing further input into as appropriate, ORSANCO's strategic plan. We are particularly interested in how the triennial reviews of the PCS will be handled, and how issues of climate and environmental justice will be included in the plan. We recommend that ORSANCO adopt community engagement processes that reach communities most impacted by environmental harms in a proactive manner. WOAC can provide more examples and detail of how such efforts could be designed.
3. **Infrastructure Investments.** Some WOAC members are heavily involved in advocating for strong investments in the region currently being considered by Congress in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and budget reconciliation process. We see transformational opportunities for these investments to improve the health of the river and benefit surrounding communities. We recommend that ORSANCO actively support these investments and prepare to play an important role in prioritization and implementation in a way that has maximum impact on restoring and protecting the river.
4. **State Roll-backs of Clean Water Protections:** WOAC members are concerned about basin states rolling back clean water protections. Indiana passed legislation weakening protections for wetlands and Ohio is considering legislation to strip protections for ephemeral streams. We oppose such actions, and urge ORSANCO to take an active role in educating policymakers on the importance of strong protections for streams and wetlands to water quality and to the overall restoration of the Ohio River basin ecosystem.

Water Users Advisory Committee

Chris Bobay reported the following:

The Water Users Advisory Committee (WUAC) last met on September 21 via video conference. We had hoped to resume meeting in person, but members preferred to continue meeting virtually.

With recent changes to committee leadership and an increase in virtual participation, we took some time to check in with individual committee members to learn about their roles and some of the key projects they are working on. Several members discussed ongoing WaterSuite utilization for source water protection. Several members also shared about ongoing efforts to prepare for the new Lead and Copper Rule revisions. A new CMS-5000 portable analyzer is being installed at Huntington. None of the facilities reported any abnormal challenges or concerns with river conditions in their stretch of the river.

PA American is working closely with USEPA and Corona Environmental on the next phase of the WaterSuite mapping and inventory project. They are actively working with PA to obtain Tier II hazardous chemical inventory records to support this effort.

USEPA is looking for a small tributary or wadable stream to test DNA tracer recovery ahead of Spring 2022 tracer study. Jim Goodrich is the point of contact on that project.

Sam Dinkins reports that ORSANCO staff are preparing for round 2 of the PFAS sampling study which they hope to complete in 5 weeks starting in late September.

Sam Dinkins also provided a summary of spill notification procedures. Staff use “best professional judgment” when determining scope and timing of notifications. We discussed a few examples of how this procedure works in practice and how ORSANCO can support facilities during emergency response for “significant and imminent” threats. ORSANCO also maintains a Spill Response Directory that is updated yearly. Facilities can reach out to Sam to request a copy and update contact info.

ORSANCO continues to maintain 4 HAB monitoring stations. The good news is that no HABs have been reported this year. Ohio River conditions have been ideal for most of the summer growing season.

The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for January 25. We will continue to meet virtually until a majority of members prefer meeting in person.

PIACO

Betsy Mallison Bialosky reported the following:

The Committee conducted a virtual meeting on October 4, 2022.

Ohio River Sweep

Staff provided a status update on the 2022 Ohio River Sweep season. The season, which runs through October, continues to be successful.

- 120 events conducted thus far throughout the Basin, with at least ten more scheduled in October.
- ORSANCO will hold a season closing event on October 21st. Staff from Ohio EPA, Toyota, and others will also participate.
- Staff also provided an update on activities to promote Sweep which included media releases, interviews and magazine articles. Staff also acknowledged the good work of Committee member Mike Huff of West Virginia through his producing several Sweep related videos.

The Committee agreed to hold a virtual work session in early December devoted specifically to discussing strategies to improve the program for 2023. Some ideas for consideration include:

- Development of a more robust marketing plan.
- Strategies to reach a broader audience to increase volunteer participation.
- Methods to increase sponsorships.

- Increased communications and more direct engagement with state, county and local coordinators to better evaluate needs and provide support.
- Identify strategies to provide “hands-on” support to sponsors at their events as appropriate.
- Strategies to increase partnerships and collaborations.

Strategic Planning

Staff provided an overview on outcomes of ORSANCO’s recent strategic planning process. The communication staff will be engaging PIACO members, state public information officers, and numerous other partners as they develop five-year communications and education plans.

Environmental Justice

Staff provided an overview of ORSANCO’s Environmental Justice initiative including work of the Commission’s EJ Committee and staff in developing a concept paper which frames ORSANCO’s direction to incorporate EJ in all its programs. In particular, the initiative will generally focus on inclusion, communications and education. EJ components will be incorporated into all communications and education plans as developed.

Committee Meetings

The Committee historically held two meetings per year, the one in February being in-person. Staff introduced the idea of holding additional ad-hoc virtual meetings throughout the year to devote more time to specific topics. The Committee strongly supported this idea.

The Committee also agreed to defer its February 2023 in-person meeting until June 2023 to participate in ORSANCO’s 75th anniversary meetings and celebration.

Adjournment

The 230th meeting of the ORSANCO Technical Committee was adjourned by Chair Mandirola at 11:56 a.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Approved:



Scott Mandirola

Roster of Attendance

Technical Committee

Chair	Commissioner Scott Mandirola
Illinois	Scott Twait
Indiana	Brad Gavin
Kentucky	Katie McKone
New York	Melanie Wright
Ohio	Melinda Harris
Pennsylvania	Kevin Halloran
Virginia	Jeffrey Hurst
West Virginia	Scott Mandirola
US Army Corps of Engineers	Erich Emery (virtual)
US Coast Guard	MST1 Robert Gowing
US Environmental Protection Agency	David Pfeifer (virtual)
US Geological Survey	Not present
Chemical Industry Advisory Committee	Not present
Power Industry Advisory Committee	Cheri Budzynski
Public Interest Advisory Committee	Betsy Mallison Bialosky
POTW Advisory Committee	Not present
Water Users Advisory Committee	Chris Bobay (virtual)
Watershed Organizations Advisory Committee	Angie Rosser
ORSANCO Chief Engineer	Richard Harrison
Staff Liaison	Jason Heath

Commissioners/Proxies

Douglas Conroe, George Elmaraghy, David Flannery, Toby Frevert, Bruce Herschlag, John Hoopingarner, Carey Johnson, Tiffani Kavalec (virtual), John Lyons, David Miracle, Mike Wilson, Davitt Woodwell

Staff

Ryan Argo, Dave Bailey (virtual), Stacey Cochran (virtual), Sam Dinkins, Tracey Edmonds (virtual), Emilee Harmeling (virtual), Richard Harrison, Jason Heath, Melissa Mann (virtual), Adam Scott, Annette Shumard, Bridget Taylor (virtual), Jamie Tsiominas (virtual), Greg Youngstrom (virtual), Lila Ziolkowski (virtual)

Guests

Gabrielle Gherichi (virtual)	IDEM
Thomas Mccaffrey	PADEP
Bill Boria	PIACO
Bill Arvin (virtual)	Henderson Water Utility
Jim Lazorchak (virtual)	US EPA
John Wathen (virtual)	USEPA Headquarters
Joshua Dunkle (virtual)	Pennsylvania American Water Company
Nicole Tremblay (virtual)	Louisville Water
Tracy Price (virtual)	Beaver Falls Municipal Authority