

The Delaware River

FLOWING TOWARD
THE FUTURE

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
2024 ANNUAL REPORT





The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal, interstate government agency formed by a compact in 1961 by the federal government, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. It is responsible for managing the water resources within the Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five commission members are the governors of the four Basin states and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

The DRBC has been managing, protecting and improving the water resources of the Delaware River Basin for 63 years and counting. In support of its mission, DRBC convenes and collaborates with its signatory parties—the four Basin states and the federal government—to protect and improve water quality; manage river flows; mitigate droughts and flood loss; provide for the reasonable and sustainable development and use of surface and ground water; and promote water conservation and efficiency.

The commission shall make and publish an annual report to the legislative bodies of the signatory parties and to the public reporting on its programs, operations and finances.

Delaware River Basin Compact, Section 14.12

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Low flow conditions along the Delaware River as captured by DRBC’s drone. Dry conditions were pervasive in the fall of 2024.



Executive Director's Message

Dear Basin Community,

I am pleased to present my first and the Delaware River Basin Commission's 59th annual report, highlighting our accomplishments in 2024.

This year's theme, "Flowing Toward the Future," is especially appropriate as 2024 was a year of transition for the Commission. I was appointed the new Executive Director in December. I take great pride in this position and fully embrace the responsibility it carries—being only the fifth person in this role since the Commission was formed in 1961. As you will read below, this year also brought the driest conditions in nearly a decade to the Basin, and we ended the year by declaring a water supply emergency.



Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E.
Executive Director

This past year also marked the 25th anniversary of a "Flowing Toward the Future" initiative convened by the DRBC in 1999. I invite you to read more about this innovative planning effort, and its connection to the DRBC's annual Water Resources Program in the following pages.

As always, our annual report highlights the many activities and accomplishments of the Commission and its staff throughout the past year. I invite you to explore the detailed online content linked throughout that shows how the DRBC continues to implement its mission of managing, protecting, and improving the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

In 2024, the Commission focused on several key initiatives to ensure an adequate supply of suitable quality water in the Delaware River Basin. These included expanded water quality monitoring, developing new water management tools, initiating the development of a water resources resilience plan, and enhancing stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Despite challenges posed by sea level rise, changing hydrologic conditions, and ongoing water quality impairments, the Commission made significant progress in advancing its mission. We worked closely with our member states and federal partners to implement innovative solutions to address these challenges and ensure long-term health and sustainability.

I want to thank our dedicated state and federal Commissioners, staff, partners, stakeholders, and the public for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we have made great strides in protecting and preserving the Delaware River Basin as we flow, together, toward the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Bowman Kavanagh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

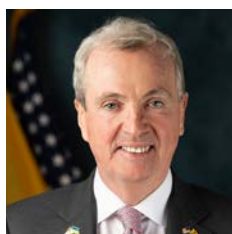
Kristen Bowman Kavanagh



DRBC alternate commissioners and staff gather at the Big Eddy in Narrowsburg, N.Y., for the Commission's June 2024, business meeting.

Delaware River Basin Commission

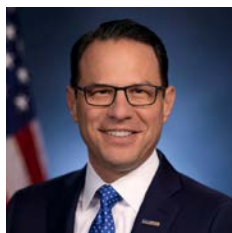
Commissioners



Chair
New Jersey Governor
Philip D. Murphy



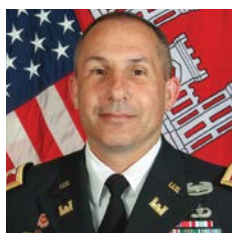
Vice Chair
New York Governor
Kathy Hochul



Pennsylvania Governor
Josh Shapiro



Delaware Governor
John Carney



Federal Representative
Brig. Gen. John P. Lloyd

The *ex officio* members of the Delaware River Basin Commission are the four Basin state governors and the Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps), North Atlantic Division, who serves as the federal representative. The five members appoint alternate commissioners, with the governors typically selecting high-ranking officials from their state environmental agencies.

Each commissioner has one vote of equal power, with a majority vote needed to decide most issues. Exceptions are votes on the commission's annual budget apportionment and drought declarations, which require unanimity.

Notable Commission changes in 2024: Henry W. "Hank" Gruber, P.E., third Alternate Commissioner for the Federal Government, was replaced by Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A., in February 2024. Basil Seggos, first Alternate Commissioner for New York, stepped down from his position as Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in April 2024. Ken Kosinski, third Alternate Commissioner for New York, served through September 2024, and was replaced by Karen Stainbrook. Jill Whitcomb was appointed the second Alternate Commissioner for Pennsylvania in November 2024, replacing Bevin Buchheister. Sue Weaver, third Alternate Commissioner for Pennsylvania, retired at the end of December 2024. We thank all those who have moved on for their service to the Commission.

Commission Alternates and Advisors for 2024

New Jersey

1st Alternate: Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

2nd Alternate: Patricia Gardner, Assistant Commissioner, NJDEP Water Resource Management

3rd Alternate: Steve Domber, State Geologist, NJDEP Office of the State Geologist

New York

1st Alternate: Basil Seggos, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

2nd Alternate: Carol Lamb-Lafay, P.E., Asst. Director, NYSDEC Division of Water

3rd Alternate: Kenneth Kosinski, Director, NYSDEC Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety

4th Alternate: Karen Stainbrook, Director, NYSDEC Bureau of Water Resource Management

Delaware

1st Alternate: Shawn M. Garvin, Secretary, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)

2nd Alternate: Steve Smailer, Director, DNREC Division of Water

3rd Alternate: Stephen Williams, Director, DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship

Federal Government

1st Alternate: Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey M. Beeman, P.E, Commander, Army Corps Philadelphia District

2nd Alternate: Megan Jadrosich, Planning Program Manager, Planning & Policy Division, Army Corps North Atlantic Division

3rd Alternate: Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A., Deputy Chief, Planning & Policy Division, Army Corps North Atlantic Division

Pennsylvania

1st Alternate: Vacant

2nd Alternate: Jill Whitcomb, Acting Deputy Secretary, PADEP Office of Water Programs

3rd Alternate: Susan K. Weaver, Acting Environmental Program Manager, PADEP Planning and Conservation Division, Compacts and Commission Support

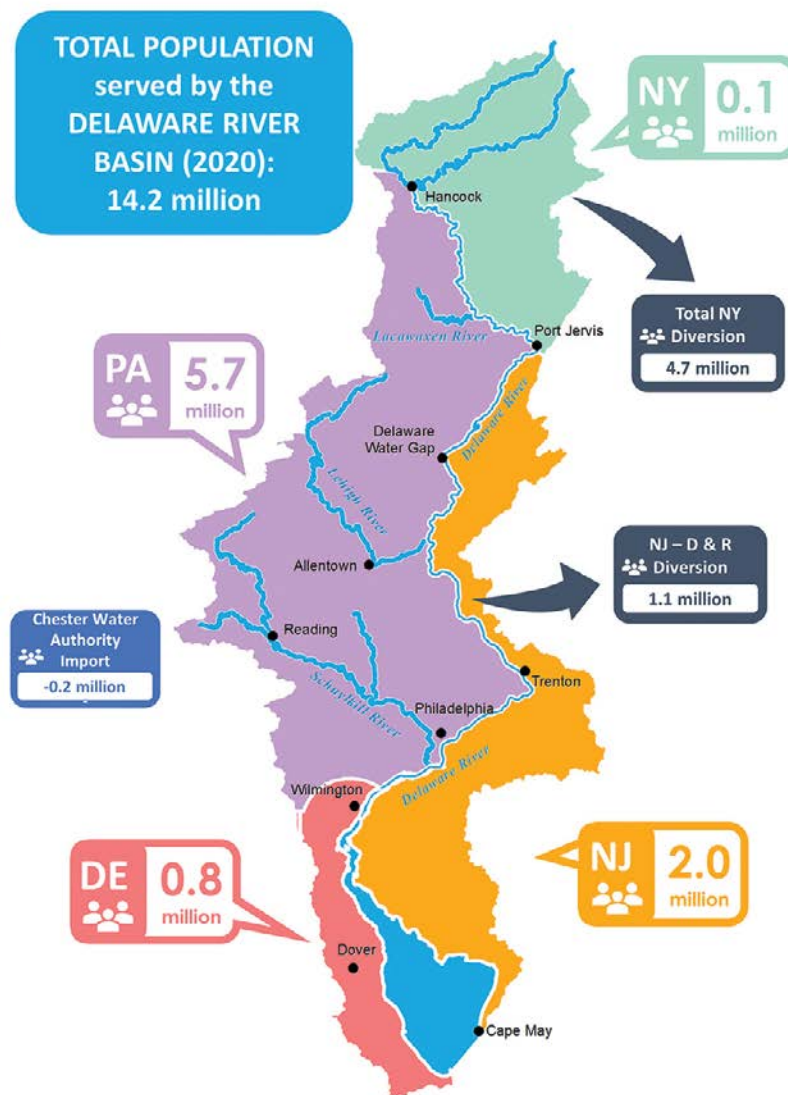


The Delaware River Basin

Lying in the densely populated corridor of the northeastern United States, the Delaware River stretches approximately 330 miles from its headwaters in New York State to its confluence with the Atlantic Ocean. The Basin totals 13,539 square miles, including approximately 12,800 square miles of land area, nearly 800 square miles of Delaware Bay and more than 2,000 tributaries, including many that are rivers in their own right. The northernmost tributaries to the Delaware River originate in the forested western slopes of the Catskill Mountains, which reach elevations of up to 4,000 feet. The East and West Branches meet at Hancock, N.Y., from where the Delaware River descends about 800 feet on its journey to the Atlantic Ocean. The Delaware River is the longest undammed river in the eastern United States. It is an interstate river its entire length- if one stands on one side of the river, there is a different state on the other side.

	POPULATION (2020)
State	
Delaware	0.774
New Jersey	1.989
New York	0.117
Pennsylvania	5.749
Total DRB Population	8.629
Import/Export	
NJ – D & R Diversion	1.087
Total NY Diversion	4.664
CWA Import	-0.187
Total Import/Export	5.564
TOTAL ESTIMATED POPULATION SERVED	14.193

Total NY diversion includes NYC diversion and upstate NY communities. All values are in million people.



Introduction

Section 14.12 of the Delaware River Basin Compact stipulates that the DRBC “shall make and publish an annual report,” and this year was full of worthy accomplishments. From managing a Basinwide water supply emergency and publishing keystone reports on dissolved oxygen in the Delaware River Estuary to marking a change in leadership of the DRBC, there was much activity that benefited from the DRBC’s coordinated and collaborative water resources management.

- 1. Enhanced Water Quality Management:** The Commission reached a milestone this year, finalizing key reports and related studies that support updating designated uses and associated water quality standards in the Delaware River Estuary to better support fish populations. The DRBC also expanded certain water quality monitoring efforts in 2024 to better assess the health of the Basin’s water resources. This included deploying a drone and other new monitoring equipment, collecting additional data, and conducting targeted assessments in areas of concern.
- 2. Managing Through Dry Conditions:** The DRBC took action to manage pervasive dry conditions throughout the Delaware River Basin in the fall of 2024. And in response to changing hydrological conditions, the Commission has been evaluating new water management strategies, in collaboration with stakeholders and partners, to better manage water resources in the Basin.
- 3. Stakeholder Engagement:** The Commission continued to engage with stakeholders in 2024 to gather input and feedback on our programs and initiatives. This included hosting public meetings, new workshops, and outreach events in all four basin states to ensure robust and representative feedback is received on the DRBC’s decisions and policies.
- 4. Collaboration With Member States:** The Commission worked closely with our member states to coordinate water resource management activities and address shared challenges. This collaboration enabled us to leverage resources and expertise to achieve our mutual goals.

On July 4, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we look ahead to this incredible milestone, the DRBC remains committed to our mission of managing the Basin’s water resources for the good of our basin communities, economies and country, doing so in a sustainable manner. We will continue to work with our partners to address the challenges facing the Basin and ensure its health and vitality.

And in the coming year, the Commission will focus on implementing new water quality initiatives, enhancing our monitoring and assessment programs, and strengthening our relationships with stakeholders to protect and preserve the Delaware River Basin for the benefit of all who rely on its resources.



Financial Statement

As expressed in the federal statute that formed the DRBC, the Delaware River Basin Compact, P.L. 87-328, 75 Stat. 688 (1961), Art. 13.3(c), the Commission’s five members are responsible, in part, for financially supporting the DRBC’s operations. Since 2008, the amount set by the Commission’s four member states and the United States to support the Commission (signatory funding) has been level at \$2.6 million. Each Commission member’s share of the signatory funding is proportional: Delaware 12.5%, New York 17.5%, New Jersey 25%, Pennsylvania 25%, and the United States 20%.

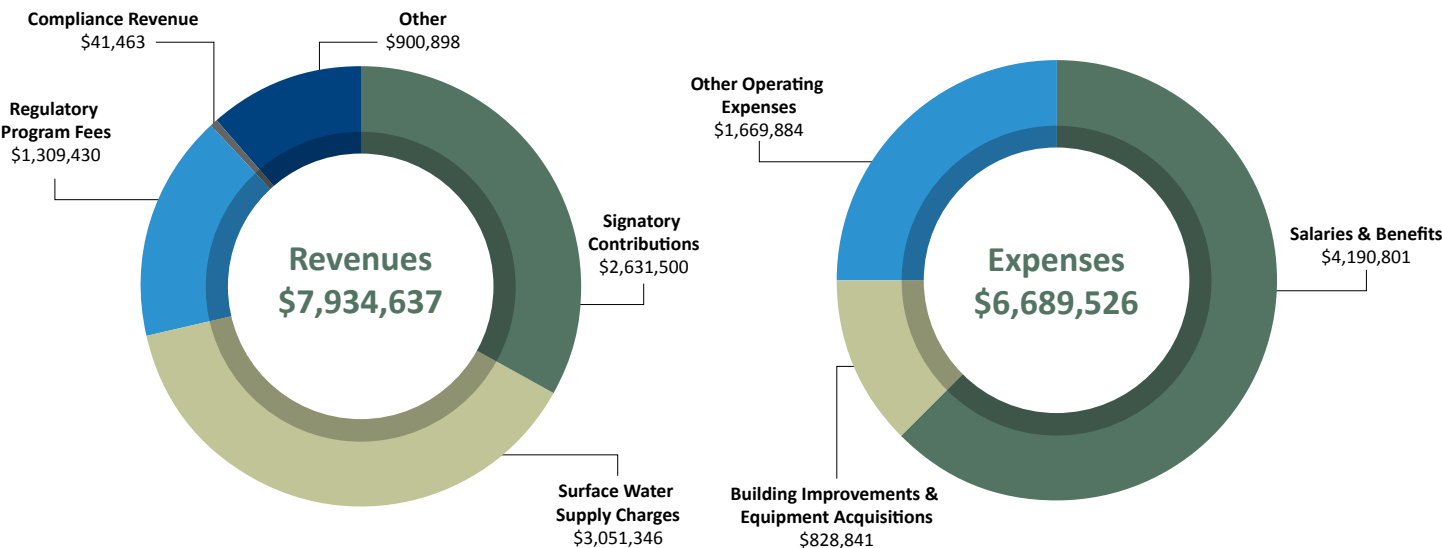
The DRBC operates and maintains two funds for budgeting purposes: a General Operating Fund and a Water Supply Storage Facilities Fund.

The General Operating Fund is the basic and routine operating budget for the DRBC. It includes all revenues and expenses required for the year-to-year operations and maintenance of the agency. Revenues come from signatory party contributions, regulatory program fees,

competitive grants, compliance revenue, transfers from the WSSF and other sources. **The balance of the General Fund at the end of FY 2024 was \$8.5 million.**

The Water Supply Storage Facilities Fund was created to support reliable water supply in the Basin and is used to repay the obligations the DRBC assumed to purchase storage capacity at two federal reservoirs, Beltzville and Blue Marsh. The Water Supply Storage Facilities Fund also supports DRBC’s pro rata share of the annual operations and maintenance costs of the two reservoirs, the water supply share of any future required improvements at these two facilities, a share of DRBC operating costs to support a sustainable water supply within the Basin (transfers to the General Fund) and any future required storage in the Basin. Revenues are generated from charges for applicable surface water withdrawals in the Basin. **The balance of the Water Supply Storage Facilities Fund at the end of FY 2024 was \$24.2 million.**

Fiscal Year 2024 Financials at a Glance



The charts above are based on FY2024 audited financial statements using modified accrual accounting. The general fund increased by less than \$570,000 in FY2024 based on cash accounting.

Marking 25 years since *Flowing Toward the Future*, 21st Century Visions and Directions for the Delaware River and its Watersheds

In 1999, the DRBC convened partners in ten workshops to discuss the future of the Delaware River Basin. The Commission heard from the public and entities covering sectors ranging from advocacy groups to utilities, recreation and other government agencies.

The resulting 21st Century Vision for the Delaware River and Its Watersheds consisted of:

- The Ecological Vision
- The Water Supply Vision
- The Livable, Pleasing Places Vision
- The Vibrant Economy Vision
- The Stewardship Vision

The workshops were a first step in *Flowing Toward the Future*. So, why reflect on this today? What is the legacy of this process?

Flowing Toward the Future marked a watershed moment for the Commission, moving it into an era emphasizing enhanced collaboration among stakeholders, sustainable water management practices and protection of the basin's natural resources. It led to increased public awareness and understanding of the importance of the Delaware River and its tributary watersheds, which make up the Basin.

On September 29, 1999, *Flowing Toward the Future* continued with the Governors of the four Delaware River Basin states holding a summit. At this summit, they signed a resolution challenging the Basin community to develop a unifying vision: a comprehensive Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

In 2004, the plan was launched, providing a framework for policy and management decisions over the next 30 years. The Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin informs policy setting, decision-making and prioritizing actions originating from governmental units, private entities, organizations, and individuals. It forms a framework within which existing and new programs can be incorporated and coordinated for effective results. It also may lead to new areas of research and study to support the achievement of the Desired Results.

Each year DRBC's Water Resources Program organizes around the Key Result Areas identified in the Water Resources Plan, guiding the Commission's work for the ensuing six years.

We extend our gratitude to former Governors and DRBC Commissioners Thomas R. Carper (Del.), Christine Todd Whitman (N.J.), George E. Pataki (N.Y.) and Thomas J. Ridge (Pa.), along with the many forward-thinking staff, stakeholders and leaders who participated in the *Flowing Toward the Future* process, for bringing this vision to life.



As former Delaware Governor and DRBC Commissioner Thomas R. Carper looks on, former New Jersey Governor and DRBC Commissioner Christine Todd Whitman signs the "Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin" at a 1999 event.

Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin

Whereas, *the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware share 13,539 square miles that comprise the Delaware River Basin;*

Whereas, *almost seven percent of the nation's population rely on the Delaware River Basin's waters for drinking and industrial use; and*

Whereas, *the Delaware River, the last major undammed river in the East, is a unique ecosystem that provides a multitude of natural, economic, and recreational benefits for all its inhabitants by being a key part of the Eastern Flyway, having the most abundant horseshoe crab population in the world, having wetlands designated of international significance for shorebirds, and having the second largest freshwater port in the nation; and*

Whereas, *National Estuary Day is October 2nd and we recognize the importance of the Delaware Estuary Program; and*

Whereas, *numerous organizations have the primary responsibility for protecting, maintaining, and restoring the integrity of the waters of the Delaware River Basin ecosystem; and*

Whereas, *our state environmental agencies, our Delaware River Basin Commission, our Delaware Estuary Program, the National Park Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and five non-profit organizations representing diverse sectors of the basin community initiated a multi-step process called the "Flowing Toward the Future" to examine visions and directions for the 21st century Delaware River Basin; and*

Whereas, *those organizations have reaffirmed their commitment and dedication to the Delaware River Basin; and*

Whereas, *the participants of "Flowing Toward the Future" have consolidated views, challenges, directions, and visions for the Delaware River Basin; and*

Whereas, *as trustees of the Basin's natural resources, the Delaware River Basin Governors have a shared duty to protect, conserve, and manage the Delaware River Basin waters and ecosystem; and*

Whereas, *the Delaware River Basin Governors want to continue to address the concerns and challenges of the public through processes like "Flowing Toward the Future";*

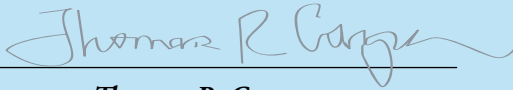
Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, *that the Delaware River Basin Governors support the "Flowing Toward the Future" public process and thank the workshop participants for their interest in the Delaware River Basin and their valuable input into the "Flowing Toward the Future" process and its findings; and*

Be It Further Resolved, *that the signatory states to the Delaware Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan recommit to Its implementation; and*

Be It Further Resolved, *that we the Governors challenge the basin community to develop a unifying vision for the basin; and*

And Be It Finally Resolved, *that we the Governors direct the Delaware River Basin Commission to develop a new comprehensive water resources plan for the Basin, periodically compile and environmental goals and indicators report, and establish a watershed advisory council.*

Signed this 29th day of September, in the Year 1999:



Thomas R. Carper
Governor, State of Delaware



Christine Todd Whitman
Governor, State of New Jersey



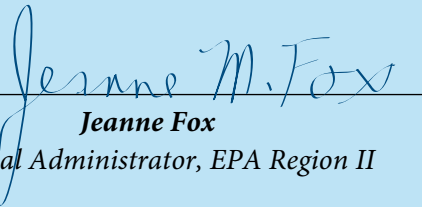
George E. Pataki
Governor, State of New York



Thomas J. Ridge
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The United State Environmental Protection Agency as an official member of the Delaware Estuary Program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers as the federal representative of the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the National Park Service as a major federal land and water manager in the Delaware River Basin, hereby affirm their support of the Governors' Actions taken this day by the signing of this Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin.

Signed this 29th day of September, in the Year 1999:



Jeanne Fox
Regional Administrator, EPA Region II



Michael McCabe
Regional Administrator, EPA Region III



Brigadier General M. Stephen Rhoades
Commander, North Atlantic Division
US Army Corps of Engineers



Marie Rust
Regional Director
Northeast Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Our Water Resources

Science & Water Quality Management

Water Resource Planning & Management





DRBC staff assist with stocking freshwater mussels in Pennsylvania's Bushkill Creek.

Science & Water Quality Management

In 2024, the Delaware River Basin Commission focused on several key initiatives to protect and improve water quality in the Delaware River Basin.

Improving Dissolved Oxygen in the Delaware Estuary

In September, DRBC finalized key reports and related studies that support updating designated uses and associated water quality standards in the Delaware River Estuary to better support fish populations. The reports identified municipal wastewater as the leading ongoing cause of reduced oxygen levels in sections of the Delaware River Estuary. The reports show that reducing summer ammonia loads from a relatively small number of large point-source discharges in the Estuary would significantly improve dissolved oxygen levels. The costs, benefits and water affordability considerations associated with advanced treatment upgrades at these critical facilities were considered.

First published in draft form in September 2022, the key report [*A Pathway for Continued Restoration: Improving Dissolved Oxygen*](#) in the Delaware River Estuary, and related reports have

been updated based on input from the DRBC's member agencies and its Water Quality Advisory Committee, and to reflect the Commission's September 2023 decision that it would not develop and promulgate revised water quality standards as it originally planned to do, in view of a December 2022 decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate standards.

The DRBC will continue to play a key role in improving Delaware River Estuary dissolved oxygen levels, however. Water quality standards define the water quality goals for a waterbody and must be implemented before water quality improvements can be achieved. DRBC staff will continue to work in close coordination with EPA, with Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania's environmental agencies, and with our stakeholders, providing technical modeling expertise and developing strategies for rule implementation. Read more: [DRBC Releases Key Scientific Reports to Improve Delaware River Estuary Dissolved Oxygen Levels](#).

Restoring Bushkill Creek

In October, the DRBC and partners joined in the Lehigh Valley to celebrate the restoration of the Bushkill Creek after a series of dam removals. The DRBC advises the Natural Resources Damage Assessment Team created after a 2005 fly ash spill in the region, helping choose and guide the restoration plan that led to the dam removals on the Bushkill. The DRBC contracted with Wildlands Conservancy to implement the work, which has led to the restoration of more than three miles of stream since 2021, improved water quality and habitat, and more opportunities for safe community recreation. Read more: [Wildlands Conservancy & Partners Celebrate Success of Bushkill Creek Stream Restoration](#).

PFAS

The DRBC monitors for PFAS in surface water, sediment and fish, and in 2024 worked to synthesize data and reporting on an overall picture of PFAS in the DRB. Staff also began a cooperative sampling effort with the N.J. Water Supply Authority to begin identifying potential sources of PFAS in the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Based on the preliminary results, further monitoring is being planned for the future.

6-PPDq

The tire component 6-PPD prevents cracking. Through driving, particles containing 6-PPD are shed onto driving surfaces, entering local waterways when it rains. When 6-PPD reacts with water, it forms 6-PPD quinone (6-PPDq), which is an emerging contaminant toxic to salmonid fish. Salmonids include rainbow, brown and brook trout, all species found in the Delaware River Basin. Samples were collected to develop baseline concentrations of 6-PPDq during normal flow and after significant rain events.



DRBC staff collects samples to understand 6-PPDq baseline conditions.





The DRBC's Science & Water Quality Monitoring team conducts sampling and studies throughout the Delaware River Basin.

Additional Water Quality Monitoring and Investigations

The Commission expanded its water quality efforts in 2024 by deploying new monitoring equipment, collecting additional data, and conducting targeted assessments in areas of concern. Highlights include:

Special Protection Waters

In 2023, the DRBC began a "No Measurable Change Assessment" for its Special Protection Waters Monitoring Program, which protects the existing high water quality in the non-tidal Delaware River. In 2024, the assessment continued with an anticipated finish in 2025.

Biomonitoring

In 2024, the DRBC performed biological monitoring of the non-tidal Delaware River, which is protected by the DRBC's Special Protection Waters regulations. Data collected included macroinvertebrates, habitat assessment, nutrients and conventional pollutants, algae and periphyton, and chlorophyll-a.

Thermal Plumes

In summer 2024, using a drone equipped with a thermal imaging camera, DRBC staff performed thermal plume surveillance in the upper Delaware River at five locations supporting cold water fisheries. This data will help assess the accuracy of near-field modeling of heat dissipation areas and allow us to visualize and identify undocumented thermal plumes.

Chlorides in Special Protection Waters

Chloride trends are increasing in the non-tidal Delaware River, likely from winter road salting. While concentrations are below EPA's water quality criteria, they have changed measurably in several locations, which is a concern under the DRBC's Special Protection Waters program. This trend is being monitored by the DRBC, and in 2024 a subset of past monitoring sites was targeted with further and more frequent monitoring.

Cyanotoxins

The DRBC once again tracked the presence or absence of cyanotoxins in the Delaware River during the 2024 field season to protect drinking water. The DRBC partners with the Delaware DNREC's environmental lab to analyze for the presence of microcystin, cylindrospermopsin and anatoxin-a, all toxins responsible for harmful algal blooms.

Delaware Estuary Water Quality Monitoring

The DRBC's Delaware Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Program is one of the longest-running monitoring programs in the world and is conducted in partnership with the Delaware DNREC. During the season, 22 sites are monitored monthly for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, specific conductance, turbidity, nutrients, chlorides and metals.

Bacteria

The entire Delaware River is deemed suitable for swimming, except for a portion of the river near Philadelphia and Camden, mainly due to stormwater runoff and sewer overflows. The DRBC and other regulatory agencies are working to implement short- and long-term strategies for improving bacteria levels in this populated river corridor. The DRBC monitors bacteria levels near recreational locations in addition to the center of the river. In 2024, the DRBC expanded its monitoring to track trends at sites in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, in partnership with the respective state environmental agencies.



DRBC staff collect bacterial samples by boat.





DRBC staff perform Special Protection Waters monitoring along the Musconetcong River.

Nutrients

The DRBC collaborated with the NJDEP to monitor nutrients in Blacks Creek, Crosswicks Creek, Pennsauken Creek, Rancocas Creek and Raccoon Creek, all waterbodies with known water quality impairments.

Sturgeon Spawning

The DRBC studied dissolved oxygen trends in areas considered nursery grounds for juvenile endangered Atlantic sturgeon by placing loggers at three locations near Marcus Hook, Pa.

Phytoplankton Blooms

This monitoring effort obtained more detailed field data to help explain observed phytoplankton blooms, using three locations in the tidal Delaware. This work is being conducted in partnership with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.



DRBC staff collect water samples for phytoplankton monitoring in Chester, Pa.



The Delaware River as seen in low flow conditions.

Water Resource Planning & Management

Hydrologic Conditions Highlights

During 2024, the Delaware Basin experienced a mix of wet and dry periods, with significantly drier conditions beginning in the fall. Each of the four states declared either a drought watch or warning in some or all of their counties within the Delaware River Basin. The year ended with a large precipitation event in December, resulting in flooding in two upper basin tributaries. Groundwater levels were mostly normal in Delaware and New Jersey, while in drought watch in New York and Pennsylvania. Levels in these wells had slightly improved by December. The salt front was between RM 58 and RM 68 until mid-September, when low flows allowed the salt front to move upstream to RM 90, near the Philadelphia airport, on November 20, its most upstream location for the year. With higher flows resulting from rain in November and December, the salt front ended the year at RM 71. Read more: [2024 Hydrologic Conditions Report](#).

Water Supply Emergency

In December, the Delaware River Basin Commission declared a water supply emergency to address challenges related to water scarcity

and ensure the sustainable management of water resources in the Basin, which allowed the Commission to implement emergency measures to conserve water, manage water resources effectively, and mitigate the impacts of drought on water users and the environment. The Commission worked closely with its member states, federal partners, water users and other stakeholders to coordinate response efforts and ensure a unified approach to managing water resources during times of scarcity. Collaboration and communication were key to effectively addressing the challenges posed by the persistent dry conditions. Overall, the Delaware River Basin Commission's drought and water supply emergency steps in 2024 demonstrated a proactive approach to addressing water scarcity and ensuring the resilience of the Basin's water resources in the face of changing climate conditions and increasing water demands. By taking decisive action and engaging with stakeholders, the Commission was able to effectively manage the impacts of drought and protect the long-term sustainability of the Delaware River Basin. Read more: [DRBC Calls Drought Hearing for the Delaware River Basin](#); [Delaware River Basin Commission Approves Drought Management Operations](#).



DRBC and PEMA staff pose with flood loss reduction workshop participants.

Partnering for Flood Loss Reduction

The DRBC continued its partnership with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to host a series of workshops for local officials in Pennsylvania counties of Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks and parts of Luzerne to help them advance hazard mitigation projects for FEMA funding. The workshops are geared for local government, planning, conservation, floodplain or emergency management professionals. The goal is to assist stakeholders in increasing their capacity to apply for grants, provide education and outreach on application processes and timelines, and advance Hazard Mitigation Plans to mitigation project development and actions. Through these efforts, municipalities and eligible authorities will be better equipped to advance their mitigation, recovery and resilience priorities. The DRBC and PEMA hosted Hazard Mitigation Funding webinars and workshops beginning in January 2024. Read more: [Flood Loss Reduction Funding Focus of DRBC/PEMA Training for Local Officials](#).

In 2024, the DRBC began hosting quarterly meetings of the New Jersey Silver Jackets, reviving participation in this important group. The Silver Jackets aim to develop strong intergovernmental partnerships and to coordinate efforts among federal and state agencies for reducing flood losses.





Staff from EPA Region 3, Philadelphia Water Department, PA Sea Grant and Audubon Mid-Atlantic gather at the Discovery Center for the Climate Practitioners Workshop.

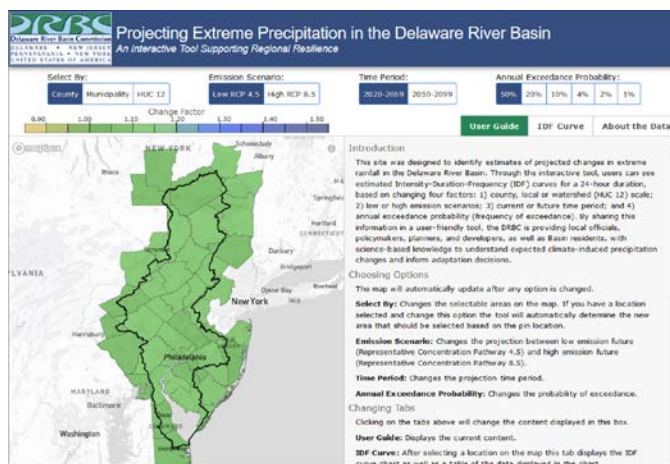
Climate Practitioners Workshop

On Oct. 28, the DRBC and EPA Region 3 co-hosted a Climate Practitioners Workshop at the Discovery Center in Philadelphia. Over 100 registered participants heard perspectives from organizations, agencies and individuals working to implement resilience projects and plans addressing sea level rise, increasing temperature and changes in precipitation in the Delaware River Watershed.

New Interactive Tool to Inform Stormwater Management

In March, DRBC launched an interactive tool to help communities take informed action on stormwater management. The online tool, [Projecting Extreme Precipitation in the Delaware River Basin](#), allows users to obtain

estimates of future changes in the intensity, duration and frequency of extreme rainfall in the basin, important information for stormwater management and infrastructure design and for improving climate resilience. The tool was developed at the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University in New York. It aligns with similar tools used to address climate change in neighboring watersheds that drain to Chesapeake Bay.



DRBC's new tool to inform stormwater management is available on the agency's website.



DRBC celebrates signing a key document for the F.E. Walter Reservoir study with partners. Pictured left to right are: Steve Tambini, DRBC Executive Director; Rit Aggarwala, New York City Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner; Bryan Strawn, Army Corps Philadelphia District; Lt. Col. Jeffrey Beeman, Army Corps Philadelphia District Commander; Maj. Gen. Jason Kelly, Army Corps Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works and Emergency Operations; Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Nate Barcomb, Army Corps Philadelphia District; Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC Deputy Director.

DRBC Marks F.E. Walter Reservoir Milestone

In September, the DRBC hosted a signing ceremony with its Army Corps Philadelphia District and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) partners to continue the F.E. Walter Dam Re-Evaluation Study. A feasibility cost-sharing agreement amendment was signed for the study's next phase, which will focus on evaluating the existing and future use of the reservoir during Basin emergency drought conditions to support/aid salinity repulsion in the Delaware Estuary, provide low flow augmentation and protect

aquatic life. Mr. Michael Connor, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, attended and provided remarks highlighting the need to evaluate the performance of existing Corps' infrastructure and the importance of focusing on issues on a watershed scale. The DRBC and NYCDEP are non-federal sponsors of the F.E. Walter Dam Re-Evaluation Study. The amended cost-sharing agreement will position the study to ensure adequate time and resources to complete a full re-evaluation. This includes additional environmental modeling and engineering analysis. Read more: [Army Corps, DRBC, and New York City DEP hold signing ceremony for study.](#)

Our Regulated Community

2024 Approved Dockets

2024 Approved Resolutions

Regulatory Changes



2024 Approved Dockets

The following projects and programs were approved by the Commissioners in 2024. Click [here](#) for an interactive map and link to each docket.

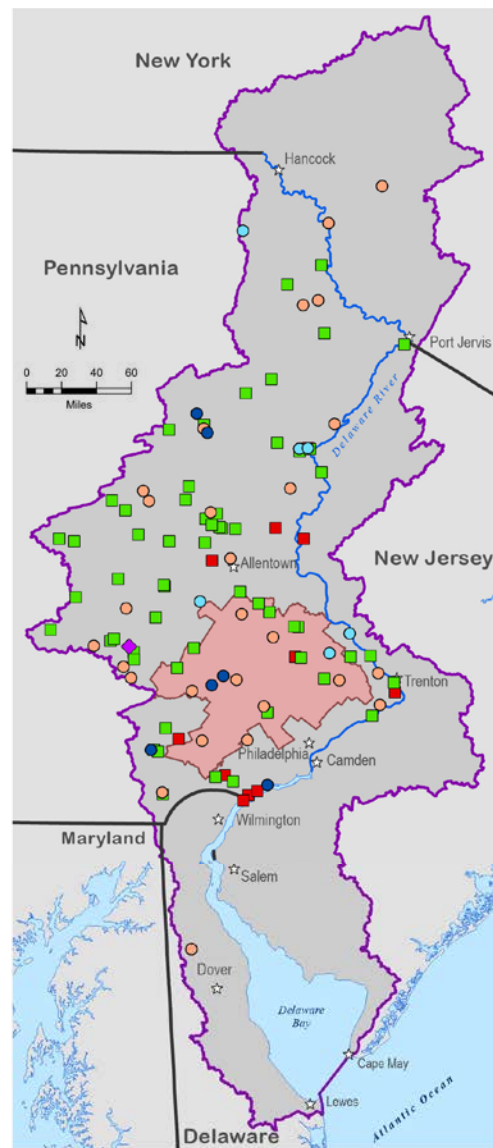
Applicant	Docket Number	County	State
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-1981-061 CP-5	Pike	PA
Nestle Purina Petcare Co.	D-1983-018 -3	Lehigh	PA
Sinking Spring Borough	D-1994-031 CP-5	Berks	PA
Refresco North America	D-2007-006 -4	Delaware	PA
Town of Delaware	D-2011-012 CP-2	Sullivan	NY
SPG, Inc.	D-2018-002 -2	Northampton	PA
WestRock Converting Company, LLC	D-2006-041 -4	Monroe	PA
Warminster Municipal Authority	D-2004-021 CP-4	Bucks	PA
Laury MHC, LLC	D-2008-007 CP-4	Lehigh	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-2001-054 -4	Chester	PA
Pocono Waterworks Company, Inc.	D-2013-009 CP-3	Wayne	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-2002-006 CP-5	Carbon	PA
Lehigh County Authority	D-2010-001 CP-5	Lehigh	PA
Lehigh County Authority	D-1977-041 CP-5	Lehigh	PA
Upper Makefield Township	D-2002-017 CP-4	Bucks	PA
WERNERSVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY	D-2001-017 CP-3	Berks	PA
Slatington Borough	D-2003-015 CP-4	Lehigh	PA
Quakertown Borough	D-1984-026 CP-3	Bucks	PA
Monroe Career & Technical Institute (MCTI)	D-2019-002 CP-2	Monroe	PA
Whitehall Township Authority	D-2000-009 CP-3	Lehigh	PA

Applicant	Docket Number	County	State
Reading City	D-1986-028 CP-5	Berks	PA
Forest Park Water	D-1965-076 CP-13	Bucks	PA
Downingtown Municipal Water Authority	D-2006-031 CP-4	Chester	PA
Lehighon Water Authority	D-2014-006 CP-3	Carbon	PA
Minersville Sewer Authority	D-1970-201 CP-4	Schuylkill	PA
Pennsylvania American Water Company	D-1992-064 CP-5	Chester	PA
Brightsmith, LLC	D-1985-059 -4	Bucks	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-1978-083 CP-3	Bucks	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-2001-050 CP-4	Montgomery	PA
Blue Ridge Real Estate Company	D-1991-046 -4	Carbon	PA
Yardley Country Club, Inc.	D-2000-032 -3	Bucks	PA
Constellation Energy	D-2008-038 CP-3	Delaware	PA
Pike County Commissioners Office	D-2018-001 CP-2	Pike	PA
Avondale Borough	D-2000-066 CP-4	Chester	PA
Ametek US Gauge Division	D-1993-025 -4	Bucks	PA
LANSFORD-COALDALE JOINT WATER AUTH	D-1995-013 CP-3	Carbon	PA
Becker, Richard. C.	D-2014-021 CP-3	Northampton	PA
ARONIMINK GOLF CLUB	D-2001-062 -3	Delaware	PA
PA Fish and Boat Commission	D-1980-032 CP-5	Wayne	PA
WALNUTPORT AUTHORITY	D-1990-087 CP-4	Northampton	PA
Leesport Borough	D-2001-012 CP-3	Berks	PA
East Stroudsburg Borough	D-1992-072 CP-3	Monroe	PA

Applicant	Docket Number	County	State
Town of Rockland	D-1963-004 CP-3	Sullivan	NY
Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority	D-2002-041 CP-4	Schuylkill	PA
Monroe Energy, LLC	D-1986-041 -4	Delaware	PA
Morrisville Municipal Authority	D-1987-008 CP-5	Bucks	PA
Tamaqua Borough Authority	D-1990-060 CP-2	Schuylkill	PA
Lower Milford Township	D-2009-010 CP-4	Lehigh	PA
Evonik Corporation	D-1996-011 -5	Delaware	PA
Drawbridge Claymont LLC	D-1969-038 -5	New Castle	DE
Westfall Township Municipal Authority	D-2002-023 CP-7	Pike	PA
Kutztown Borough	D-1989-039 CP-5	Berks	PA
BlueTriton Brands, Inc.	D-1998-055 -7	Northampton	PA
Amity Township	D-1990-078 CP-6	Berks	PA
Lehigh Township Municipal Authority	D-1994-053 CP-4	Northampton	PA
Ledgerock Golf Club	D-2004-026 -3	Berks	PA
Dublin Borough	D-1986-070 CP-4	Bucks	PA
DELAWARE VALLEY FISH COMPANY	D-2004-008 -3	Montgomery	PA
Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority	D-1969-066 CP-5	Bucks	PA
Stanley Black and Decker	D-1987-032 -5	Berks	PA
Maxatawny Township Municipal Authority	D-2007-001 CP-4	Berks	PA
WestRock Converting Company, LLC	D-1980-025 -3	Monroe	PA
Brodhead Creek Regional Authority	D-1986-011 CP-6	Monroe	PA
Ruscombmanor Township	D-2007-034 CP-5	Berks	PA

Applicant	Docket Number	County	State
Berks-Montgomery Municipal Authority	D-1973-060 CP-5	Berks	PA
JFBB Ski Areas, Inc.	D-1993-053 -4	Carbon	PA
Spring Township	D-1988-077 CP-6	Berks	PA
Myerstown Borough	D-1974-176 CP-5	Lebanon	PA
Avondale Borough	D-2023-003 CP-1	Chester	PA
SR Water, LLC	D-2001-056 CP-3	Carbon	PA
Portland Borough	D-2003-009 CP-6	Northampton	PA
Heidelberg Materials US Cement LLC	D-2009-016 -4	Northampton	PA
Upper Makefield Township	D-2016-006 CP-3	Bucks	PA
Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority	D-2001-013 CP-4	Bucks	PA
SUMMIT HILL WATER AUTHORITY	D-1984-003 CP-5	Carbon	PA
The Pines at West Penn, LLC.	D-1999-025 -4	Schuylkill	PA
South Coventry Township	D-2000-026 CP-3	Chester	PA
Melody Lakes Management, LLC.	D-1980-079 CP-7	Bucks	PA
Bear Creek Management Company	D-2004-035 -3	Berks	PA
Trane Technologies Company LLC	D-2006-014 -4	Warren	NJ
Cleveland Cliffs Plate LLC	D-2008-036 -2	Chester	PA
Concord Township	D-2014-012 CP-3	Delaware	PA
Central Wayne Regional Authority	D-1986-009 CP-6	Wayne	PA
Northeastern Schuylkill Joint Municipal Authority	D-1999-033 CP-4	Schuylkill	PA
Knights Bridge Corporation	D-1990-054 -3	Delaware	PA
Pennsylvania American Water Company	D-1990-027 CP-2	Chester	PA
Central Carbon Municipal Authority	D-1999-048 CP-4	Carbon	PA

Applicant	Docket Number	County	State
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-2014-007 CP-2	Wayne	PA
Newtown Artesian Water Company	D-1978-029 CP-5	Bucks	PA
Allied Utility Services, Inc.	D-1996-025 CP-4	Lehigh	PA
Tobyhanna Army Depot	D-2009-041 CP-5	Monroe	PA
Pocono Plateau Christian Association	D-2013-011 CP-3	Monroe	PA
Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority	D-1999-063 CP-5	Bucks	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.	D-1991-086 CP-4	Chester	PA
Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority	D-2004-039 CP-3	Bucks	PA
Upper Tulpehocken Township	D-2005-006 CP-5	Berks	PA
Manwalamink Sewer Company	D-1988-034 CP-4	Monroe	PA
Pennsylvania American Water Company	D-1996-009 CP-3	Monroe	PA
South Coatesville Borough	D-1974-039 CP-7	Chester	PA
Hamburg Municipal Authority	D-1992-073 CP-6	Berks	PA
Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.	D-2002-042 -6	Luzerne	PA
Waltz Golf Farm, Inc.	D-1992-049 -4	Montgomery	PA
Fleetwood Borough Authority	D-1987-054 CP-7	Berks	PA
Artesian Water Company	D-2001-025 CP-2	Kent	DE
Milford Township Water Authority	D-2003-037 CP-3	Bucks	PA
Bedminster Municipal Authority	D-2003-014 CP-4	Bucks	PA
Lookaway Partners, L.P.	D-1996-042 -4	Bucks	PA
Bridgeport Borough (Montgomery County)	D-1970-081 CP-5	Montgomery	PA



2024 Dockets Map.

Map Key

Discharge Dockets

- Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant

Withdrawal Dockets

- Groundwater
- Groundwater and Surface Water
- Surface Water

Combined Dockets

- ◆ Wastewater Treatment Plant and Groundwater
- DRB Boundary
- SE PA GWPA

2024 Approved Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed by the Commissioners in 2024.

Resolution No.	Date	Resolution Title
<u>2024-01</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution to adopt the Commission’s annual current expense and capital budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025).
<u>2024-02</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution to apportion among the signatory parties the amounts required for the support of the Current Expense and Capital Budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025), as set forth in Resolution No. 2024 – 01.
<u>2024-03</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution to adopt the <i>Water Resources Program FY 2025-2027</i> .
<u>2024-04</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution directing staff to develop a Climate Resilience Plan that includes elements related to planning, consultation, outreach, education, and rulemaking concerning climate change.
<u>2024-05</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution establishing a subcommittee of the Delaware River Basin Commission’s Water Management Advisory Committee, focused on Source Water Protection.
<u>2024-06</u>	06/05/24	A Resolution to amend the Commission’s <i>Administrative Manual—Rules of Practice and Procedure</i> .
<u>2024-07</u>	12/05/24	A Resolution pursuant to Section 10.4 of the Delaware River Basin Compact to preserve and protect water supplies in the Delaware River Basin during persistent dry conditions by providing for coordinated actions to manage out-of-basin diversions, Delaware River Flow objectives, regional reservoir operations, and consumptive uses by electric generating and cogenerating facilities.
<u>2024-08</u>	12/05/24	A Resolution temporarily placing water stored in Lake Wallenpaupack and the Mongaup reservoir system under operations designed to preserve and protect water supplies in the Basin during a period of persistent dry conditions.

2024 Resolutions for the Minutes

Date	Resolution Title
06/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for professional services to modernize the Commission’s central database and user interface systems.
06/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes providing for election of the Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair for the year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.
09/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes honoring Ken Kosinski, P.E., upon his retirement from a distinguished career in state and interstate water resource management.
09/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract for engineering services to evaluate additional selected storage options that could support future water supply, flow management, and other water needs and uses in the Delaware River Basin.
09/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes honoring Steven J. Tambini, P.E., for his dedication to sound water resource management and his immense contributions to sustainably managing the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.
09/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into one or more contracts with the lowest responsible bidder(s) qualified to perform laboratory analytical services relating to toxic substances in the Delaware River and Bay.
09/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes to appoint a New Executive Director to the Delaware River Basin Commission.
12/05/2024	A Resolution for the Minutes in appreciation of Senator Thomas R. Carper.

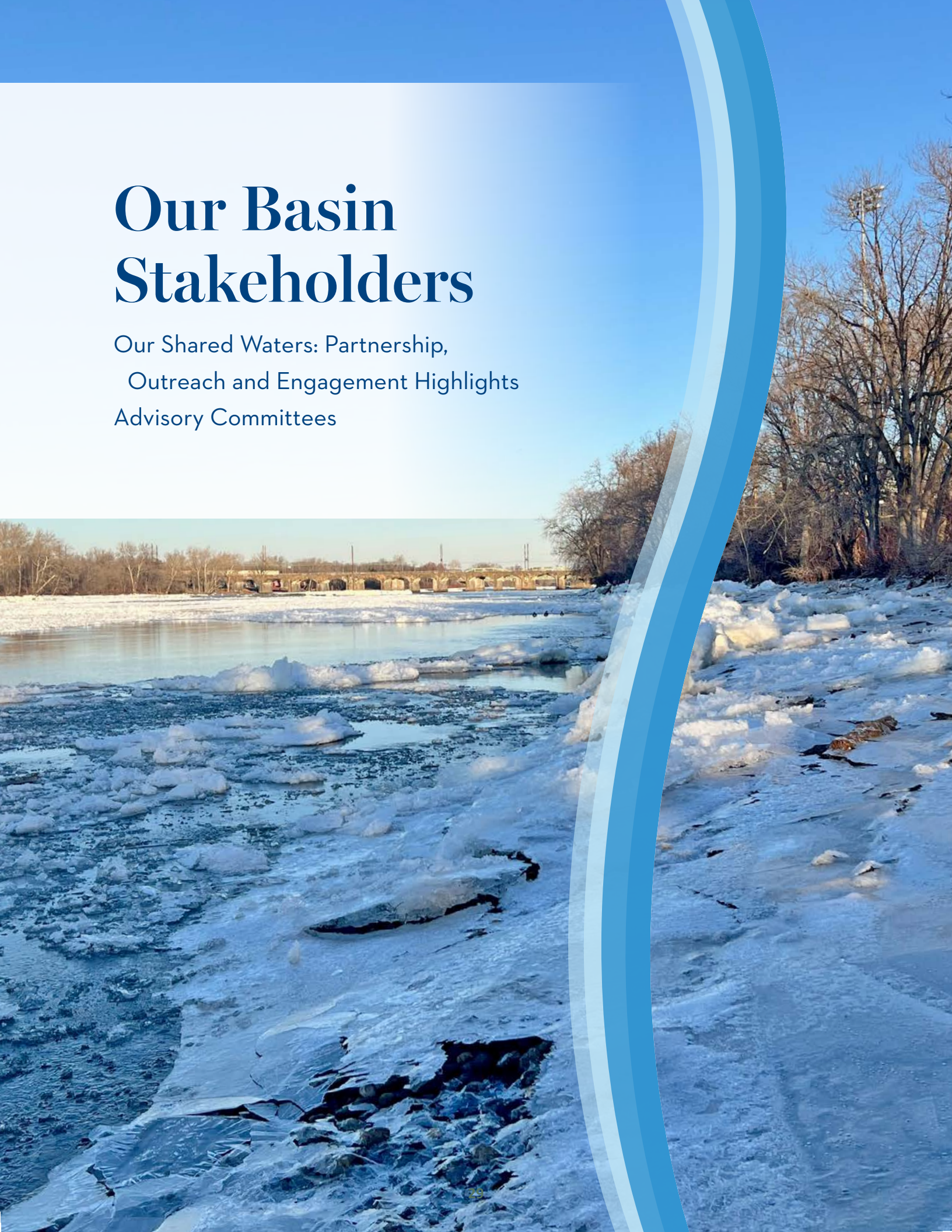
Regulatory Changes

In June, the DRBC approved a [resolution](#) amending [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#), 18 C.F.R. Part 401. The regulatory changes included: resolving ambiguities concerning the automatic termination of DRBC project approvals and making conforming amendments to related provisions as appropriate; updating the Commission’s Water Resources Program and Project Review procedures to better conform them to current practice; and removing references to the federal Freedom of Information Act that may create confusion about the regulations applicable to requests for Commission public records. (No substantive changes were made to the Commission’s [Public Access to Records](#) regulations, and references to the analogous federal records law were removed.)

The regulatory amendments were first proposed in a September 28, 2023, [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) and during a public comment period that ran through November 30, 2023, including two public hearings. On November 13, 2023, the Commission heard oral comments from ten individuals and received 199 written submissions. Following the public comment period, DRBC developed a detailed [Response to Comments](#) and the [final regulations](#).

Our Basin Stakeholders

Our Shared Waters: Partnership,
Outreach and Engagement Highlights
Advisory Committees



Our Shared Waters: Partnership, Outreach and Engagement Highlights

Upper Delaware Day

Narrowsburg, N.Y., is not only home to the narrowest portion of the Delaware River, but it is also home to the Big Eddy, the deepest part of the Delaware River, reaching 113 feet below the surface. On June 5, 2024, the Delaware River Basin Commission, community organizations, government partners, invited guests and the public gathered at the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg to “go deep” for the DRBC’s second-quarter business meeting and wraparound programming celebrating the nature and communities of the Upper Delaware in New York. Before diving into its regular business, the DRBC’s June 5 Business Meeting featured in-person remarks from Upper Delaware Council (UDC) Executive Director Laurie Ramie and NYSDEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar, as well as [video remarks from U.S. Representative Marc Molinaro \(NY-19\)](#).



Partners from the Upper Delaware Council enjoy a group paddle with Our Shared Waters.



Paddlers take part in the 2024 Delaware River Sojourn.

The power of partnership was apparent throughout our time in Narrowsburg. Aside from partnerships with other government entities, the Our Shared Waters food drive also highlighted partnerships. Three organizations were presented with donations collected through the drive and were recognized at the meeting: [Narrowsburg Ecumenical Food Pantry](#); [Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless](#); [Wayne County Food Pantry Program](#). Read more: [DRBC & Partners “Go Deep” at DRBC’s Upper Delaware Day](#); [DRBC Launches Food Drive Ahead of Meeting in Narrowsburg, N.Y.](#)

Upper Delaware Roundtable & Paddle

In September, DRBC’s Our Shared Waters welcomed partners to the Upper Delaware River for a roundtable focused on recreation, water and user management. Partners across sectors participated in this lively discussion, including NPS Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, Northeast Wilderness Experience, Upper Delaware Council, The office of U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (NY-19); Sullivan County; Delaware County Planning Department; and Friends of the Upper Delaware River. Read more: [DRBC Holds Upper Delaware Partner Roundtable & Paddle](#).



U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12) tours the DRBC lab during Trenton Community Day.

Trenton Community Day

In October, the DRBC welcomed Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12) to the Commission's West Trenton offices, along with New Jersey Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Protection Jane Rosenblatt Birkhofer, Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora, Ewing Mayor Bert Steinmann and invited guests and partners in Greater Trenton. The Congresswoman announced \$715,000 in funding, which she secured for the second year in a row, to support the DRBC's water resources work in the region, and joined DRBC's first Trenton Community Day. Read more: [Rep. Watson Coleman Gathers Community Partners to Celebrate \\$715,000 in Funding for Delaware River Basin Commission.](#)



Local, state and federal officials joined Rep. Watson Coleman and DRBC staff to celebrate the federal signatory funding.





DRBC staff met with U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-All) (center) to talk about water resources.

Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions Hill Day

In February, the Delaware River Basin Commission joined with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin on Capitol Hill to provide a briefing on the agencies' water resources work and meet with members of Congress. Hosted by the Delaware River Watershed Congressional Caucus Co-Chairs, the Commissions provided a lunch briefing for a standing-room crowd of staffers and partners. The day also provided a key opportunity to meet with members of the Commissions' respective, and in some cases overlapping, delegation members, and to share the latest research, policy and funding updates.

Delaware Sojourn

The 29th Delaware River Sojourn was held June 15 through 22 with staff helping to plan, organize and present enrichment during the event. The theme was "River of Inspiration," a nod to the generations of artists, outdoor enthusiasts, scientists and everyday people who are inspired by their experiences on or along the Delaware River.

Supporting Community Events

DRBC once again shared programs, research and expertise with community members in all four basin states at community events and festivals, including the Festival of the Founding Fish (N.Y.), Shad Fest (N.J.), Chester River Festival (Pa.), and World Environment Day (Del.).

Advisory Committees

The DRBC's advisory committees provide a forum for the exchange of information and viewpoints on a variety of issues, enhancing communication and coordination.

The DRBC recognizes the importance of engaging experts through its advisory committees to inform policy decisions. Members come from state and federal government agencies, industry, municipalities, academia, public health, and environmental or watershed organizations.

The following active committees met during 2024:

- [Advisory Committee on Climate Change \(ACCC\)](#)
- [Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee \(MACC\)](#)
- [Regulated Flow Advisory Committee \(RFAC\)](#)
- [Toxics Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#)
- [Water Management Advisory Committee \(WMAC\)](#)
- [Water Quality Advisory Committee \(WQAC\)](#)

Additionally, the DRBC launched a new committee in 2024, the [Subcommittee on Source Water Protection \(SSWP\)](#). This subcommittee of the WMAC fills an important need within the basin by helping define, elevate awareness of, and develop strategies to address source water protection concerns for drinking water supplies in the Delaware River Basin. The group met in person at New Jersey American Water's Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Facility in Delran in November and was treated to a plant tour after the meeting.

Advisory committee and subcommittee meetings are open to the public, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate.



The DRBC's new Subcommittee on Source Water Protection tours New Jersey American Water's Delran Water Treatment Facility.

Following Up: 2023 Delaware River Chemical Spill

On March 23, 2023, a spill into Otter Creek reached the Delaware River at Bristol, Pa., releasing approximately 8,000 gallons of latex polymer into the river. The PADEP and the U.S. Coast Guard were the lead agencies responding to the spill, with numerous federal and state agencies engaged in the response to potential drinking water and aquatic life impacts. The DRBC tracked the spill, offered our river monitoring, modeling and technical expertise to the interagency response team, and shared trusted information with Basin communities on its website and social media. In response to the spill, the DRBC connected with the U.S. Coast Guard and identified several opportunities to engage in training and coordination. Additionally, the DRBC convened drinking water suppliers to discuss forming a source water protection group. These efforts would lead, in 2024, to the launch of a source water protection subcommittee of the DRBC's Water Management Advisory Committee.

Our Employees and Workplace

Staff Highlights

Caring for Our Communities

Sharing Trusted, Technical Expertise





Low flows were observed at Valley Creek (Pa.) during the fall of 2024.

Staff Highlights

In March, DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini announced he would retire effective December 1, following a decade in the role, and in September, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, who had served as the DRBC's Deputy Executive Director since October 2019, was named the next Executive Director.

During Tambini's tenure, the Commission advanced significant water resource policy and management measures for the benefit of over 14 million people, including:

- Providing coordinated regulatory efficiency "One Process One Permit" programs with multiple state environmental protection agencies.
- Supporting the adaptive flow management programs under the 1954 Supreme Court Decree to balance the water supply needs of the four basin states, NYC, and multiple water use stakeholders.
- Implementing regulations that prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing and the disposal of related wastewater in the Delaware River Basin.
- Advancing the next chapter in water quality improvement in the urban reaches of the Delaware River Estuary through DRBC modeling, monitoring, technical science and engineering analyses that support the attainability of revised and improved aquatic life water quality standards to meet the "fishable" waters goals of the Clean Water Act.

In Kavanagh's time as Deputy Executive Director, she led the DRBC's technical and managerial teams in implementing the Commission's water resources programs, forged a partnership with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to advance hazard mitigation and climate resilience and secured grant funding from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund to advance scientific studies not otherwise feasible under current budgets, among other projects.

Prior to joining the DRBC, Kavanagh served as the President and Principal Engineer at Flow Science Incorporated. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering: Environmental and Water Resources and an M.S. in Civil Engineering: Environmental Fluid Mechanics and Hydrology, both from Stanford University. She is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and eight other states.

Kavanagh is the fifth executive director in the DRBC's 63-year history. In addition to Tambini (2014-2024), she succeeds Carol R. Collier (1998-2014), Gerald M. Hansler (1977-1998) and James F. Wright (1962-1977). Read more: [Delaware River Basin Commission's Executive Director Announces Retirement; Delaware River Basin Commission Names New Executive Director.](#)

Service Anniversaries

Several employees celebrated service anniversaries in 2024, including Karen Reavy, GIS Specialist, and Namsoo Suk, Ph.D., Director of Science and Water Quality Management, who each marked 25 years with the Commission. Congratulations!



Shawn Garvin, DNREC Secretary and DRBC Alternate Commissioner, offers retirement well wishes to Steve Tambini.



Karen Reavy and Namsoo Suk, Ph.D. marked 25 years of service to the Commission in 2024.



Caring for Our Communities

Mercer Street Friends

DRBC staff volunteered at the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank in Ewing Township, N.J. The food bank recently expanded to a larger warehouse in response to increasing demand for services. Staff volunteers worked to prep 560 meals for local students and always appreciate the opportunity to give back to the greater Trenton community.



DRBC staff help with food packing at Mercer Street Friends.



Sharing Trusted, Technical Knowledge

Selected Publications

- DRBC (2024). 2023 [Hydrologic Conditions Report](#). (Report No. 2024-1.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [PFAS Water Quality and Fish Tissue Assessment Study – Year 2](#). (Report No. 2024-2.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [Methodology for the 2024 Water Quality Assessment](#). Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [Water Resources Program FY25-27](#). (Report No. 2024-3.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [2023 Annual Report](#). Delaware River Basin Commission.
- Delaware Estuary Aquatic Life Designated Use Study & Related Water Quality Reports
 - DRBC (2024). [Modeling Eutrophication Processes in the Delaware River Estuary: Three-Dimensional Hydrodynamic Model](#). (Report No. 2024-4.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
 - DRBC (2024). [Modeling Eutrophication Processes in the Delaware River Estuary: Three-Dimensional Water Quality Model](#). (Report No. 2024-5.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
 - DRBC (2024). [A Pathway for Continued Restoration: Improving Dissolved Oxygen in the Delaware River Estuary](#). (Report No. 2024-6.) Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [FFMP Performance Report 2023-2024](#). Delaware River Basin Commission.
- DRBC (2024). [Delaware River and Bay Water Quality Assessment](#). (Report No. 2024-7.) Delaware River Basin Commission.

Selected Presentations

Delaware River Bacteria Study, [The Water Center at Penn](#), Jan. 2024 (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Mid-Atlantic River Basin Commissions, Congressional Briefing hosted with the [Delaware River Watershed Caucus](#) Co-Chairs, Feb. 2024. (Steve Tambini, Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Sarah Beganskas, Chris McCann, Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Regional Collaboration for Our Watersheds, [The Watershed Institute Conference 7th Annual NJ Watershed Conference](#), Feb. 2024. (Steve Tambini)

The Impact of Salinity Intrusion on the Protection of Drinking Water Sources in the Delaware River Estuary, [New Jersey AWWA](#), March 2024. (Steve Tambini)

Navigating Data Streams: Where to Find Delaware River Basin Data, [Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed](#), March 2024. (Elaine Pannucio)

Policy at a Watershed Scale: Local Lessons, Collective Solutions, [Society of Environmental Journalists Annual Conference](#), April 2024. (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Warming Currents: The Impact of Climate Change on the Delaware River, [Green Philly EcoFair](#), April 2024. (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

A Comprehensive Assessment of the Delaware River Basin Commission's Water Audit Program (2012-2021), [Upper Delaware Council](#), June 2024. (Michael Thompson)

[Our Shared Waters: A Flight Along the Delaware](#), Film Screening and Discussion held following DRBC's 4th Quarter Business Meeting, June 2024. (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)



DRBC staff joined former NJDEP Commissioner and DRBC Alternate Commissioner Mark Mauriello (right) along with Adrian Leary, Army Corps, and Mike Pisauro, The Watershed Institute, at the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management.

DRBC Outreach Highlights, [Delaware River Sojourn](#), June 2024 (Kate Schmidt, Chris McCann)

DRBC Water Quality Monitoring Highlights, [Delaware River Sojourn](#), June 2024 (Elaine Pannucio)

DRBC Water Management Highlights, [Schuylkill River Sojourn](#), June 2024 (Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Chad Pindar, Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Monitoring and Reducing Microplastics in the Delaware River Estuary, [Society for Freshwater Science](#), 2024 Annual Meeting, June 2024. (Jake Bransky)

Building Blocks of Climate Change, [Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed: Annual Forum](#), Sept. 2024. (Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Amy Shallcross, Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Avery Lentini)

Overview of DRBC 2060 Sustainable Water Supply Planning, [PA State Water Plan-Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee](#), Oct. 2024. (Chad Pindar)

Balancing Water Resources in the Delaware River Basin, [New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers Annual Conference](#), Oct. 2024. (Steve Tambini, Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Groundwater in the Delaware River Basin, [WeConserve PA's EAC Fall Gathering](#), Oct. 2024. (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

Trout and Toxics in the Upper Delaware Basin: Understanding a Contaminant of Emerging Concern, [Friends of the Upper Delaware, Delaware River Rendezvous](#), Oct. 2024. (Jeremy Conkle, Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Avery Lentini)

Monitoring PFAS in the Delaware River and Tributaries to Reduce Loading and Ease Burdens on Drinking Water Systems, [Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America, 45th Annual Meeting](#), Oct. 2024. (Jeremy Conkle)

Delaware River Basin Commission Updates, [Water Resources Association for the Delaware River Basin](#) Annual Meeting, Nov. 2024. (Kristen Bowman Kavanagh)

Science Communications, [Interstate Council on Water Policy](#), December 2024. (Elizabeth Koniers Brown)

6-PPDq in the Delaware River Basin, Preliminary Results, Delaware River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative, December 2024. (Jeremy Conkle)





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