

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07

A RESOLUTION of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (the “Commission”) adopting procedures and plans to address a changing climate and enhance climate resiliency in public and internal operations.

WHEREAS, the Susquehanna River Basin Compact (“Compact”) empowers its Board of Commissioners to “[p]rovide for the internal organization and administration of the commission” (Compact § 15.1(b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, the Compact provides that the Commission shall “develop and effectuate plans, policies and projects and standards for water resources, adopt, promote, and coordinate policies and standards for water resource conservation, control, utilization, and management...” (Compact § 3.5(1)); and

WHEREAS, the Compact further provides that the Commission may “undertake investigations, studies, and surveys...in regard to the water resources of the basin...” (Compact § 3.5(2)); and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s member jurisdictions are undertaking significant and substantial efforts to incorporate into their policies, procedures and practices specific provisions related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recently adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan with an emphasis on undertaking a review of its policies, procedures, and practices related to climate change to better plan, manage, and protect the waters of the Susquehanna River Basin (Basin).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Executive Director is charged and empowered to review all existing policies, procedures, and practices utilized by the Commission at all levels and in all programs and departments for opportunities to create, enhance and improve its commitment to better plan, manage, and protect the waters of the Basin through changing climate conditions. The Executive Director will report to the Commissioners of actions taken and tasks accomplished under this Resolution on a regular basis.

2. As the Commission’s member jurisdictions undergo the process of adapting to climate change, the Commission will review and stay current with such climate change policies or initiatives and will develop, as appropriate and in consultation with the member jurisdictions, its own initiatives or policy to best continue coordinated water resources management actions and advance climate change adaptation and resiliency throughout the Basin

3. The Executive Director is charged and empowered to assess the agency’s carbon footprint, energy conservation and efficiencies in agency headquarters and implement cleaner energy options.

4. The Executive Director is charged and empowered to assess the agency's automobile fleet and pursue conversion to electric powered and/or low or no emission vehicles, as feasible and appropriate.

5. The Commission will track and evaluate changes in basin hydrology, water quality and aquatic ecosystems to enhance planning and management decision making under changing climate conditions.

6. The Commission will advance water use and availability forecasting to better prepare for future climate extremes and facilitate sustainable water supply.

7. The Commission will pursue work to prioritize implementation of flood and drought resilience projects and initiatives to increase community preparedness in the face of changing precipitation patterns.

8. The Commission will evaluate partnership opportunities with member jurisdiction agencies, academic institutions, industry and non-governmental organizations in the pursuit of climate change understanding and advancement of resiliency efforts.

9. The Commission will seek opportunities to engage with the residents of the Basin to broaden general understanding of hydrologic aspects of climate change and promote adoption of resiliency measures.

Dated: September 14, 2023

  
Bevin Buchheister, Chair  
Pennsylvania