

RESOLUTION FOR THE MINUTES

A Resolution for the Minutes authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for professional services with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland.

WHEREAS, in support of an eventual rulemaking to revise the designated aquatic life uses in Water Quality Zones 3 and 4 and the upper portion of Zone 5 of the Delaware River Estuary, the Commission by Resolution No. 2017-4 called for multiple studies, including an evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting the attainment of uses in these zones (“socioeconomic evaluation”); and

WHEREAS, during the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Commission’s Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC), DRBC staff notified participants that DRBC planned to perform the socioeconomic evaluation using current guidance; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2021–05 in June of 2021, the Commission directed and authorized the Executive Director to require a set of wastewater treatment utilities to assemble and furnish to the Commission such information not available from public sources as would be needed in the Commission’s view to complete the socioeconomic evaluation using in-house resources and in accordance with current guidance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, in response to formal letter requests by the Commission on June 29, 2021, the wastewater treatment utilities have since provided the requested data; and

WHEREAS, to support the aquatic life designated use study, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the Commission a grant in the amount of \$150,000, of which \$20,000 is allocated for contractual services for the socioeconomic evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland (“UMD EFC”) is one of ten regional centers founded by the EPA to deliver targeted technical assistance to, and to partner with states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector in providing innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management; and

WHEREAS, the UMD EFC serves EPA Region 3, which includes both Pennsylvania and Delaware, and has more than 30 years of experience working cooperatively with EPA to help communities protect natural resources by strengthening the capacity of decision-makers to assess needs, develop effective financing methods, and catalyze action; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware River Basin Commission:

1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the technical review of a draft evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting the attainment of uses.
2. The authorized contract shall be funded with the proceeds of a grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for this purpose, unless additional funds are expressly allocated to augment this sum.

3. In accordance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (5) of Section 14.9 of the Delaware River Basin Compact, the competitive bidding requirements of that section are hereby waived.

ADOPTED: March 9, 2022