



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary-DRAFT

March 15, 2024

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/3/15/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Natali Fani-González, CBPC Chair

Chair Fani-González welcomed members and asked new members to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARIES

Chair Fani-González

The summaries from the November 2023 and January 2024 meetings were approved.

3. FY 2024 RWQM WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVAL

Steve Bieber, COG's Water Program Director

The Regional Water Quality Management Program (RWQM) addresses regional water resources including:

- Supporting wastewater treatment and improving surface and groundwater quality;
- Ensuring an adequate supply and protection of drinking water sources;
- Coordinating regional efforts to protect local water quality, including the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay;
- Advocating for water infrastructure support; and
- Promoting preservation of and improvements to stormwater management and green infrastructure.

RWQM FY'25 Focus Areas include:

- Continue to provide technical and administrative support to the Blue Plains users;
- Continue working with a coalition of water utilities and other partners to implement a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study of the region's water supply;
- Serve as the local voice in the Chesapeake Bay Program "Beyond 2025" process; and
- Continue to work with the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership.

The COG Board of Directors adopted the FY 2025 Member Dues and Regional Fees on October 11, 2023, which included \$1,792,946 for the Regional Water Fund (RWF). The RWF primarily supports work performed under the RWQM.

Action Item: The RWQM Work Program and Budget was approved.

4. LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET UPDATES

Katie Dyer and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG staff

The CBPC Legislative Tracking Team is a small group of CBPC members and COG staff who meet biweekly from January to April to review legislative initiatives in DC, Maryland, and Virginia and discuss the legislation as it relates to CBPC legislative priorities. COG staff track various bills



during the legislative session that fall within COG's legislative priorities. COG's legislative priorities for water in 2024 included:

- Support Investments in Water Infrastructure
- Support Climate and Flood Resiliency Initiatives
- Ensure Stormwater Regulatory
- Ensure Local Government Input
- Support Affordability and Regulatory Flexibility
- Support Water Supply Security

Virginia's session adjourned on March 9th. It was an overall positive session for climate, water, and environmental issues, with advancements in workforce development, tree conservation and water quality protection. The Virginia Legislature also took initial steps to track PFAS with the passing of two PFAS testing, monitoring, and reporting bills. Maryland's session is still ongoing. COG is tracking a number of bills on stream monitoring, salt, climate, and environmental equity, and PFAS monitoring.

The Virginia General assembly is currently on break but will reconvene in April. Both chambers have agreed on \$400M for wastewater. The Stormwater Local Assistance Fund did not receive new funding, but the Pay-for Outcomes Pilot Program was funded un lieu for \$20M. The Resilient Revolving Loan Fund was funded at \$125M. Funding was allocated for three full time DEQ employees for PFAS monitoring, and \$500K was directed to the Virginia Department of Health to study the PFAS and EPA Lead and Copper Rule.

Maryland budget includes increasing MDE employee numbers, increasing the Water and Science Administration. The Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund was allocated \$189M, the Bay Trust fund was allocated \$72M, and \$15M was allocated for the Urban Trees Program and planting trees on agricultural land.

The FY '24 Congressional Budget Appropriations included \$500K in funding for the Potomac Secondary Source study, \$92M for the Chesapeake Bay Program, \$9.16 billion for EPA Topline funding, and \$64.6M to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.

5. WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCE

Cheri Shultz, Director for CO-OP Operations, Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

Robert Taylor, Energy Manager, WSSC Water

Bradley Schmitz, Senior Scientist, Loudoun Water

Cheri Shultz of ICPRB presented what they are doing to track water supply resilience in the face of climate change and drought. ICPRB's cooperative water supply system (CO-OP) is an interstate regional system consisting of Fairfax Water, the Washington Aqueduct, and WSSC Water. The role of the CO-OP is to coordinate water supply operations during droughts, conduct drought planning studies, and facilitate regional cooperation. It is projected that climate change will bring more extreme weather to the region. The CO-OP uses CMIP5 generation of global climate model (GCM) results downscaled to the Potomac estimate climate impact on stream flows in the region.



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In 2017, ICPRB released the Water Supply Alternatives study and provided recommended strategies for phased implementation of alternatives by 2040. In 2020, they released a water supply study that outlined three scenarios for future water demands, three scenarios for Potomac Basin stream flows, and four scenarios for future system options. Currently the CO-OP is working on the 2025 water supply study, and they are following the USACE feasibility study.

Robert Taylor of WSSC Water shared some of the projects WSSC Water is working on to reduce carbon emissions and support climate resilience. The WSSC Water Greenhouse Gas Goals are on track to reach zero net carbon by 2050. To succeed with this goal, WSSC Water is working on a number of projects supporting carbon emissions reductions and climate resilience including the Potomac WFP Microgrid, Anacostia Sewer Thermal & Solar projects, Western Maryland Solar PPA, and other climate change mitigation projects.

Bradley Schmitz of Loudoun Water presented details of a new Potomac watershed PFAS study. The Water Research Foundation will provide a one-for-one cash match of up to \$150,000 for their Tailored Collaboration Grant. This PFAS study was selected, and COG is providing the cash match. The 2-year study has officially begun with four main objectives: prioritize and select sample locations; collect, and process samples over 12 months; statistically evaluate sample results for variability; and develop a Perspective Workshop to document potential mitigation strategies and best management practices.

Questions:

Susan Whitney asked WSSC Water if there is information on the bioenergy sewer line project being shared with other planning departments for integration into other projects. Mr. Taylor responded that unfortunately, not a lot of major capacity lines are located near large metro areas. While projects like these have great potential, they must be located in the right areas to work.

6. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

CBPC members and COG staff

A. Member updates- Beyond 2025

The Bay TMDL will not be fully implemented by 2025, so the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee has been looking at how to reach the TMDL and see if changes are needed to improve the Bay Agreement. There will be more information on the current work and findings of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee at the May CBPC meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fani-González

The next CBPC meeting will be virtual on May 17, 2024



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PARTICIPANTS:

Bradley Schmitz, Loudon Water
Robert Taylor, WSSC Water
Cherie Schultz, ICPRB
Natali Fani-González , Montgomery County Council, CBPC Chair
Susan Whitney, College Park City Council
Jeffrey Seltzer, DOEE
Kenny Boddye (Vice Chair), Prince William County Supervisor, CBPC Vice Chair
Amanda Waters, Alex Renew
Cheryl Hutchison, Loudon County Supervisor
Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Council
Khandikile Sokoni, Montgomery County Council
Kathy Smith, Fairfax County
Jenni Pompei, Greenbelt City Council
Myles Cooper, Alex Renew
Cara Honzak, Takoma Park City Council
Maria Mackie, College Park City Council
Erin Flynn, Falls Church City Council
M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County Council
Matt Reis, DC Water

COG Staff:

Katherine Dyer
Caitlin Bolton
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