



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

January 17, 2014 10:00 AM

Maryland Budget & Legislative Items of Interest

Governor's Budget

- 67.4 million for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (2010 Trust Fund) which targets funding to the most effective non-point source water quality, and watershed restoration and protection projects, and supports development of innovative technology.
- 45 million to State Highways Administration for stormwater projects.
- 21.2 million for upgrading WWTP's to BNR and 5.3 million for loans and grants to local governments for their share of local construction costs.
- 15 million MALPF- Md Ag Land Preservation Foundation for conservation easements.
- 7 million for MD agricultural cost share for BMP's to reduce soil and sediment runoff.
- 7.6 million to fully fund the oyster restoration project on Harris Creek and 1.5 million to produce oyster seeds (or spat).
- 18.7 million for renewable energy projects
- 3 million to Dept. of Housing to create a net zero energy home loan program. Small builders who do these projects find it difficult to access capital.
- 4.7 million for 3 net zero schools. Since these funds are coming from the Exelon/ Constellation Energy merger settlement, the schools must be in the BG&E territory, which covers all or part of 9 MD counties.
- 1.3 million increase for Department of Natural Resources Police officers.
- Program Open Space- Proposed funding for FY15 is not as robust as planned. There is no *new* funding proposed in FY15 for most of these programs – the proposal is to fund the programs via GO bonds at the level of planned prior year payback amounts.
 - POS Stateside, \$12.6 million, (planned 37.7 million)
 - POS Localside, \$22.8 million (planned 43.5 million)
 - Rural Legacy, \$16 million, (planned 23.9 million)

Legislation:

Bay Restoration Fund/Fee

HB 11- Admin.- Allows the BRF to be used to hook up properties outside of priority funding areas that are on septic to the wastewater treatment plants. This is currently permitted for properties inside priority funding areas.

HB 12- Admin- Allows up to 10% of BRF septic revenue to be used by local governments for administration to implement septic Best Available Technology (BAT) regulations.

SB 1- Hershey- Bay Restoration Fee - Exempting a user of an on-site sewage disposal system that utilizes the best available technology for nitrogen removal from paying the Bay Restoration Fee.

Stormwater:

Repeals, Exemptions and Moratorium

SB 5- Kittleman, Repeals legislation passed in 2012 that requires a dedicated stormwater fee/fund for all MS4 jurisdictions.

HB 50- Norman- Repeals legislation passed in 2012 that requires a dedicated stormwater fee/fund for all MS4 jurisdictions.

HB 97- Bates - Repeals legislation passed in 2012 that requires a dedicated stormwater fee/fund for all MS4 jurisdictions.

HB 55- Schuh- exempts Anne Arundel County from legislation passed in 2012 that requires a dedicated stormwater fee/fund for all MS4 jurisdictions.

HB 155- Krebs- Exempting a county or municipality that maintains adequate program funding as determined by MDE to support infrastructure and programs required by their MS4 phase I permit from the state requirement to adopt a stormwater utility.

SB 135- Glassman- prohibiting MDE from taking administrative action to enforce stormwater law or imposing a penalty before July, 2015.

Phosphorus Management Tool:

SB 27/HB193- Sen.Mathias/Del. Conway- requires the Department of Agriculture to prepare an economic impact analysis before making any change to the phosphorus risk assessment tool or index. The analysis must consider cost of implementing the new plan and the effects of the proposed change on efficiency in production of agricultural products, the workforce, and capital.

SB 151- Colburn- Requires economic impact analysis to be submitted to Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive Legislative Review and legislative services 15 days before regulation is submitted for publication to the MD register.

Fishery

HB 145- Admin- Allows Dept. of Natural Resources to open, close, set or modify a fishing season, modify or restrict harvestable area; or establish permissible harvest times and

days, a catch limit or target harvest amount, an allocation or quota, a size limit or reporting requirements.

Agricultural Land

SB 176- Glassman- Income tax credit for reduction in value of agricultural land resulting from enactment of the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 and adoption of specified regulations related to nutrient management and stream fencing.

Program Open Space Funds

HB 123- Carr- prohibiting Program Open space capital improvement funds from being used to build new or to replace existing athletic fields with artificial or synthetic turf surfaces.

Acidification of State Waters

HB 118- Luedtke- Requires the Department of the Environment to include an analysis of the best available science regarding ocean acidification and the potential effects of acidification on the ecology of State waters and on State fisheries in a report. Requires the Department to make recommendations on potential strategies to mitigate the effects of acidification on State waters and on State fisheries.

Contact: Bevin Buchheister, Maryland Director
Chesapeake Bay Commission
bevinb@chesbay.us
(410) 263-3420