

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

FY 2021 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

March 11, 2020 DRAFT – Subject to Revisions

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

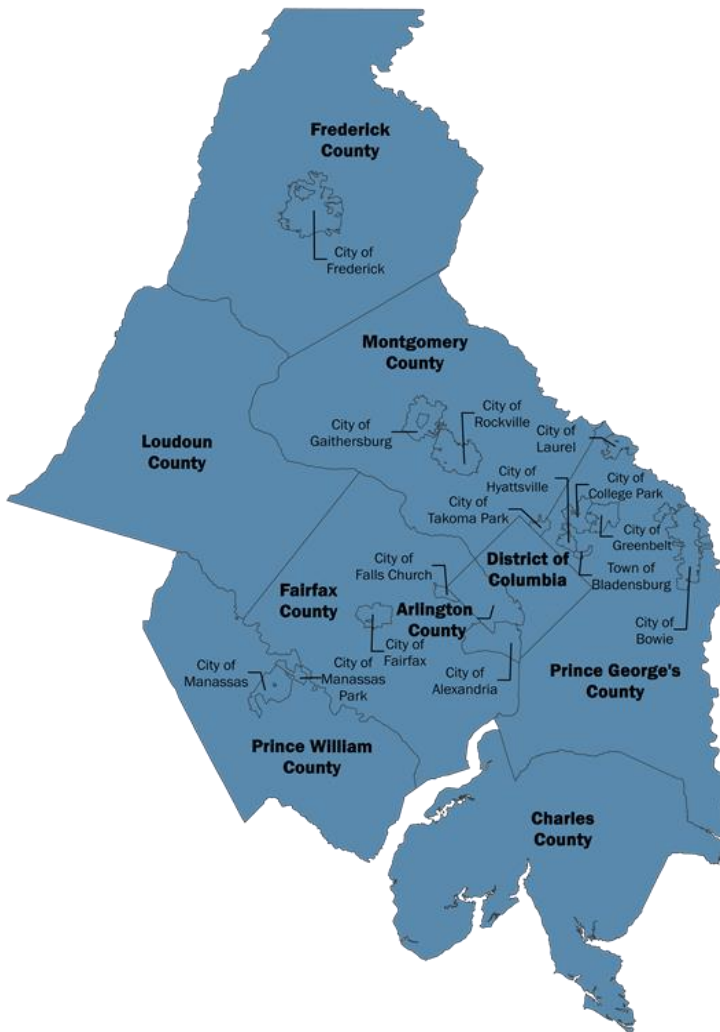


Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

ABSTRACT

This is the Annual Work Program and Budget (Fiscal Year 2021) for COG's Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM) Program.

This work program is funded by and provides support to COG's local government members <https://www.mwcog.org/about-us/cog-and-our-region/local-governments/> and participating local wastewater and water utilities. The program has been developed to address regional water quality/water resources issues in the metropolitan Washington region.



COG Members

District of Columbia

Maryland:

Bladensburg
Bowie
Charles County
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Hyattsville
Laurel
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park

Virginia:

Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County

Participating Wastewater and Water Utilities and Others

District of Columbia:

DC Water
Washington Aqueduct

Maryland:

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Virginia:

Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Fairfax Water
Leesburg
Loudoun Water
Prince William County Service Authority
Purcellville
Upper Occoquan Service Authority
Virginia American Water Company

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A. REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This is the Annual Work Program and Budget for COG's Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM) Program for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021). It includes information on COG's water resource programs; committee oversight; key challenges, drivers and priorities; budgets; and key deliverables. The work program is structured to meet the needs of COG's members to address critical regional water resource and water quality issues. Key features of the FY 2021 RWQM work program are summarized below.

COG's Water Resources Programs

Under the overall administration of COG's Department of Environmental Programs, Water Resources Program staff assist COG's local government members and affiliated water utilities with protecting, restoring, and conserving the region's water resources as well as addressing the policy and technical aspects of state and federal initiatives that have water quality/resource implications for the COG region. COG's four primary Water Resource Program areas include:

- **Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM)** – This program addresses regional water quality issues, particularly in the Potomac River. The primary support for the program is the Regional Water Fund which is funded by the Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) Parties on behalf of the localities they serve¹ [under the terms of the 2012 Blue Plains IMA, Service Agreement #2], and other COG local governments. Oversight of this program is by COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) and the Blue Plains IMA Leadership Committee. The work is supported by the Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) and IMA Regional Committee.
- **Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) Support** – This program supports the coordination among the parties to the Blue Plains 2012 IMA, providing technical and policy support to the parties, and is funded solely by those parties. Oversight of this program is by the Blue Plains IMA Leadership and Regional committees.
- **Urban Watershed Programs** – This includes regional stormwater and watershed restoration activities that support the needs of COG's members' and affiliated water utilities. The regional aspects of the program are incorporated in the RWQM Program; while oversight of specific grant-funded projects is by the grantor agencies.
- **Water Security and Resources** – This program addresses security and supply issues with local drinking water and wastewater utilities. The program is funded primarily through contributions from the region's water utilities and through federal grants. Oversight for this program is provided by the Water Security Workgroup, National Capital Region Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC), and the HSEC Advisory Council.

B. RWQM PROGRAM OVERSIGHT and COORDINATION

Integrating Water Quality/Resource Issues – The RWQM Program is overseen by the [CBPC](#) and coordinated with the Department's other related programs (e.g., energy, climate change, sustainability, air quality, security, and Anacostia watershed). It is also designed to complement and support the COG Board's Mission and priorities on a wide range of issues that have water resource and broader environment implications such as:

- [Region Forward](#) vision
- [Economy Forward](#) initiatives
- Water-specific [climate change and energy](#) commitments – in conjunction with COG's [Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee \(CEEPC\)](#)
- [Economic Competitiveness](#)
- Housing Affordability, and
- [Legislative Priorities](#)

¹ Blue Plains IMA Parties – District of Columbia, DC Water, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

C. KEY INITIATIVES FOR FY 2021

The FY 2021 RWQM Work Program has been developed to respond to the program drivers outlined in Figure 1 on page 14. It leverages existing resources, provides for synergies with other COG programs, and assists the region and COG's members in addressing water quality challenges. All these efforts are guided by the CBPC's Policy Principles. The Key Initiatives for FY 2021 are described below; while specific outcomes, work products, and activities are provided in the Program Area Details that follow.

Dialogue and Policy - Continue dialogue with EPA/states/others on Chesapeake Bay Program and water quality initiatives to advocate for local issues and needs, and provide for an active local role/voice in decision-making that affects local governments and water utilities.

Partnerships - Continue to hold regular exchanges and partnerships to leverage resources and advance common water resource goals; address technical, policy and economic issues; and support shared infrastructure, job skills/workforce, and other opportunities.

Strong Technical Analysis and Use of Sound Science – Continue technical analysis of information and advocate on behalf of COG's members in various forums for the use of sound science in the development and implementation of federal/state programs and decisions, recognizing:

- The changing nature of scientific knowledge and the need to utilize adaptive management principles to address climate change impacts and uncertainties.
- The need for equity and achievability in making decisions.
- The need to balance innovation with risk when operating under permit/regulatory requirements – especially under extreme weather/varying climate impacts.
- The potential cross-media and multi-sector benefits as well as unintended consequences of decisions.

Advocate for Local Interests and Input in the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

Advocate for COG's members and provide local input and data to those Chesapeake Bay Program activities of interest to the COG region and its members, including:

- Development and implementation of Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) and related goal planning for 2025 and beyond.
- Future Watershed Model updates (i.e., the key tool that defines nutrient/sediment loads and the related nutrient and sediment load reduction efforts).
- Monitoring and providing input on modeling assumptions including about how climate impacts may affect water quality and the performance of water resource facilities.
- Participating in (and in some cases Chairing) various committees including the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, and work groups that address modeling, wastewater, urban stormwater, land use, climate resiliency, and toxics.

Communicate Water Resource Successes and Challenges

Continue to communicate on behalf of the COG region and in support of COG Board initiatives, to address/recognize:

- Impacts and benefits of pollution control efforts in Potomac, Anacostia, Patuxent, and Occoquan Rivers, other local waters/streams, and the Chesapeake Bay
- Current and future challenges faced by wastewater and stormwater managers (e.g., funding, staffing, feasibility, climate and capacity issues)
- Water infrastructure needs and opportunities for addressing those needs
- Contributions of the water sector workforce and to promote the education pathways and skill sets for filling future water sector jobs
- Potential weather/climate vulnerabilities and the implications for regional water infrastructure and permit compliance

D. FUNDING AND BUDGET FOR FY 2021

COG’s water resources programs are supported by funding from the Regional Water Fund, the Regional Environmental Fund, COG membership fees, federal grants, private foundations, and contributions from COG member utilities.

FUNDING SOURCES

- **Regional Water Fund (RWF)** - The COG Board of Directors adopted its FY 2021 Work Program and Budget on November 14, 2019 which included **\$1,600,206 for the RWF** – an overall increase of 3.88% compared with FY 2020. The RWF primarily supports work performed under the **Regional Water Quality Management Program (RWQM)**.
- **COG Membership Fees and Other** – All 24 members² of COG pay an annual fee to be a member of COG using a per capita rate applied to each jurisdiction. This is adjusted using a 6% per jurisdiction population growth-based cap to establish a population adjusted budget. For FY 2021, the COG member dues represent an increase of 3.88% from FY 2020. A total of **\$ 130,300 of those Membership Fees are used to support regional water resources programs.**
- **Grants or Other** – This recognizes that some program areas can use local, state, federal and other grants to leverage member and utility funds. In FY 2021, funds are estimated to total to **\$835,000 in support of regional forestry, agriculture, climate change and water security initiatives.**

FUNDING LEVELS, BUDGETS and ALLOCATIONS

Table 1 shows the Regional Water Fund contributions by jurisdiction in FY2020 and FY 2021 and Table 2 outlines how the RWF and other funds are to be allocated to address the water resource priorities for FY 2021.

Table 1: Local Government Contributions to the Regional Water Fund FY 2021 and FY 2020

Local Government Contributions to COG's Regional Water Fund FY 2021 and FY 2020		
Jurisdiction	Regional Water Fund Allocations FY'20	Regional Water Fund Allocations FY'21
Alexandria, City of	\$ 30,508	\$ 31,559
Arlington County	\$ 45,478	\$ 47,200
Bowie, City of (WSSC)	\$ 11,269	\$ 11,815
College Park, City of (WSSC)	\$ 6,332	\$ 6,477
District of Columbia (DCWATER)	\$ 308,400	\$ 320,080
Fairfax County	\$ 308,400	\$ 320,080
Fairfax, City of	\$ 4,860	\$ 5,152
Falls Church, City of	\$ 2,725	\$ 2,889
Gaithersburg, City of (WSSC)	\$ 13,566	\$ 14,033
Greenbelt, City of (WSSC)	\$ 4,265	\$ 4,521
Loudoun County	\$ 80,714	\$ 85,000
Montgomery County (WSSC)	\$ 308,400	\$ 320,080
Prince George's County (WSSC)	\$ 308,400	\$ 320,080
Prince William County	\$ 89,778	\$ 93,243
Rockville, City of	\$ 13,853	\$ 14,405
Takoma Park, City of (WSSC)	\$ 3,511	\$ 3,592
TOTALS	\$ 1,540,459	\$ 1,600,206

² Town of Bladensburg and the City of Hyattsville are Adjunct Members and pay a per capita rate of ½ of a regular member.

Table 2: RWQM FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations

COG Regional Water Quality Management Program					
FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations					
Program Area	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environ. Fund	COG Member. Fees & Other	Grants or Other	Total
I. Policy and Program Development					
Total	\$391,343	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$416,343
II. Water Resources and Committee Management/Technical Analysis					
Total	\$900,753	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$920,753
III. Urban Watershed Management Services					
Total	\$162,610	\$76,900	\$54,300	\$285,000	\$578,810
IV. Water Resources Outreach, and Water Supply & Security					
Total	\$146,400	\$0	\$51,000	\$550,000	\$747,400
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,601,106	\$96,900	\$130,300	\$835,000	\$2,663,306

E. RWQM Program Area Details and Work Products

The FY 2021 RWQM Work Program continues to focus on a wide range of activities that have water quality and water resource implications for the metropolitan Washington regions. It is structured to address the many pressing challenges facing COG’s local government members and water utilities that manage stormwater, provide wastewater treatment, and produce and distribute drinking water. The program areas are divided into the four main categories listed below.

I. Policy and Program Development

Working with the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) members and other stakeholders, COG staff will continue to address regional-water resource priorities, develop policy recommendations, advance the [COG Board’s legislative priorities](#), and advocate on behalf of COG’s local government and utility members on water resource issues. *[Note: The technical work and associated work products needed to support these policy recommendations are outlined in Program Area 2. Water Quality and Water Resource Management and Technical Analysis.]*

This program area includes analyzing issues; preparing summary documents and presentations; organizing outside speakers/presentations; supporting regular CBPC meetings (and joint meetings with other COG policy committees when warranted); preparing materials/responding to requests for information/briefings on regional water resources issues; and the associated functions needed to support the overall Regional Water Quality Management Program. As outlined in the Key Initiatives for FY 2021 (Figure 1), this program area addresses Policy, Partnerships, Advocating for Local Interests and Input to the Chesapeake Bay Program, and Communicate Water Resource Successes and Challenges.

Key Focus and Outcomes - Policy and Programmatic

Identify, recommend, and assist in development of policies and actions that will support COG’s members and the CBPC’s Priorities and Key Initiatives, work with other organizations to leverage the voice and input of local governments and utilities, and put forward recommendations/provide input to state and federal regulatory agencies. Examples of activities include:

Dialogue and Policy

- Comment on legislation and advocate for adequate funding to address water quality, water infrastructure, and other key water resource issues. Recommend policy positions and potential actions to the COG Board as appropriate.

- Organize an annual Bay and Water Resources Forum with the EPA and states, focusing on requirements to comply with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. This will include addressing important issues such as options for allocating nutrient loads under the Bay TMDL; the impacts of growth; the Conowingo Dam nutrient/sediment loads; projected climate change impacts; highlighting local successes and outreach efforts; and advocating for holistic, affordable, sustainable, flexible and innovative solutions.
- Address water infrastructure issues and needs specifically focused on adequate and long-term capacity needs for drinking water and wastewater, funding, affordability, flexible and innovative implementation, and workforce development.
- Work to advance water infrastructure workforce issues in support of the COG Board's Economic Competitiveness and Affordable Housing initiatives, and other regional priorities.
- Obtain input and enhance regional understanding of water resource issues by coordinating presentations from EPA/states and regional/national organizations to share perspectives.
- Carrying out periodic tours of facilities and water resource projects to better understand the challenges of and fully appreciate the effort associated with successful implementation.
- Coordinate with COG's Region Forward Coalition; Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee; Human Services Policy Committee; the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Steering Committee, and other COG policy committees on cross-cutting issues such as growth/sustainability, metrics as they relate to water quality, critical infrastructure, climate change, jobs/workforce issues, planning/land-use and water quality, tree canopy, and potential air-water benefits/credits.

Partnerships

Coordinate with governmental organizations and other stakeholders on a broad range of technical, policy, and economic issues. Partners typically include MACo/VACo, MML/VML, CBP's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), Local Leadership Work Group, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and others;

Collaborate with regional and national organizations on matters of shared water resource interests (e.g., WEF, WERF, AWWA, WRF, NACWA, NACO, VAMWA/MAMWA, VAMSA/MAMSA); and State and federal regulatory agencies (e.g., DOEE, MDE, VA DEQ, and EPA).

Advocate for Local Interests and Input to the Chesapeake Bay Program

Provide formal comments and input to the CBP on key matters of interest to COG's members for the Phase III WIPs and milestones.

With support from the Water Resources Technical Committee, ensure that local governments/utilities' concerns are adequately addressed (e.g., Conowingo loads, modeling of climate change and BMP performance impacts, nutrient trading, account for growth, affordability, flexibility, etc.). Address issues related to new reporting on biosolids, septic-systems, and combined sewer system loads that affect COG local governments and utilities.

Communicate Water Resource Successes and Challenges

Regularly communicate about water resource issues to local elected officials, the COG Board, state and federal officials, and the COG region. Use the CBPC's Outreach Work Plan to effectively communicate:

- Regional water resource success stories, innovations and accomplishments.
- Water resources infrastructure needs and challenges.
- Continued improvements in water quality in the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, and other local waters.
- Integrate efforts with COG's webpage, blogs, tweets, social media tools and member resources

Major Work Products and Activities

Meetings, conference calls and events in support of the CBPC (Bi-monthly meetings; special events, and other meetings as needed), including:

- Bay and Water Quality Forum with EPA/federal and state representatives.
- Tours of water resource/wastewater and stormwater facilities in the region.

Support CBPC and its work groups to:

- Analyze CBP and other water resource issues.

- Analyze proposed state/federal legislation.
- Identify policy implications for the region and make recommendations.
- Prepare formal correspondence/comments on behalf of CBPC.
- Update/report on water resource indicators/metrics in COG’s Region Forward initiative.
- Briefings/presentations/testimony for COG Board members, local elected officials, and others.
- Respond to COG member and media information requests.
- Ad-hoc technical assistance to COG member jurisdictions.
- Routinely update COG website as a regional resource.
- Annual Work Program and Budget for FY 2021 (June 2020).
- Work Program management and oversight.

Staff Lead: Heidi Bonnaffon
Staff Support: Karl Berger, Steve Bieber, Christine Howard, Steve Walz, Katie Dyer

COG Regional Water Quality Management Program					
FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations					
Program Area	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environ. Fund	COG Member. Fees & Other	Grants or Other	Total
I. Policy and Program Development					
A. CBPC & Board/Member Support	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
B. Regional Policy/Legislative Development & Advocacy Efforts	\$40,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$55,000
C. Work Program Management	\$51,343	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$61,343
SUBTOTAL	\$391,343	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$416,343

II. Water Quality/Water Resources Management and Technical Analysis

Working with the Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) members and other stakeholders, COG staff will address technical issues associated with the CBPC’s water resource priorities. This effort will support policy recommendations noted in Program Area 1. Policy and Program Development.

This program area produces technical work to support the region’s local governments and water utilities. It includes analyzing issues, preparing briefing documents and presentations, organizing briefings for WRTC meetings, as well as responding to requests for more information. This program area responds to one of the core principles of the CBPC, the use of sound science in setting regulatory policy.

Water Quality Monitoring

COG devotes a significant portion of the Regional Water Fund (about 10 percent) to a regional monitoring program that historically has been invested in a Potomac River fall-line monitoring effort. This monitoring is conducted for COG by Virginia Tech University’s Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory and is focused on measuring the amounts of nutrients and other substances entering the Potomac River estuary at Chain Bridge. This monitoring parallels similar work at the same location by the U.S. Geological Survey. During FY 20, COG held a workshop to gather member input on potential new monitoring efforts. Based on that input, COG staff plans to discontinue monitoring at Chain Bridge and shifting the focus of its monitoring program to address the issue of freshwater salinization. COG staff is developing a detailed work plan for this new monitoring effort, which it will launch in FY 21.

COG does not operate or fund any of the long-term water quality monitoring stations in the free-flowing or tidal portions of the Potomac River that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Program’s coordinated monitoring program. COG staff reviews and analyzes this data to produce presentations and fact sheets, including a Potomac water quality monitoring report. COG staff also works with local, state and federal officials to determine priorities for future

monitoring efforts.

Water Quality Modeling

COG staff tracks changes to and analyzes output from the Chesapeake Bay Program's suite of modeling tools, focusing mainly on the watershed model that serves as the accounting mechanism for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. For this purpose, COG staff participates on several Bay Program workgroups, including the Modeling, Urban Stormwater, and Climate Change, and Land Use workgroups. Technical presentations are provided to the WRTC and occasionally summarized for the CBPC. COG also maintains a regional model for predicting future flows at area wastewater plants based on COG's demographic projections.

Data summary

COG uses existing sources of information, such as the Bay Program's wastewater database and its watershed model, to update regional summaries of key water quality parameters, such as the total amount of nutrients removed, and effluent discharged by wastewater treatment facilities in the region.

New Focus

COG staff plans to work with members to assess how their long-term plans for both wastewater and stormwater treatment align with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and other regulatory programs. Staff will also work with members to host an annual Potomac water quality forum to share data and water quality program activities.

Major Work Projects/Activities

Monitoring

- Update the Potomac water quality fact sheet, which summarizes CBP data progress toward attainment of water quality standards in the Potomac estuary. Develop a regional Potomac monitoring forum to bring together member staff and scientists from area universities and other entities involved in Potomac monitoring on an annual basis to share information and coordinate activities.
- Discontinue monitoring at Chain Bridge and initiate one or more new contracts to address the issue of freshwater salinization. A detailed work plan for this new monitoring effort is under development and will be reviewed by the WRTC.

Modeling

- Update flow and load projections for the region's wastewater facilities using COG's regional flow forecast model.
- Compare COG member future load forecasts and land use changes to those estimated by the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Continue to track new developments in Chesapeake Bay Program modeling, with a focus on projections of climate change impact, to be summarized in WRTC presentations.

Data Summary

- Update the COG Region Forward indicators and goals.
- Develop a regional water quality monitoring program/station map

Staff Lead:

Karl Berger

Staff Support:

Christine Howard, Steve Bieber, Mukhtar Ibrahim, Heidi Bonnaffon

COG Regional Water Quality Management Program					
FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations					
Program Area	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environ. Fund	COG Member. Fees & Other	Grants or Other	Total
II. Water Quality/Water Resources Management and Technical Analysis					
A. Regional Water Quality Data & Analysis	\$160,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,000
B. Potomac Monitoring Contracts	\$157,049	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$157,049
C. Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model & WWTP Database and Analysis	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
D. Regional Water Resources Infrastructure/Funding Analysis	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
E. Technical & Program Support to WRTC	\$279,010	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$279,010
F. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model & Water Quality Model Work	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
G. Water Resource Climate Change & Related Assessments	\$21,028	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$41,028
H. Bay & Local – TMDL/WIP & Permit Support	\$33,666	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,666
SUBTOTAL	\$900,753	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$920,753

III. Urban Stormwater Management

Stormwater management has become a major challenge for COG’s members, all of whom operate under MS4 permits. Management of stormwater runoff faces more and more challenges posed by the increasing intensity of rainfall, the continued expansion of impervious surface as the region continues to grow and increasing regulatory requirements to reduce nutrients and other pollutants. In this program area, COG assists its members through coordination on permitting issues, peer-to-peer workshops, and other technical assistance. COG also convenes a Regional Agriculture Work Group and an Urban Tree Canopy Subcommittee that focus on linkages between trees, riparian buffers, healthy soils, conservation practices, and opportunities to improve regional water quality. This work program area complements other aspects of the overall Regional Water Quality Management Program through efforts to reduce the amount of pollutants reaching surface and ground waters.

Urban Stormwater Regulatory and Program Support

Anticipated activities for FY 2021 include:

- Promote peer exchange of technical information among COG members and throughout the wider Bay region about MS4 stormwater permit compliance issues, BMP performance, program management and other priorities identified by the members, primarily via workshops.
- Update COG’s regional summary of the financial resources available to pay for stormwater program requirements, including dedicated fee and tax revenue.
- Provide input on the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s salt management strategy; coordinate the sharing of information on salt mitigation efforts between COG’s members and other stakeholders, northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland.
- Continue to provide staff support to the MACo-COG Maryland MS4 Phase 1 group in permit negotiations with the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Analyze Chesapeake Bay Program modeling data for implications regarding stormwater BMP placement and performance, and climate change resiliency.

- Collaborate with COG’s Anacostia Restoration Program staff on sharing metrics and other information developed within the Anacostia region with the entire COG membership.
- Continue to explore the potential for regional collaboration on bacteria source tracking to update existing bacterial TMDLs and inform future ones.
- Track the Bay Program’s findings concerning updates to Intensity, Duration, Frequency curves.

Watershed Management, Agriculture, and Forestry Projects

- The Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership has initiated a social media and messaging campaign focused on getting people/residents to view the river as a valuable resource and use it more. Lessons learned about effective messaging will be shared with the WRTC and CBPC. Funding for this activity is provided by members of the Partnership, as well as through various grants.
- Support work of the 2019 COG/CEEPC Tree Canopy Subcommittee and provide staff support for committee deliverables.
- Promote peer exchange of technical information among COG members and throughout the wider Bay region about the water quality and other co-benefits of forest cover, urban tree canopy, healthy soils, and healthy riparian buffers – especially the water quality benefits.

Staff Lead: Karl Berger

Staff Support: Phong Trieu, Brian LeCouteur, Lindsey Smith, Katie Dyer, Steve Bieber, Steve Walz

COG Regional Water Quality Management Program					
FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations					
Program Area	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environ. Fund	COG Member. Fees & Other	Grants or Other	Total
III. Urban Watershed Management Services					
A. Urban Stormwater Regulatory & Program Support	\$80,010	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$105,010
B. Regional Agriculture & Forestry Management	\$81,100	\$ 50,400	\$26,300	\$60,000	\$217,800
C. Food Value Chain Coordination	\$1,500	\$26,500	\$3,000	\$225,000	\$256,000
TOTAL	\$162,610	\$76,900	\$ 54,300	\$285,000	\$578,810

IV. Water Resources Outreach and Water Supply/Security

Working with COG members and affiliated water utilities, COG staff will address priority water resources projects and programs. The work is coordinated with other COG programs and activities, work being done by COG members and other organizations such as the regional Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), District Department of Health (DOH), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other private and public-sector organizations in order to maximize synergies, avoid duplication of effort, and leverage resources.

Anticipated activities for FY 2021 will occur throughout the year and include:

Community Engagement Campaign

- Implement the regional educational and information campaign elements of drought preparedness, source water protection, Wise Water Use, Value of Water and Protect Your Pipes and Value of Water to promote responsible water use, accessible/sustainable access to drinking water, and protection of critical infrastructure.

Drinking Water Supply, Security and Drought Management

- Facilitate communication and notification among local and state governments, water utilities, the media, and the general public for water supply emergencies, including drought.
- Integrate regional Homeland Security initiatives given the importance of and linkages to drinking water and source water protection to enhance preparedness, response and resiliency.
- Provide comprehensive and up-to-date information and coordination to enable timely regional responses to potential and actual water supply emergencies.
- Coordinate and develop regional water messaging for source water protection, infrastructure, water supply emergencies, preparedness and specific contaminants.

Drought Coordination Committee

- Implement a regional water supply work program to address water supply/drought management issues.
- Monitor regional water supply conditions.
- Prepare monthly drought outlook and conditions reports from April – October.
- Update the Water Supply Emergency and Drought Awareness Response Plans based on the outcomes of a 2020 regional drought exercise.
- Implement the regional Water Supply Emergency and Drought Awareness Response Plans in response to water supply emergency events.

Water Security Work Group

- Coordinate and manage regional water security activities in monitoring, redundancy and resiliency, planning, facility hardening, notification, communication, mutual aid, and training and exercises.
- Work with utility partners to assess risks, threats, and vulnerabilities of NCR source water, drinking water, treatment plants, distribution systems, and wastewater collection and treatment systems.
- Identify strategies and best practices to address the highest priority risks, threats, and vulnerabilities.
- Update the regional all-hazards Water Supply Emergency Plan as needed.

Major Work Products and Activities

- Continue a regional educational and outreach Community Engagement Campaign focused on Wise Water Use/changes to drought, changes to drought and Protect Your Pipes messaging – including website and events (Year-round and Seasonal).
- Manage and coordinate Drought Coordination Committee and Drought Technical Committee during periods of drought (Summer).
- Track and monitor Potomac basin drought and water supply conditions and website updates.
- Prepare monthly Regional Drought and Water Supply Outlook Reports (Seasonal: May – Oct).
- Staff support for assessing Drought Watch Trigger and preparing updates to Response Plan.
- Staff support and management coordination to the Water Security Work Group.
- Implement the recommendations from the “Potomac Sheen After Action Report” and after-action reports from related exercises.
- Continue management and coordination of a Regional Water Security Monitoring Network.
- Continue management and coordination of NCRWARN (regional utility mutual aid network).
- Implement and support one or more regional exercises.
- Update the WRTC and CBPC regarding drought reports and general briefings regarding regional security initiatives.

Staff Lead: Steve Bieber
Staff Support: Lisa Ragain, Christine Howard, Heidi Bonnaffon, Steve Walz

COG Regional Water Quality Management Program					
FY 2021 Program Budget Allocations					
Program Area	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environ. Fund	COG Member. Fees & Other	Grants or Other	Total
IV. Water Resources Outreach, and Water Supply & Security					
A. Community Engagement Campaign	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$118,000	\$163,000
B. Water Supply Emergency and Drought Management	\$101,400	\$0	\$51,000	\$213,952	\$366,352
C. Water Quality and Security	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$218,048	\$218,048
TOTAL	\$146,400	\$0	\$51,000	\$550,000	\$747,400

Figure 1: Program Drivers, Principles and Challenges in FY 2021

