



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES January 2021

Chesapeake Bay Program

Congress Passes \$2.5 M Increase for the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and on December 30, 2020 President Trump signed the Omnibus Bill that included this \$87.5 M for the CBP.

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2020/12/23/chesapeake-bay-program-receives-funding-boost-omnibus-2021/4024415001/>

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Gives the Bay a D+ in its Latest Biannual Report Card, which denotes a slight improvement in the Bay's nutrient reductions and dead zone from 2018, due to favorable weather and wastewater treatment plant upgrades. The Report indicates oyster restoration is working, but the score is reduced by striped bass declines. On a positive note, in 2020 the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission took stronger actions to protect Striped bass.

<https://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report/>

Toxics Work Group Releases Fish Consumption Bilingual Infographics and Video

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/toxic_contaminants_workgroup

Local Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

Residents Are Supportive of Anacostia and Its Restoration Efforts According to Recent COG Survey

<https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2020/12/21/survey-area-residents-support-anacostia-river-restoration-efforts-and-are-aware-of-their-role-in-it-anacostia-river/watershed-restoration/>

Community Engagement Campaign's Winter Salts Graphics for Social Media

Due to the negative effects of winter salts runoff on stream ecology and rising sodium levels in drinking water, area utilities are providing information and tips about effectively using winter salts over social media on Winter Salts Wednesdays. The graphics have the COG logo and may be used by all COG members.

Access graphics here: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/1/15/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

Food and Agriculture

The Regional Food Systems Program, COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety, and local partners are planning a workshop on Thursday, January 28th at 3 pm on Emergency Food Distribution in Cold and Inclement Weather.

The next meeting of the Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad Hoc Committee is Friday, February 12th at 11 am. FARM will focus on farmers markets and school meals at this meeting.

Please contact Lindsay Smith at lsmith@mwccog.org to receive a calendar invitation for either meeting.

Please share with Maryland farmers. University of Maryland Extension is surveying Maryland food producers on the how they were affected by COVID-19 and how they reacted in a time of crisis.

This survey closes on January 28, 2021:

https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HbCU8dPVvTLj7v

Upcoming Meetings and Events

CBPC Paper Competition is Accepting Applications through February 28. Please spread the word.

<https://www.mwccog.org/documents/2020/09/21/chesapeake-bay-policy-committee-academic-paper-competition-chesapeake-bay/watershed-regional-agriculture-initiative/>

March 12, 2021 WRTC Meeting (webinar only)

March 19, 2021 CBPC Meeting (webinar only)

COG Staff Contacts

Karl Berber, kberger@mwccog.org,

Heidi Bonnaffon, hbonnaffon@mwccog.org

Christine Howard, cdhoward@mwccog.org