

# COG's Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM) Annual Work Program Elements, Priorities & Levels of Effort – FY 2018

(Endorsed by WRTC & IMA-RC)

## Key features of proposed FY 2018 RWQM Work Program

### Overall Focus & Priorities

- Essentially same drivers, challenges, principles, areas of focus, and level of effort as FY 2015 - FY 2017 (see attached graphic).
- Key refinements to reflect FY 2018 priorities are noted in [blue text](#)
- [Priorities guided and supported by the COG Board's latest Policy Principles and 2017 Legislative Principles](#)
- High level of activity [continues](#) given [accelerated schedule for the Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment \(MPA\)](#), and as new water quality/environmental challenges and permit/regulatory issues continue to emerge

**Note:** Current planning assumptions re: Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) efforts (as endorsed by the CBPC) are that:

1. Water quality obligations driven by the Bay TMDL are codified in permits and other state regulatory requirements and are also drivers for protection of local and Potomac River water quality and water supply protection needs – not just the Bay;
2. If there are any changes in federal funding for EPA and/or the Chesapeake Bay Program, the most likely impact would be that the timeline/schedule for implementing those TMDL efforts could be extended; and
3. Therefore, there will continue to be a need for analysis and advocacy to protect COG members' interests in these matters.

If any substantive changes do occur that would modify these planning assumptions, COG staff will confer with committee members regarding the implications for this work program.

### Regional Water Quality Management

**Goal** – Continue to protect water quality & public health in a sustainable & affordable manner for the region.

#### **Drivers:**

- [Changes to permits and other regulatory requirements](#)
- Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts & [TMDL Midpoint Assessment process \(2016-2019\)](#)
- Local water quality & restoration goals
- Climate change impacts & sustainability/resiliency needs
- Growth and its challenges (i.e., load caps, wastewater capacity, [local area planning goals](#), etc.)
- Other environmental objectives

#### **Challenges & Priorities**

- COG's local governments and water utilities will [continue to](#) need to address the following challenges:
  - Maintain existing/aging infrastructure ([e.g., asset management](#))
  - Build/implement new technologies & systems
  - Meet existing/new regulatory requirements, schedules & deadlines
  - Address extreme weather/climate change impacts
  - Respond to emerging issues & meet multiple environmental objectives
  - Prepare to sustain efforts in face of continued growth and TMDL limitations
  - Address overall funding needs in an affordable & sustainable manner
  - Address work force issues

*The priority associated with each of these challenges will of course vary, and will depend upon the unique features & circumstances of each jurisdiction and water utility.*

# OVERALL GOAL

*Continue to protect Water Quality & Public Health  
 in a Sustainable & Affordable manner for the region (ref. Table 1 & Section I.D)*

## DRIVERS

NPDES & MS-IV Permits  
 Bay TMDL & WIPs  
 Local TMDLs & Restoration Goals  
 Other Environmental Goals  
 Aging/Expanding Water Infrastructure  
 Jobs Skills/ Workforce Needs

## CHALLENGES

Regulatory requirements & environmental objectives  
 Need for sustainable & affordable solutions  
**Changes in funding streams**  
 New/emerging water resource issues  
 Continued growth  
 Support for region's economy  
 Maintain existing/aging infrastructure  
 Build new infrastructure & implement new technologies  
 Address extreme weather/climate impacts on water resources/infrastructure  
 Address aging work force & new job/job skill needs

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Holistic Requirements  
 Equitable Responsibility  
 Sound Science  
 Communication and Voice  
 Implementation  
 Flexibility & Innovation

## KEY COG INITIATIVES

Dialogue & Policy Partnerships  
 Strong Technical Analysis & Use of Sound Science  
 Advocate for Local Interests in Chesapeake Bay Program  
 Communicate Water Resource Successes & Challenges

## **New/Changing Focus & Priorities in FY 2018**

- Continued advocacy, providing local input/local data/voice, outreach & collaboration with other organizations – to highlight the accomplishments of & challenges faced by COG's members and water utilities
- Continued very high level of assessment/input & advocacy in Bay Restoration efforts, and the critical Midpoint Assessment (MPA) process & schedule to address:
  - o Progress toward meeting 2017 & 2025 Bay TMDL nutrient/sediment reduction implementation goals
  - o Phase 6 Model Review Process;
  - o Development/use of state-basin-level Planning Targets versus Local Area Planning Goals; and
  - o Application of EPA's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Expectations Guidance document in defining the level of implementation required in the next/Phase III WIPs
- High level of effort to review/assess technical modeling & monitoring data, and related policy principles by which the data is used to address Bay TMDL goals, including:
  - o Significant modifications & updates being made to CBP's various modeling tools;
  - o Incorporation of climate change impacts, anticipated growth and Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna watershed loads – and the associated load allocation decisions;
  - o Incorporation of local scale water quality monitoring and land use data; and
  - o Continued evaluation of water quality monitoring data for tidal and non-tidal waters, particularly for the Potomac watershed to:
    - Assess its relevance to CBP modeled data; and
    - Continue to examine the relationship between Chain Bridge fall-line data gathered by USGS and OWML – to determine what monitoring data will be needed to support water management decisions in the future
  - o Increased efforts to ensure accuracy of local data used in Bay model (e.g., wastewater/biosolids/septic/combined sewer overflows – both current and historical data)
- Continued assessment of water-related cross-media environmental issues to identify common challenges as well as opportunities & potential benefits/synergies of regionally addressing:
  - o The impacts of the CBP's Climate Change & Toxic strategies on wastewater & stormwater permits
  - o The water quality related aspects of drinking water protection, tree canopy cover, salt/chlorides, PCBs, and other emerging contaminants
- Continued efforts to assess water-related climate change impacts: e.g., Bay versus Potomac versus local water quality implications, & BMP effectiveness; as well as groundwater and inflow & infiltration impacts on wastewater and combined sewer systems

- Wastewater: Continued focus on assessing the long-term technical & policy challenges and opportunities of maintaining cap loads in face of continued growth – e.g., use of new technologies, reuse, water-energy nexus, trading, climate change impacts/sustainable practices, & assessing how nutrient management regulations will impact biosolids management options, particularly for Class A products
- Stormwater: Continued focus on collaboration and coordination on permitting issues, peer exchange mechanisms and regional procurement opportunities
- Continued advocacy to address the critical nature of Water Infrastructure (i.e., in support of COG Board's 2017 priorities re: Regional Infrastructure, and Economic Competitiveness), including:
  - o Increased efforts at broader/integrated outreach efforts re: water sector's accomplishments, issues, challenges, funding needs and opportunities
  - o Recognition of funding and financing challenges and need for innovative financing, affordability and regulatory flexibility (i.e., including trading options & offset policies related to growth), as well as the need for implementation flexibility and innovation
  - o Quantifying the water-related impacts/implications for the region of any changes in state/federal funding or programs

<b>RWQM Program Areas – FY 2018</b>	
<b>I. Policy and Program Development</b> <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports policy development, advocacy, CBPC support, program management, and outreach.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A. CBPC &amp; Board/Member Support</b></li> <li><b>B. Regional Policy/Legislative Development &amp; Advocacy Efforts</b></li> <li><b>C. Work Program Management</b></li> </ul>	
<b>II. Water Quality/Water Resources Management and Technical Analysis</b> <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports technical work for the WRTC on a wide range of water quality/water resource issues.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A. Regional Water Quality Database &amp; Analysis</b></li> <li><b>B. Potomac Data Monitoring Analysis</b></li> <li><b>C. Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model &amp; WWTP Database &amp; Analysis</b></li> <li><b>D. Regional Water Resources Infrastructure/Funding Analysis</b></li> <li><b>E. Technical &amp; Program Support to WRTC</b></li> <li><b>F. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model &amp; Water Quality Model Work</b></li> <li><b>G. Water Resources Climate Change &amp; Related Assessments</b></li> <li><b>H. Bay &amp; Local – TMDL/Local Planning Goals/WIP &amp; Permit Support</b></li> </ul>	
<b>III. Urban Watershed Management Services</b> <i>[As before, work is fully funded by Regional Environmental Fund &amp; COG Membership fees, and grants]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address environmental initiatives with water quality implications/impacts and integrate efforts with other regional initiatives.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A. Urban Stormwater Regulatory &amp; Program Support</b></li> <li><b>B. Green Infrastructure</b></li> </ul>	
<b>IV. Water Resources Outreach, and Water Supply &amp; Security</b> <i>[As before, security work is funded separately]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address water supply and security issues with water quality/water resource implications and impacts</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A. Community Engagement Campaign</b></li> <li><b>B. Water Supply Emergency and Drought Management</b></li> </ul>	

## Regional Water Fund (RWF) support for RWQM Work Program

**FY17 Total RWF** *(approved)*  
 \$1,373,503

**FY18 Total RWF** *(approved by COG Board, 9/9/16)*  
 \$1,425,200 *(~3.8% increase over FY17 funding level)*

Allocations to be similar to FY17 (i.e., 80% paid by Blue Plains Parties per Service Agreement (SA) #2; with remaining 20% paid by other jurisdictions/agencies based on percent of adjusted population)

**Reference SA #2 – C.4.a.**

The Parties agree to pay 80% of the Program based on the following allocation:

- DC Water – 20%, on behalf of the District;
- Fairfax – 20%; and
- WSSC – 40%, on behalf of Montgomery and Prince George's (20% each)