

**WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC)
BUSINESS MEETING**

**January 8th, 2008
(10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
COG Board Room, Third Floor**

Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order & Introductions – Elaine Schaeffer, WRTC Chair**
(10:00 – 10:10 a.m.)

- II. Chesapeake Bay Program & Related Updates - Tanya Spano, Karl Berger, & Steve Bieber**
(10:10 – 11:00 a.m.)

COG staff continues to provide regular updates on the activities of the Bay Program Partners related to nutrient and sediment load reductions, potential reallocations, and TMDLs.

A. Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

The CBP continues to conduct analysis to determine the impacts of nutrients and sediments on Bay and Tributary water quality based on updated models, and to analyze various modeling scenarios to determine what the TMDL-based load allocations need to be to in order to ‘delist’ the various Bay/Tributary segments, and to establish initial load allocations this spring. Also, in response to concerns raised at COG’s October 9th Watershed Model workshop and based on WRTC input, the CBPC endorsed sending a letter to the Maryland and Virginia members of the Bay Program’s Water Quality Steering Committee. The letter expresses concern with the use of the Watershed Model in setting ‘local’ wasteload allocations for Bay-related TMDLs.

Ms. Spano will note any changes to the proposed CBP schedule; discuss the proposed Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) and public notification processes; describe the proposed integration of local and Bay-related TMDLs; outline proposed modeling scenario assumptions for stormwater and wastewater sectors – and their implications for COG’s members; and note any key technical/policy issues. Mr. Berger will provide a brief update regarding the status of the CBPC letter and potential next steps.

B. Chesapeake Bay Foundation Litigation & Bay Scientists’ Concerns

*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) filed a formal notice of intent to sue (NOI) the United States Environmental Protection Agency for failure to comply with the Clean Water Act and the terms of the Chesapeake Bay Agreements. In their October 29, 2008 letter, CBF outlined the grounds for the potential suit including those affected by the EPA’s shortcomings and requests several actions be taken to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and prevent such a suit from going forward. Pursuant to the citizen suit provision of the Clean Water Act, the EPA has 60 days to respond to the claims laid out in the NOI letter. In addition, several Bay scientists issued a statement on December 8, 2008 regarding the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and the ineffectiveness of the existing voluntary, collaborative approach. **Dr. Walter Boynton, a scientist from the University of Maryland, is scheduled to give a presentation regarding the health of the Bay and status of existing cleanup efforts to COG’s CBPC on January 16th. WRTC members are also invited to attend this presentation.** It is expected that the CBPC will remand the issue to the WRTC to assess potential local implications of these efforts, and to identify any policy recommendations that should be considered.*

Mr. Bieber will provide an update on CBF’s actions and EPA’s response, noting any apparent implications for COG’s members. He will also summarize the key points noted in the Bay scientists’ statement and identify any potential policy issues/implications for COG’s members.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional information needs. They will also be asked to identify any critical concerns/questions that should be raised to the CBPC about any of these activities. In anticipation of the CBPC's direction for the WRTC to prepare recommendations for consideration by the CBPC, COG staff seeks WRTC volunteers to work closely in preparation of such recommendations over the next two months.

III. Regional Infrastructure Funding Needs & Initiatives – Tanya Spano & Steve Bieber
(11:00 – 11:30)

The importance of quantifying regional wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water infrastructure funding needs was identified as priority in COG's FY 2009 Work Program and Budget, and COG staff has been working to develop an initial inventory of those funding needs based on readily available information. Recent federal initiatives to develop an economic stimulus has highlighted this issue and accelerated efforts to develop lists of viable projects. COG's Board is also proposed to address this issue at their January 14th meeting – including consideration of potential regional responses. In addition, there are several other infrastructure-related initiatives being done or proposed by other parties. The CBPC will also be getting an update on these activities at their January 16th meeting.

Ms. Spano will present the results of COG staff's initial compilation of infrastructure funding needs, and outline some of the other activities going on within the region. Mr. Bieber will summarize the latest proposals being considered for COG Board action.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional resources/information that could be used to enhance the current infrastructure inventory; and to identify any critical issues/concerns that should be raised to the CBPC and/or COG Board.

IV. USGS Congressional Drinking Water Briefing – Steve Bieber
(11:30 – 11:45 a.m.)

On December 5, 2008, a Congressional Briefing was held to present scientific findings on low level organic chemicals in surface-water sources of drinking water.

Mr. Bieber will summarize these findings, note how they are being used by the region's water utilities, and describe possible implications for regional drinking-water policy. Mr. Bieber will also discuss proposed next steps and future briefings.

V. Stormwater Permitting Updates – Ted Graham and Karl Berger
(11:45 – 12:00 pm.)

During the WRTC Stormwater Work Session held November 13th, Christine Ruf from EPA and Meo Curtis from Montgomery County, made in-depth presentations on EPA's TMDL Handbook and Montgomery County's Stormwater Permit, respectively.

A. EPA's Draft TMDL Handbook

*Ms. Ruf has stated that EPA will be looking for **comments on the draft by the end of February 2009**. The WRTC may wish to provide comments to EPA as these documents are likely to influence MS4 permits in the future.*

Mr. Graham will identify handbook topics where comment may be worthwhile. COG staff proposes to prepare initial comments and circulate them to interested WRTC members for additional review and transmittal to EPA.

B. Maryland Stormwater Regulations

Mr. Berger will provide an update on stormwater regulatory developments in Maryland, including both the status of the regulations implementing the Stormwater Management Act of 2007 and Montgomery County's pending MS4 permit.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked whether they wish to submit formal comments to EPA on the Draft TMDL handbook; and to identify any questions they have regarding these issues.

VI. FY 2010 Work Program and Budget – Ted Graham & Tanya Spano (12:00 – 12:15 p.m.)

Mr. Graham will provide a brief overview of the key issues and initiatives proposed for COG's fiscal year 2009 Work Program and Budget. Ms. Spano will then outline the proposed schedule for the WRTC's review/formal recommendation to the CBPC.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional issues, projects or other activities they would like to see incorporated into the proposed Work Program.

VII. Around the Room – COG Staff & WRTC Members (12:15 -12:30 p.m.)

COG staff has compiled a list of upcoming meetings and events in the region that may be of interest to the WRTC members (see list below), and provided updates on several key issues/activities.

- **Potomac Water Quality Report** – The draft report is expected to be transmitted to the WRTC & CBPC in advance of their March meetings; with the expectation that the final report will be transmitted to the COG Board in May.
- **Legislative Updates**
- **Members**

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to note any particular activities their jurisdiction/agency is undertaking or additional items of interest or concern that they believe would be of interest to the other members.

VIII. Adjourn Business Meeting/Lunch – Elaine Schaeffer, Chair (12:30 p.m.)

FUTURE MEETINGS / KEY EVENTS

2009

CBPC Meeting – January 16th - Proposed Agenda Items:

- Calendar 2009 Priorities
- Regional Infrastructure Funding Needs
- Presentation by Walt Boyton (University of Maryland) About the Health of the Bay and Status of Cleanup Efforts
- **Anacostia Partnership's Workshop: Promoting Redevelopment LID in the Anacostia Watershed – March 26-27, 2009** Ted Graham
- **Wastewater Climate Change-Greenhouse Gas Inventory Workshop – April/May** (date TBD)
- **WEF's Nutrient Removal 2009: Sustainable Treatment Solutions Conference – June 28 – July 1** (Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC)

- **Tour of Loudon Water's Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility – June** (specific date TBD). Tour to be focused on wastewater treatment, reuse, and biosolids processes and issues.