

GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

WASTEWATER

Sustainable Wastewater Practices Workshop

COG staff is working with wastewater experts in the region to organize a workshop on sustainable wastewater practices. The workshop is sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), and it titled "*Real World Examples: Cost- Effective and Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Practices and Other Options to Address Nutrient Reduction Requirements.*" The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, May 16, 2012**, at the Westin Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The workshop will be integrated with and follow the VWEA education conference scheduled for the following day (May 17th) at the same location.

COG staff contact: Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 / tspano@mwkog.org

Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) for WWTPs' Wastewater Flow Projections in COG's Region.

RWFFM has been actively used by COG's staff for the Blue Plains Service Area (BPSA) Wastewater Flow projections. Wastewater projections are based on demographic information from COG's Cooperative Forecast Model - which is linked to the appropriate flow factors to derive wastewater flows.

Blue Plains flow capacity is half of the COG Region wastewater flow capacity and the BPSA is approximately half of COG Region's service area. For planning purposes, we propose using the RWFFM and the same flow assumptions (that we use for the BPSA) for WWTPs' wastewater flow projections in COG's region. We will be contacting the Region's Jurisdictions/Agencies to confirm or to identify more appropriate numbers. We will be also verifying WWTPs' service area maps and identifying sewer vs. septic service areas. In addition, Charles County joined COG's region recently, and we will be updating the RWFFM with flow factors, I&I and 2009 base year flow for Charles County WWTPs.

STORMWATER

Stormwater Survey

COG will be sending out an electronic stormwater program survey this summer (July/August timeframe). It will be a continuation of COG's data collection efforts about challenges and costs for stormwater programs in the region. Survey findings will be used for possible presentations to the COG Board, CAOs Committee, and future factsheets.

COG staff contact: Heidi Bonnaffon 202/962-3216/ hbonnaffon@mwkog.org

DRINKING WATER

COG's Regional Water Supply and Drought Response Plan was adopted in June, 2000 by the COG Board of Directors to assure a regionally consistent response to drought conditions as well as promote water conservation and wise water use on a year-round basis. Under the plan, the CAOs Committee, in collaboration with area water utilities, constitute the "Drought Coordination Committee" (DCC) and

have delegated authority to issue drought stage declarations along with public messages. COG staff briefed the DCC at their May 2nd meeting about this plan, current water supply and drought conditions, and the seasonal outlook. A document was created to provide background information for the CAOs, per the drought primer, and will be distributed to the WRTC as well.

COG staff contact: Christine Howard (202) 962-3366 / choward@mwkog.org

WATER RESOURCES GENERAL

Climate Change - Water Sector

The *Climate Adaptation Guidebook Presentation Meeting* took place on March 28, 2012 (See attached SRA's presentation of the guidebook). SRA International has been preparing a draft climate adaptation guidebook for the local governments in the metropolitan Washington region based on stakeholders' comments.

At the meeting EPA and SRA presented the Final EPA Sustainable Communities Climate Adaptation Guidebook.

COG staff contact: Lana Sinder 202/962-3347 / lsindler@mwkog.org

Community Engagement Campaign Updates

The Community Engagement Campaign Dog Blog and Lawn & Garden Blog have prize-winning contests underway, to attract readers to the blogs. The Dog Blog ran an Essay Contest, and a prize donation will be awarded to a local dog shelter. Lawn & Garden Blog has a 'green gardener' Photo Contest, and prizes awarded to contestants will include a rain barrel, garden cart, sprinkler timer and other prizes. Contests are open to residents in the COG region. The CEC is also running Banner Ads on Eco-Friendly Lawn Care. To see more information about the contests and the lawn care information, please visit the blog websites.

Dog Blog Essay Contest (deadline for entry was May 4th; winner to be announced May 25)
<http://www.metro-dc-dog-blog.com/2012/04/new-essay-contest.html>

Upcoming Lawn & Garden Photo Contest (entry period May 25-June 8; winners announced June 29)
http://promoshq.wildfireapp.com/website/6/contests/211893?preview_key=67d6620773e18e7aef229f2a3a0a6819

Eco-friendly Lawn Care Tips
<http://gardening.mwkog.org>

COG staff contact: Heidi Bonnaffon 202/962-3216/ hbonnaffon@mwkog.org

Energy from Sewage

COG and the German Embassy hosted a meeting on May 1st with focus on clean energy opportunities associated with one of our most important community assets - our wastewater treatment systems - about successful approaches taken in Europe.

COG staff contact: Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 / tspano@mwkog.org

Chesapeake Bay Report Card

This report card provides a transparent, timely, and geographically detailed assessment of Chesapeake Bay. The overall health of Chesapeake Bay, determined using water quality and biotic indicators, declined slightly in 2011. The overall grade of D+ was a decrease for the second year in a row, down

from a C- in 2010. Only two reporting regions, the Patapsco and Back Rivers, and the Lower Western Shore (MD), had improved grades in 2011. The highest-ranked region for the second year in a row was the Upper Bay, with a grade of C.

For more information, see <http://ian.umces.edu/ecocheck/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/2011/>

Washington Post's Series of Three Articles on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers

May 2, 2012 (see attached)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Summary of 2012 Maryland & Virginia General Assembly Updates (available at the meeting)

COG staff contact: Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 / kberger@mwkog.org

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

May 15 - Chesapeake Bay (WIP) II Public Meetings (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.)

Phase II of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) was submitted to EPA on March 30 and a formal public comment period on the document was initiated and will conclude on May 31. To supplement this formal comment period, DCR is working with its partners to hold a series of public meetings on the Phase II WIP across the state. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a brief update on the status of the Phase II WIP, the next steps in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL planning process and to provide local governments, planning district commissions, soil and water conservation districts and stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the Phase II WIP.

Prince William Development Services Building, 5 County Complex Center, Room 202, Woodbridge, VA 22192

Six other meetings were scheduled in May (Chesapeake on May 9; Richmond on May 23; Eastern Shore on May 23; Ruther Glen on May 30; Covington on May 30; and Harrisonburg on May 31). For more information, call the DCR Richmond office (804-786-1712) or one of the regional offices.

May 16 - Sustainable Wastewater Practices Workshop (see attached flyer)

May 17 - TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Workshop

Sponsored by the Tri County/City SWCD and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association, this workshop will discuss the science behind TMDLs, technical assistance available, challenges and costs for retrofitting in Virginia and grants that are available. The cost for advance registration is \$30 and includes lunch.

Spotsylvania County School Board Administrative Building (8020 River Stone Drive, Fredericksburg, VA)

For more information contact: Ellen Schwartz with the Tri-County/City SWCD by phone at: (540) 656-2401 or by e-mail at: ellen.schwartz@vacoxmail.com. To see the flier, go to

<http://tccswcd.vaswcd.org/tmdl-workshop-and-registration-bg.pdf>

May 18 - Virginia Water Monitoring Council 2012 Conference

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Registration and coffee at 9 a.m.)

Water Quality Monitoring: Tools for MS4 Compliance, TMDL Implementation, and Water Quality Protection & Restoration

Henrico County Training Center, 7701 E. Parham Road, Henrico, VA 23294

Please see www.VirginiaWMC.org for an agenda and registration form.

May 21 - Climate Impacts Symposium (see attached flyer)

The Climate Impacts Symposium is intended to focus on the planning implications of potential changes in precipitation patterns, sea level rise, flooding and water quality in the Metropolitan Washington Region.

MWCOG on May 21, 2012 from 10am-3pm (COG Board Room)

Please see [Climate Impacts Symposium](#) for registration

July 18 -20 - WEF SW Symposium 2012

The Stormwater Symposium 2012 is designed to focus on U.S. and global issues in stormwater.

Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to industry experts address new innovative management techniques and technologies. This event will include interactive panel discussions that include leading voices from the stormwater and municipal community.

http://www.wef.org/conferences/page_details.aspx?id=10852&page=tech

Sheraton Baltimore City Center

Baltimore, Maryland