

WRTC Meeting (9/8/11)

RWQM PROGRAM AREA UPDATES

POTOMAC WATER QUALITY

[Microcystis Algal Bloom Situation – Summer of 2011](#)

In July 2011, in part due to unusually hot weather and low wind conditions, blue green algae called *Microcystis* were reported in the Potomac River near Mattawoman Creek, in Charles and Prince George's County, Maryland and Aquia Creek in Stafford County, Virginia. COG worked with regional experts to monitor bloom conditions, held regular conference calls to get updates on the situation and sampling results, created a website to share resources, and issued a [press release](#) emphasizing regional coordination on August 15th. Another conference call is scheduled for September 9th to review the latest *Microcystis* results and assess to Hurricane Irene's impact on the blooms.

For additional information, please visit [COG's Potomac Estuary Water Quality](#) website. This website provides: links to water quality sampling that is occurring throughout the region, links to data, various press releases and notices that were issued, and reference documents and analysis associated with previous extreme bloom conditions in the past (e.g., the 1983 bloom). The website will continue to be updated to reflect the latest information, will eventually have an interactive map with data links, and other improved features.

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

WASTEWATER & BIOSOLIDS

[National Association of Clean Water Agencies \(NACWA\) Awards](#)

Congratulations to COG's wastewater plants and agencies that recently received NACWA awards!
<http://www.nacwa.org/video/2010pp.php>

2010 National Environmental Achievement Award – Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)

2010 Platinum Peak Performance Awards: ASA / DC Water - Blue Plains / Fairfax – Noman Cole / UOSA / WSSC – Parkway, Seneca, & Damascus

[Maryland Nutrient Application – Proposed Guidelines](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has proposed revisions to its current requirements for nutrient management plans that would significantly affect the use of biosolids on farmland in the state. The proposed new language, which addresses the application of all organic sources of nutrients, essentially would limit biosolids application to no more than about a six-month window, from March 1 – Sept. 9, and would restrict the crops to which biosolids could be applied in the summer as well. The Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA) is preparing comments on the draft guidelines.

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

STORMWATER

[WERF - Seeking Stormwater BMP Studies](#)

The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) is seeking stormwater BMP monitoring studies with event-based data in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed for inclusion in the International Stormwater BMP Database. A special data collection and analysis effort focused on the Chesapeake Bay is underway and will be publically available this fall from a dedicated portion of the BMP Database website (www.bmpdatabase.org).

Structured BMP monitoring studies, published or not, can be emailed directly to Jane Clary at clary@wrightwater.com for potential inclusion in the effort. Those providing studies will be acknowledged on the project website, with web links back to the original program website. WERF plans to hold a **webinar on December 13** to share the Bay-specific findings.

EPA draft Stormwater Provisions with Chesapeake Bay Emphasis

EPA is expected to release its draft national stormwater rule sometime this fall. This rule is expected to have specific provisions for the Chesapeake Bay region. COG staff plans to work with the WRTC and the CBPC to develop COG comments on the rule.

EPA's website: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking.cfm>
COG staff contact: Karl Berger 202/962-3350 / kberger@mwkog.org

Stormwater Utility Outreach Campaign Plans and Materials Request

Water Words That Work LLC is working with a local government that is developing a proposal for a stormwater utility, also known as the dreaded "rain tax," to finance measures to reduce polluted runoff. Water Words That Work LLC is seeking to evaluate outreach/education efforts from other communities which have attempted (either successfully or unsuccessfully) to introduce a stormwater utility, and would be grateful for any relevant education and outreach campaign plans and/or materials you could share.

Contact: Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC/ 703.829.6732/ eric.eckl@waterwordsthatwork.com
<http://waterwordsthatwork.com>

WATER SUPPLY

Drought Monitoring – Summer of 2011

Throughout the summer, COG staff has also been closely monitoring water supply and drought conditions as required by the Metropolitan Washington [Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan](#). Hurricane Irene brought some much needed rain to the Potomac River Basin improving the below average precipitation, streamflow, and groundwater levels our region experienced during most of July and August. To learn more about drought conditions, regional reservoir levels, NOAA's drought monitor and precipitation forecasts please visit COG's [Water Supply website](#).

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

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

September 14 (Days Inn State College, PA) – Managing Municipal Stormwater: Protecting Water Quality, Streams and Communities

This program is designed to help municipalities and municipal engineers implement new, cost-effective stormwater practices (BMPs). MS4 municipalities will learn more about the new applications and permitting that will be required to meet TMDLs for the Chesapeake Bay.

To view the agenda and register for the program visit the web link below:
<http://www.cvent.com/events/managing-municipal-stormwater/agenda-453c06f95f864fb6a651249cd343c8d0.aspx>

September 15 CWEA Stormwater Committee Meeting

The Committee has invited representatives from local governments and a variety of other parties to discuss how the stormwater sector can meet Bay TMDL requirements. [Here's the draft Agenda.](#)

Contact: Mark Charles (240) 314-8871 / mcharles@rockvillemd.gov

October 12 – DC Water's Clean River Project Groundbreaking Ceremony, Blue Plains

October 14 (10:30-12:00) – COG's Stormwater Webinar for COG Board

This webinar is being provided at the request of Honorable Andrea Harrison, COG Board Chair, and will be an opportunity to educate board members on storm water challenges in the current the MS4 permitting and WIPs environment.

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

November 10 – WRTC Meeting

November 15 – [CWEA Stormwater Summit](#)

This year's CWEA Stormwater Summit theme will be Wet Weather Issues.

November 18 – Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Meeting