

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE WEBINAR SUMMARY-DRAFT

November 19, 2021

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/11/19/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

DECISIONS & ACTIONS:

- CBPC members were requested to provide feedback on the draft water 2022 Legislative Priorities by December 1.
- CBPC members were requested to provide comments on the draft Stream Restoration Report by December 10.
- Members requested COG staff to double check the 2022 calendar of proposed CBPC meeting dates against the National League of Cities calendar. There were no conflicts, so the 2022 CBPC meeting dates have been confirmed and added to COG's meeting and events calendar.
- The January 21st CBPC meeting will be webinar only. CBPC leadership will decide whether the subsequent meetings will be hybrid or virtual.

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Amy Jackson, CBPC Chair

2. CBPC MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Members approved the draft summary of September 2021 CBPC Meeting.

3. STORMWATER FEES & TAXES

Katie Dyer, COG Resiliency Planner, presented a summary of the region's stormwater fees and taxes, and cost relative to national averages based on Black & Veatch data.

Member discussion:

- It is helpful to see how different jurisdictions are handling costs.
- Some members voiced surprise that the federal government does not track stormwater costs and utility fees.
- A member asked whether COG could possibly put the stormwater costs into the context of population density or per capita in future years.

4. STREAM RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Jason Papacosma, Arlington County, WRTC Chair presented an overview of the draft report developed by the WRTC stream restoration work group and collaborators, that summarizes best practices for selecting and doing stream restoration projects. COG requested CBPC feedback on the report.

Mr. Papacosma said that the premise of the report is that stream restoration, when done well, is an effective and essential tool in the stormwater management toolbox for improving water quality, while meeting regulatory requirements and stabilizing stream banks, and practitioners want it to remain viable. The goal of the report is to recommend best practices, and the target audience for the report are regional stormwater staff. There are costs of inaction for streams, in terms of tree loss and sewer pipe exposure and leaks since wastewater pipes often run along

stream channels.

A few of the report's recommendations are:

- Choose sites carefully
- Engage with stakeholders early and often
- Document baseline issues at the site
- Maintain vegetation for a period after restoration
- Document project outcomes

Member discussion:

- A member said that it would be helpful to elected officials if there were a compendium to this report that was focused on communicating stream restoration to the public.
- "Before and after" restoration photos can be very compelling.
- It is more expensive to fix sewer pipes on an emergency basis versus proactively addressing subsidence; it would be mutually beneficial if there could be permitting coordination and cost-sharing between entities.
- Likewise, it is ideal to coordinate to minimize site disturbance for stream access.
- Ideally, projects and grant cycles could be timed around lifecycles of birds, frogs. It can be challenge to plan projects around migratory fish requirements as well.
- Other considerations raised by members were coordination with schools for stream restoration projects on school properties, and coordination with COG's tree canopy workgroup about maintaining and expanding tree canopy along riparian corridors.
- There is a dynamic between trees today and trees tomorrow but if done correctly, the restoration should help build healthier forests for tomorrow.

5. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

Karl Berger provided a look ahead to 2025, the Bay TMDL "deadline": How well our region and the Bay Partnership are doing in achieving the pollution load reduction targets in the state Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). He noted that Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia are on target to meet their goals, largely helped by wastewater, but Pennsylvania will not meet their load reduction targets, so overall the Bay partnership will fall short in meeting the TMD.

Mr. Berger also provided updates about the Conowingo WIP, climate change, and the recent boost to the Bay Program funding in the federal infrastructure package.

Member discussion:

- The goal posts could potentially move, but the states and federal partners need to keep in mind the lengthy process for permit issuance, so permitted entities need sufficient lead time.
- Members discussed the major role that wastewater treatment plants have had in helping Maryland, DC, and Virginia meet their Bay TMDL nutrient reduction targets. Going forward, however, wastewater treatment plants have reached their limits of technology, so it will be extremely expensive to further reduce nutrients from wastewater unless technology changes again. Other means of reducing nutrients may be more cost effective.

6. MEMBER AND STAFF UPDATES

Members, and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG staff

- A. Member Updates, including Awards and Accomplishments
- B. Staff Updates for 2022

1. Calendar of CBPC meetings & topics
2. COG's Legislative Priorities
3. COG's Annual Meeting will be held December 8, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:00.

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates:

Amy Jackson, Vice Chair, Alexandria
Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
Craig Rice, Montgomery County
Ella Hanson, DC Council
J. Davis, City of Greenbelt
Jon Stehle, City of Fairfax
Keith Levchenko, Montgomery County
Kenny Boddye, Prince William County
Kristen Umstattd, Loudoun County
Libby Garvey, Arlington County
MC Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
Allison Deines, Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Beth Forbes, Gaithersburg
Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville
Jason Papacosma, Arlington County
Joel Caudill, WSSC Water
Jonathan Champion, DOEE
Matt Reis, DC Water
Michelle Russell, Prince George's County DEP
Maureen Holman, DC Water
Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County DEP

Shannon Moore, Frederick County DEP
Steve Shofar, Montgomery County DEP
Tiffany Wright, City of Bowie

Guests:

Amy Hoffman, VDEM
Demetra McBride
Erik Michelson, Anne Arundel County
Jennifer Starr, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay
Kate Bennett, Montgomery County
Kathie Hoekstra
Mishra Sudhanshu

COG Staff:

Christine Howard
Chuck Bean
Heidi Bonnaffon
Karl Berger
Katie Dyer
Steve Bieber