**DRAFT General updates & upcoming events**

**WATER RESOURCES GENERAL**

**Climate Change Adaptation**

* COG staff submitted comments on the Draft 2013 National Climate Assessment Water Resources chapter, noting lessons learned throughout COG’s adaptation planning effort, the need for integrated planning and regulations, and the need to align incentives to promote strategies that balance multiple objectives. The Draft National Climate Assessment is available here:
* COG staff is participating in steering committees for two regional adaptation efforts: one with federal facilities & NASA, and the other with District of Columbia Department of the Environment.
* COG staff is also participating in the WERF/NOAA/EPA water resources/extreme events national case studies. A [Fact Sheet](http://www.mwcog.org/environment/water/downloads/Nat%20Cap_Case%20Study%20Factsheet_Extreme%20Weather%20Events_2013-4-4v1.pdf) is available summarizing the National Capital Region’s Water Sector response to the Derecho and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

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**Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Workplan Water-related goals**

COGs CEEPC policy committee recently collected regional climate/energy environment information through a survey to inform its goals and targets for [2013-2016 in the CEEPC Climate Action Plan](http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/kV1bXlle20130313103018.pdf). The survey was sent to schools, water utilities, and local governments in early 2013. Five out of eight regional water agencies responded. CEEPC is expected to adopt the 2013-2016 Climate Action Plan at the May 22nd meeting.

CEEPC provides leadership to the COG Board and member jurisdictions, implementing and elaborating on [*Region Forward*](http://www.mwcog.org/planning/regionforward/) sustainability targets and [*National Capital Region Climate Change Report*](http://www.mwcog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_ID=334) goals.

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**Green Streets**

On April 8th, 2013, COG held a Green Streets workshop to bring together DOT staff and their colleagues in environmental departments to discuss 1) the environmental, economic and aesthetic value of Green Streets, 2) the policies and practices being implemented across the nation and around the region with regard to Green Streets, and 3) whether a regional model Green Streets policy would fill a gap. Over 85 people attended across multiple sectors. Presentations from EPA Region 3, Philadelphia Water Department, District of Columbia DOT, Virginia DOT, Maryland DOT, and Prince George’s, Arlington, and Fairfax County representatives are posted [here](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=103).

Key points from the workshop:

* Implementing green and complete streets is a challenge due to space limitations and other design issues, but an integrated approach to meeting stormwater requirements and sustainability, livability, flood control, neighborhood redevelopment, and other goals creates efficiencies that make it worthwhile.
* Partnerships with private property owners, federal, state, local, utilities, and others were necessary to pool funding streams and successfully implement these interdisciplinary projects.
* Agencies are identifying means of overcoming the common challenge of retrofitting older developments.
* Techniques are constantly evolving as agencies learn through experience. Learning is taking place at all levels.

Next, the Transportation Planning Board Technical Committee will hear a briefing on the Green Streets workshop on Friday, May 3rd, and decide whether to proceed with drafting a regional policy.

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**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE**

**2012 Progress Results Available**

The Bay Program recently released results from the 2012 progress scenario, which includes the most recent information on the impact of BMP implementation on loads. A state-by-state summary of 2012 Progress loads compared to each states’ load reduction targets from its 2012-13 milestones is available [here](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/19451/).

**Updates to Bay Models**

Bay Program modeling staff continues to work on the transition of nutrient processing algorithms from Agchem to P-Qual and other technical issues in the development of a Phase 6 version of the watershed model. One aspect of this effort is the potential development of new land uses. For example, the Forestry Workgroup has proposed that the current forestry land use be split into a number of different categories, including upland forest, floodplain forest and riparian forest, each with potentially different loading rates. One proposed land use of particular interest to urban areas would be urban tree canopy, which might load at a lower rate than the current urban pervious and urban impervious land uses. For more information, see the [bay program calendar](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/19345/).

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**WATER QUALITY DATA**

**Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee**

The Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee met on April 26th to address a number of topics:

1. Greg Allen (EPA) reported on the recently released technical report on toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Mr. Allen noted the widespread severity of PCBs in the Potomac as well as the broad range of fish health and reproductive issues that scientists believe are a result of toxic contaminants. RWQMSc members recognized and discussed PCB monitoring requirements but emphasized the need for regional coordination to address this complex issue. Click [here](http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/ChesBayToxics_finaldraft_11513b.pdf) to download a copy of the full report.
2. Joel Blomquist (USGS) discussed integrating monitoring programs across all levels (MS4, Regional, and Watershed) in an effort to improve monitoring coordination among agencies. The Chesapeake Nontidal Network is a collection of high-quality stations that could be an asset when treated as a network. They are coordinating implementation within the Nontidal workgroup with EPA, USGS, D.C., DE, MD, WV, VA, NY, SRBC, ICPRB. If you would like to know more about it or become a part of this network, please contact Joel Blomquist: Jdblomqu@usgs.gov
3. Staff from the [Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory](https://wqdata.owml.vt.edu) provided a demonstration of their online data portal.
4. COG staff provided an update on the plan for cooperative Potomac Research with OWML for additional water quality analysis. The analysis will develop a load profile for the Potomac using OWML’s Chain Bridge data, check the accuracy of the USGS flow-adjusted loads for the Potomac, and provide seasonal trend estimates for nutrient species important to the upper water estuary water quality. For additional information, contact Karl Berger (kberger@mwcog.org ), COG staff.

**DRINKING WATER & DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

On April 4, 2013, COG hosted a successful Drought Monitoring Workshop for area water supply and drought monitoring members in our region. Participants reviewed the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Plan and focused on the drought WATCH trigger used to declare abnormally dry conditions in the region. Participants also evaluated the various tools used to monitor drought to determine if additional tools are needed to accurately assess conditions.  A summary of outcomes and recommendations of the workshop as well as the May Water Supply and Drought Outlook will be available on [COG’s Water Supply website.](http://www.mwcog.org/environment/water/watersupply/current_conditions.asp)

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**UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS**

* **May 17th – CBPC Meeting**
* **May 22th – CEEPC Meeting**
* **May 9-10th – EPA Region 3 Extreme Events and the Water Sector Conference.**

This free, 1.5-day conference will focus on water and wastewater utility extreme weather event adaptation and climate change mitigation case studies. Funding for these types of projects will also be discussed. The conference will be held in Laurel, Maryland at the Patuxent Research Refuge’s National Wildlife Visitor Center. To register for this conference, please visit [this link](http://www.horsleywitten.com/extremeweather)**.**

* **May 6-9, 2013** – Water Environment Federation & Partner’s [**Energy & Water 2013**](http://www.wef.org/energy/)**: Integrated Solutions for Advancing Technology and Management**. Nashville, TN
* Alice Ferguson Foundation is sponsoring a [**Litter Prevention Video Contest**](http://fergusonfoundation.org/video-contest/) as part of the Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative. Submissions due by **May 15, 2013.**
* **May 15, 2013, 10:00am to 11am – Lecture:** Innovation in Urban Infrastructure: An Imperative to Achieve Sustainability. EPA 1201 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 1153 of the EPA East Building. Sponsored by EPA, WERF, WEF, USF. Contact: Tanya Spano, 202-962-3776, tspano@mwcog.org