



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) AND OTHER WATER RESOURCES UPDATES March 2019

Updates on key CBP and Water Resources activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members and the RWQM Work Program.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Bay TMDL – Phase III WIPs & Other Updates

Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia are on track to issue draft Phase III watershed implementation plans by the Bay Program's April 12, 2019, deadline. That will launch a public comment process on the plans that is expected to last two months, until June 7, 2019.

Individual state contacts:

Maryland – Kathy Stecker, kathy.stecker@maryland.gov

Virginia – James Davis-Martin, james.davis-martin@deq.virginia.gov

District of Columbia – Katherine Antos, Katherine.antos@dc.gov

Conowingo Dam

This article provides a good synopsis of how things stand for addressing the pollution loads coming over the Conowingo: <https://www.marylandmatters.org/blog/state-officials-tout-holistic-approach-to-combat-conowingo-dam-pollution/>

Recommended Chesapeake Bay Reading

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has put out a recommended reading list of books about the Bay. <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/2019/03/a-reading-list-of-books-about-the-chesapeake-bay-watershed/>

Federal Updates

Farm Bill Provides Some Good News for Water

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/helping_farmers_help_our_waterways

CBPC Recommends VA Del. Bulova for Appointment to EPA's Stormwater Infrastructure Funding Task Force

Per decision by the CBPC Legislative Work Group, on February 28th the CBPC sent a letter supporting Virginia's stormwater advocate, Del. Bulova, to be appointed to the new EPA stormwater task force, per the Bay Commission's nomination.

Chesapeake Bay Program Could Get Funding Boost Via New Bill

The Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, a joint effort of Virginia and Maryland representatives would increase funding to the Bay Program in 2020 from the current \$73 M to \$90 M and seek funding for subsequent years. The CBPC will be writing a letter of support for this bill. More details on the Reauthorization Act can be found here: <https://www.dailypress.com/news/science/dp-nws-chesapeake-bay-program-funding-20190306-story.html>

Legislative Updates- Virginia

\$10 M SLAF Appropriation in Virginia Budget

The VA House and Senate compromised on a \$10 M appropriation for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.

Virginia Passes Bills to Close Coal Combustion Residuals Units.

[HB 2786](#)/[SB 1355](#) passed in the House and Senate and is awaiting the governor's signature.

Legislative Updates-Maryland

CBPC Wrote a Letter Supporting Maryland's Styrofoam Ban

Reinforcing the Styrofoam prohibitions that many COG jurisdictions have adopted, the CBPC wrote a letter of support for the MD House and Senate Bills banning Styrofoam. [SB 285](#) has passed in the Senate.

CBPC Will be Writing a Letter Supporting an Amendment Coal Tar Sealant Ban

For MD [HB 411](#), the CBPC will be writing a letter asking for language supportive of local prohibitions be added to the bill.

OTHER WATER RESOURCES

Water Quality

Regional Salts and Water Quality Workshop

COG will be hosting a Regional Workshop on Salts and Water Quality on Monday, April 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The objectives of this workshop are two-fold:

1. Discuss salt use tracking on roads and large lots and identify tracking metrics and gaps.
2. Discuss regional stream and drinking water monitoring and identify needs and gaps.

To register and learn more: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regional-workshop-on-salt-and-water-quality-tickets-57193962682>

Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup

The Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup heard presentations on the latest sea level rise projections developed by the University of Maryland and the Virginia Institute for Marine Sciences at its February meeting. Presentations [are available here](#). The bay is subject to increasing temperatures and storm events as well as sea level rise driven by climate changes. Dr. Don Boesch of UMD advised that defending bay resilience in the long term must involve reducing greenhouse gases in the short term, in addition to traditional restoration activities. The analyses were informed by the recently published US [National Climate Assessment](#) and international climate assessment work underway (United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

US Army Corps Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

COG has been working diligently with partners in Virginia to continue to pull together funding to launch the proposed Coastal Storm Flood Risk Management Study. Now northern-Virginia focused, the assessment will identify gaps in tidal flood risk protection and develop preliminary designs for a system of green and gray



infrastructure projects to reduce hurricane/coastal storm damages to communities and the environment over the next 50 years. 50% of this Hurricane Sandy follow-on study will be federally funded. Contact: Steve Walz swalz@mwkog.org.

Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Planning Tools and Information Available

NOAA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences Assessment (MARISA) team developed a new climate data portal that summarizes recent extreme weather events and includes mapped historic and future precipitation and temperature data across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The team, which includes researchers from Johns Hopkins, Penn State, and Cornell, wants your feedback so that the tools can be optimized for use by water sector staff charged with planning for the future. A survey is embedded in the climate summary. See <https://www.midatlanticrisa.org/> . Contact: Amanda Campbell acampbell@mwkog.org.

Call for Climate & Energy Leadership Awards Applications & Nominations

Is your government agency, non-governmental organization or school taking an innovative approach to sustainability engagement? COG is looking for nominations and candidates for the 2019 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards. Winners will be recognized in front of local, regional and national officials and be showcased as a leading best practice in metropolitan Washington. The application period will be open April 22 to June 28, 2019. Visit www.mwkog.org/climateawards for more information. Please share with your networks. Contact: Amanda Campbell acampbell@mwkog.org.

Additional Climate & Energy announcements

- The next Northern Virginia Regional Commission Climate Resiliency Team workshop will focus on infrastructure risk; held March 19, 1-4pm at NVRC offices. Contact: Corey Miles cmiles@novaregion.org.
- Dan Sze, Falls Church councilmember and new Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) chair posted [this blog](#) in February calling for bold action on climate change. CEEPC will be forming a tree canopy sub-committee – stay tuned. Contact: Maia Davis mdavis@mwkog.org.
- To receive a weekly Climate & Energy News clips compilation, contact Tim Masters tmasters@mwkog.org to be added to email distribution list.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next WRTC meeting– May 10, 2019

Next CBPC meeting - May 17, 2019

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