

WATER PROGRAMS OVERVIEW, WITH FOCUS ON CHES BAY POLICY COMMITTEE

CBPC Orientation

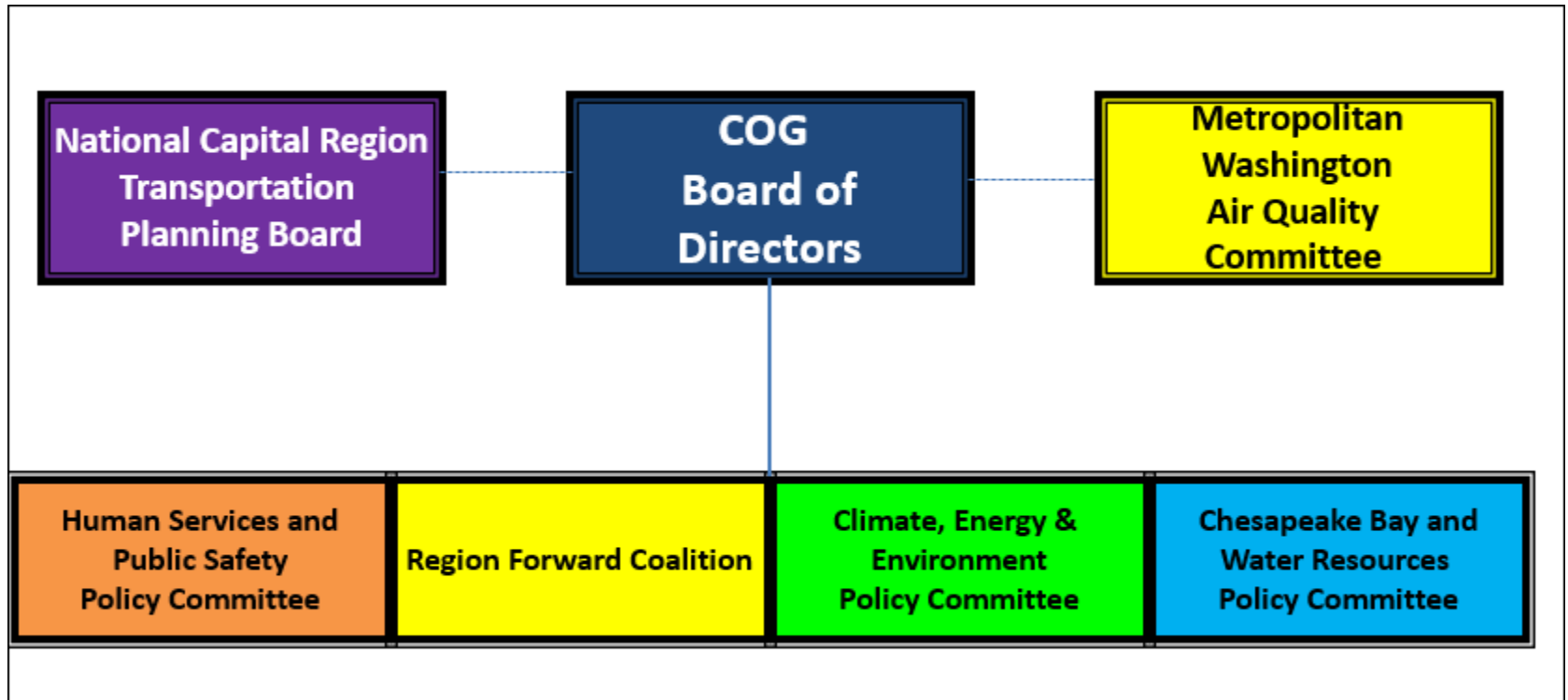
Heidi Bonnaffon

March 2020

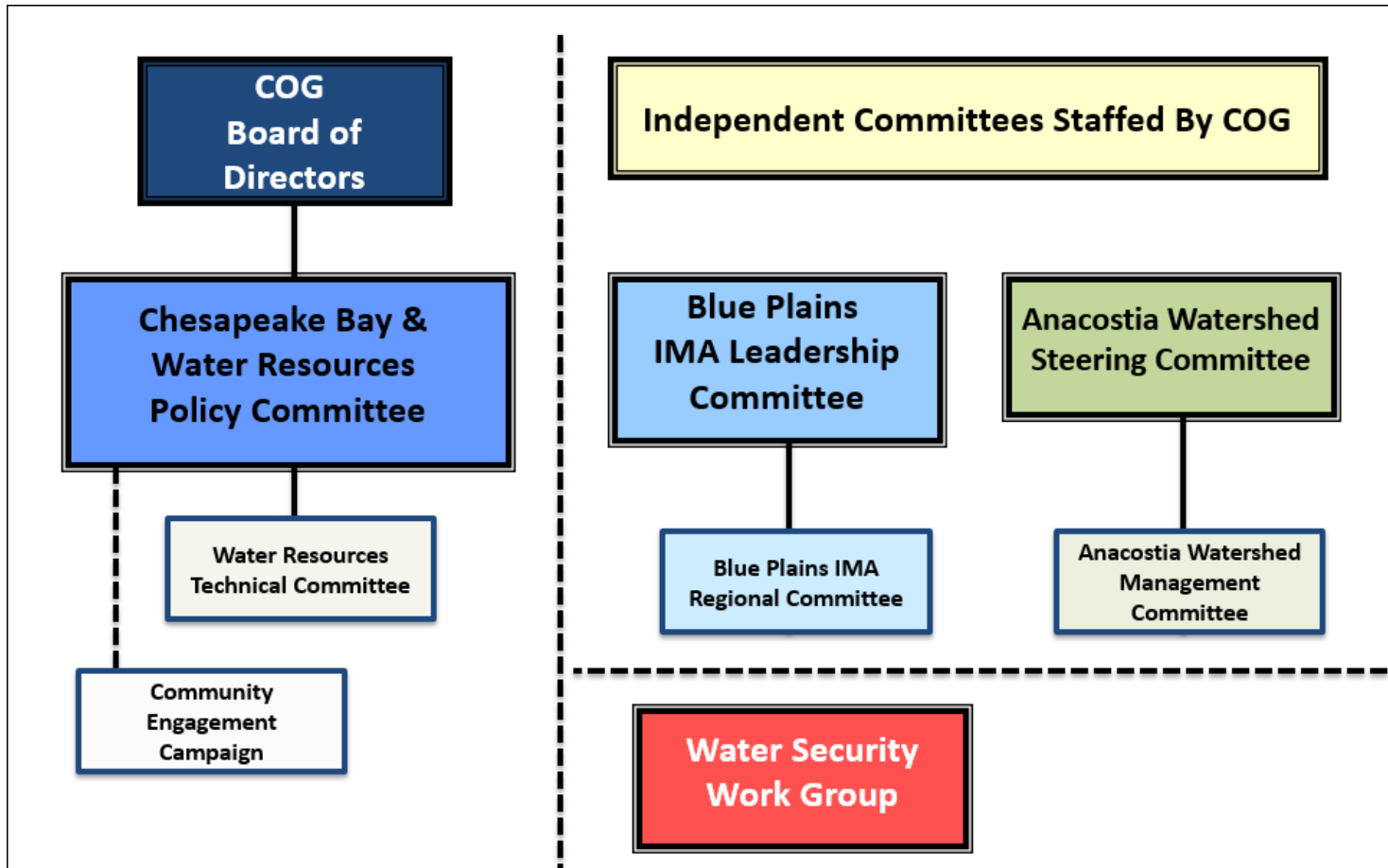


Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

COG Organization



COG Water Committee Structure



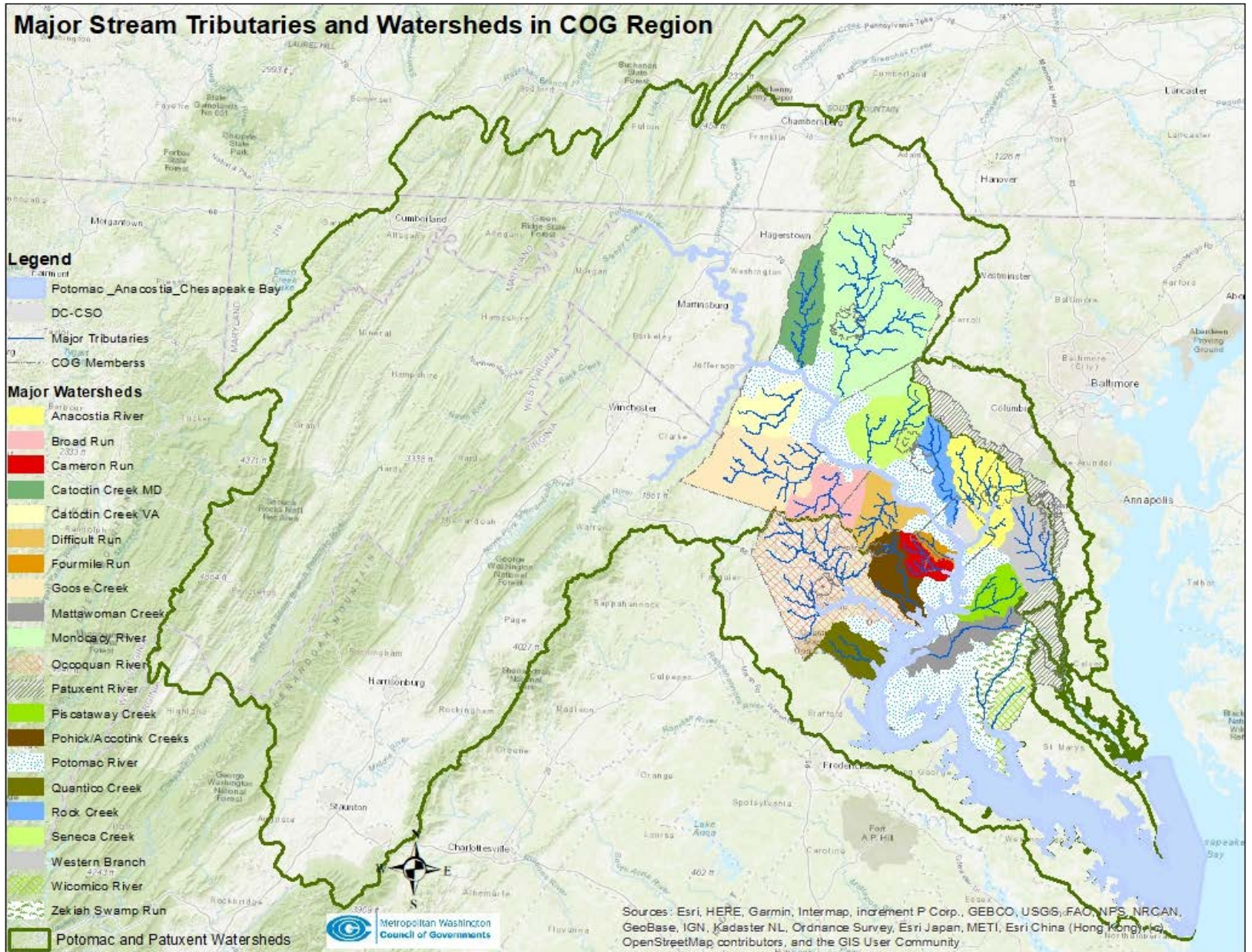
Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee = CBPC

Water Resources Technical Committee = WRTC

Community Engagement Campaign = CEC



Major Stream Tributaries and Watersheds in COG Region



Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee Overview

Mission:

- Represents the region's interests within the Chesapeake Bay Program and provides a voice for local perspectives
- Conducts outreach about Bay restoration progress and water quality benefits
- Takes water policy positions and actions and makes recommendations to the COG Board
- Evaluates water quality, wastewater, stormwater, drinking water, and climate resiliency issues, and their evolving science and policy

Membership:

- Members include elected officials and senior management from regional governments and water and wastewater utilities



Chesapeake Bay

- Bay TMDL
- Partnership – EPA & states, with local participation
- COG's role in Chesapeake Bay Program
- Watershed Implementation Plans & looking beyond 2025



Wastewater

- Major investments in wastewater treatment plant upgrades have significantly improved Potomac River water quality
- State-of-the-Art – All wastewater treatment plants in the region already have or are upgrading nitrogen removal capacity
- Upgrades will ensure the capacity to treat waste from future population growth in the region
- Challenge facing wastewater:
Replacing an aging workforce
with skilled workforce



Blue Plains WWTP



Stormwater

- Local challenges & innovations in meeting stringent MS4 permits
- Need for more research about best management practices (BMPs) and climate resilient practices
- How to build/fund new infrastructure



CBPC tour of Montgomery County's stormwater practices.

Drinking Water

- Source water protection & public health (e.g., coal tar sealants and road salts)
- Water supply: Drought management, emergency response & resiliency planning
- Water security



Great Falls. The Potomac River is the area's source of drinking water.



CBPC Advocacy

- Legislative and Advocacy Workgroup advises on state legislation/promotes local policies that support water (e.g., VA Study of Tree Canopy; VA Local Option to develop Tax on Single-use Bags)
- Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (2nd week of June)
- Ag Task Force



Dan Sze's *Washington Post* Opinion Piece



City of Fairfax Bay Awareness Week Proclamation.

COG DEP Water Staff

- Steve Walz, Department of Environmental Programs Director
- Steve Bieber, Acting Water Resources Program Director
 - Lead for Water Security Work Group, water supply, oversees water programs and staff

Water Staff:

- Aubin Maynard-Anacostia program, field crew
Christine Howard-WRTC committee; monitoring
- Heidi Bonnaffon-CBPC and CEC committee leads;
stormwater
- Lisa Ragain-drinking water; monitoring; communications
- Lisa Reynolds-wastewater; Blue Plains Committees
- Karl Berger-stormwater lead; biosolids
- Mukhtar Ibrahim-Bay Program modeling, GIS
- Phong Trieu-Anacostia program lead, manages field crew
- Wyetha Lipford-Administrative Coordinator



Links for more information and resources

- mwcog.org/chesbay
- chesapeakebay.net
- <https://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/maps/geography/major-tributaries-of-the-chesapeake-bay.html>
- <https://www.mwcog.org/committees/water-resources-technical-committee/>



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