



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES January 2022

### Chesapeake Bay Program

#### **Chesapeake Bay Foundation Report Says Bay Cleanup Progress is at Risk**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's annual evaluation of overall progress toward the goals of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, its "2021 state of the Blueprint" - <https://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/chesapeake-clean-water-blueprint/2021-state-of-the-blueprint/> -- concludes that "If progress continues at its current pace, the Bay partnership will not achieve the Blueprint by 2025." CBF interprets the same attainment measure as that used by the Bay Program, which is the Phase 6 watershed model (also known as CAST) and looked at the amount of progress recorded through 2020, which is the most recent data available.

CBF concludes that both Maryland and Virginia are likely to reach their TMDL reduction targets by the TMDL's 2025 deadline, primarily because of greater-than-anticipated reductions in wastewater nutrients. However, it also concludes that Pennsylvania, which faces the largest gap between current progress and final attainment goals, is unlikely to do so, primarily because most of its progress must come from the agricultural sector.

The Bay Program is currently revising its 2021 model estimates and COG staff plans to provide an update on progress toward the Bay TMDL goals later this year.

#### **The CBPC Paper Competition is Kicking Off**

The CBPC Paper Competition website features a video by Councilmember Stehle and social media graphics are posted on the CBPC meeting webpage.

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/potomac-and-local-water-resources/cbpc-academic-paper-competition/>

#### **Here is the *Bay Journal's* Legislative Preview**

[https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate\\_change/ahead-on-state-agendas-climate-environmental-justice-chesapeake-cleanup-funds/article\\_02a6b3de-72ff-11ec-b8a3-c35997a36cbd.html](https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate_change/ahead-on-state-agendas-climate-environmental-justice-chesapeake-cleanup-funds/article_02a6b3de-72ff-11ec-b8a3-c35997a36cbd.html)

#### **Chesapeake Bay Heat Waves are Becoming more Frequent**

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/01/14/chesapeake-bay-could-suffer-extreme-heat-for-half-the-year-by-2100/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=447069d6-bb8b-46d3-9b5c-c48ccdb2261f>

#### **Microplastics Study**

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science is studying the fate and transport of plastics in the Choptank River watershed, to shed a light on microplastics.

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/umces-bay-plastic-pollution-study-to-use-drones-infrared/>

## **Local Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater**

### **COG's Updated Potomac Watershed Map**

The COG Map of the Watersheds of the Potomac has been updated to include more detailed subwatersheds and impervious area. The map is good way to connect people to their closest watershed where they work and play.

<https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/major-watersheds-of-the-region/>

### **New Stormwater Permits Issued**

The Maryland Department of the Environment issued new 5-year MS4 stormwater permits for four Phase I jurisdictions in the state, including Montgomery County, in November 2021. (See [NPDES MS4 Permits \(maryland.gov\)](#)) A final permit for Prince George's County is expected to be issued soon. New permits for the other 5 Maryland Phase I jurisdictions, including Frederick and Charles counties, are currently in negotiation.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a new Phase I MS4 permit to Arlington County in July 2021. New Phase 1 permits for Fairfax and Prince William counties are expected to be issued later in 2022. New permit negotiations for Virginia's general permit for Phase II jurisdictions are also underway.

### **Winter Salts Updates**

COG's Community Engagement Campaign is messaging about effective winter salting each Wednesday through the end of winter (March 20, 2022). This will be a seasonal effort to message about the impact of winter salt use on the region's source water supply, using the slogan *Be winter salt smart! #wintersaltsmart*. Below is COG's webpage about winter salts, and a Dropbox folder of graphics for you to join this regional messaging effort.

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/outreach-and-education/winter-salt-smart/>

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/epc5djter87lhlf/AABtBxFGZyP4QhvQKGiz\\_Va?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/epc5djter87lhlf/AABtBxFGZyP4QhvQKGiz_Va?dl=0)

ICPRB is holding a webinar, immediately after the CBPC meeting, entitled [Winter Salt Management in the Potomac Basin](#), 1/21/2022, 12:00-1:00.

*Washington Post* article about the impacts of salts on drinking water:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/road-salt-environment-lakes/2021/12/31/2c7a333a-6651-11ec-96f3-b8d3be309b6e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/road-salt-environment-lakes/2021/12/31/2c7a333a-6651-11ec-96f3-b8d3be309b6e_story.html)

### **Wastewater Samples are Revealing Corona Virus Rate of Infections**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/rcna10451>

## **The Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration is Holding a Chesapeake Bay Webinar Series**

The Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration will hold monthly webinars for Planners exploring topics about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from resiliency and equity to smart growth. To learn more about the topics and to register:

<https://virginia.planning.org/conferences-and-meetings/mid-atlantic-planning/>

**COG's Report *Recommended Stream Restoration Best Practices* is published and available on the COG website.**

This 32-page report details a set of practices for how local governments can best implement stream restoration projects, focusing on planning/design, siting and final project selection, public engagement, and construction/assessment/maintenance. It was reviewed by the CBPC in November.

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2022/01/06/recommended-stream-restoration-best-practices/>

## **Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought**

Abnormally dry conditions exist in the COG region, according to the latest [U.S. Drought monitor](#) released on January 13, 2022,

## **Food and Agriculture**

The FARM Committee will meet on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Later in the month (February 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>) COG will hold a regional call on farmers market and healthy food access. Please contact [ismith@mwcog.org](mailto:ismith@mwcog.org) for more information.

Several upcoming events to share featuring experts from the Mid-Atlantic:

Registration is open until January 20<sup>th</sup> for *Building Beyond Nice Racism: Catalyzing Institutional Change in the Food System*, a virtual learning series, led by the Racial Equity in Agriculture Lab (R.E.A.L.) and hosted by the Virginia Tech's Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation. <https://foodsystems.centers.vt.edu/events-and-speakers/UpcomingEvents/REALFellowship.html>

January 26<sup>th</sup>: Webinar entitled *A Regional Imperative: Making the Case for Regional Food Systems*. Link: <https://communityfoodfunders.org/2022/01/a-regional-imperative/>

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

February 11 FARM Meeting  
March 11 WRTC Meeting  
March 18 CBPC Meeting

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