



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) AND OTHER WATER RESOURCES UPDATES May 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

All the Bay partners have issued draft Phase III watershed implementation plans. Details on those relevant to COG can be found here:

- Maryland (<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/Phase3WIP.aspx>)
- Virginia (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/PhaseIIIWatershedImplementationPlanning.aspx>)
- The District of Columbia (<https://doee.dc.gov/service/watershed-implementation-plans-chesapeake-bay>) Note: COG does not intend to comment on the District's draft WIP.
- The comment deadline is on June 7, 2019

Two Bay Journal Articles Highlight the Draft WIPs:

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/highlights_of_the_chesapeake_bay_watershed_implementation_plans

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/new_state_plans_reveal_tough_path_to_2025_cleanup_goals?utm_source=Bay+Journal+Weekly+News&utm_campaign=7c6ff47fb1-Newsltr_2019_May6&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bde9036159-7c6ff47fb1-69487765

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (June 1-9)

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is coming up June 1-9. Any events that you or your partners are hosting can be submitted via the form below until June 1 for inclusion in the Events Calendar:

<https://forms.gle/pvGPg9zp3fxVB65BA>

This year's Awareness Week theme is "all hands", #AllHands, meaning all people and organizations are working together to help the Bay. There will be a specific focus on each day of Bay Awareness Week:

- June 5th will feature local governments/city government, e.g., schools, fire/police/first responders
- June 6th will feature Stormwater, wastewater, utilities

If you have content to share (videos, infographics, and photos) with COG and the Bay Program, featuring our local government water quality programs and leaders and utilities in action, please send to Heidi Bonnaffon, hbonnaffon@mwcog.org, by **NLT Wednesday, May 22**.

Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs at Their Highest Level in Seven Years

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/chesapeake-bay-blue-crabs-are-at-their-most-plentiful-in-seven-years-scientists-say/2019/05/06/9c7ab8c4-7024-11e9-9f06-5fc2ee80027a_story.html

Conowingo Dam

There is a new court filing that might invalidate MDE's ability to issue a 401-water quality certification.

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2019/04/04/conowingo-legal-battle-sides-looking-alternative-fight-drags/3309554002/>

State Legislative Updates

Maryland Bans Polystyrene Food Containers

The CBPC supported the Maryland General Assembly bills banning Styrofoam, and they passed into law this session. Maryland joins DC in banning Polystyrene, and it will go into effect July 2020. The Baltimore Sun reports about it here:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-foam-ban-passes-20190403-story.html>

OTHER WATER RESOURCES

Water Quality

COG's Potomac Report in the Media

CBPC Vice Chair Stehle presented the Potomac Water Quality Report to the COG Board on May 8th and it was well-received. WAMU interviewed staff about the status of Potomac water quality and WTOP issued this piece on the Report: [Potomac's water quality keeps improving, but not enough](#)

Presentations from COG's Regional Salts and Water Quality Workshop

COG held a workshop on April 1, covering two tracks: Monitoring water quality for winter salts impacts, and transportation's Best Management Practices for salt application and tracking. Access workshop presentations here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/04/01/regional-workshop-on-salts-and-water-quality-water-quality/>

Bay Journal Article: Localities Challenged to Meet Stormwater Requirements

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/localities_challenged_to_meet_stormwater_reductions

WSSC's General Manager Reid Facilitated Senate Session on the Need for Water Infrastructure Investment

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) held its Annual Water Policy Fly-in April 2-4 in DC. Carla Reid, WSSC General Manager, emceed a session featuring Senator Cardin that advocated for Congress to continue to support water infrastructure investment, research and development. This was apropos timing given National Infrastructure Week is May 13-20.

Drinking Water

Regional Drought and Water Supply Status – May 2019

Summary of Conditions (as of May 2, 2019)

- The COG region is currently free of drought.
- Potomac streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are well above normal level, and local reservoirs are full.
- There is a [below normal probability of releases](#) from the metropolitan Washington area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2019 summer and fall seasons.
- In [Maryland \(MDE\)](#) and [Virginia \(VADEQ\)](#) all COG regions are under a normal status.
- For additional information regarding regional water supply and drought conditions, please visit COG's website at: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

Tree Canopy

Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs: Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the UMD Environmental Finance Center have released a guidebook on financing tree canopy programs. This guide is the result of collaboration with COG, USDA Forest Service, and the Bay Program's Forestry Workgroup.

[Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs: Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

Maryland Department of Planning Launches a Forest Planning Website

The Forest Resource Planning webpage provides local jurisdictions with policies and standards to protect trees and forests as lands are developed.

<https://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org/2019/04/18/have-questions-about-forests-or-trees-get-answers-at-mdps-new-forest-planning-resource-webpage/>

<https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/envr-planning/forest/forest-resources.aspx>

Community Engagement Campaign

Water & Wastewater Public Survey-please share

COG's Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) committee—comprised of PIOs from regional jurisdictions and utilities—has launched a digital survey of consumer knowledge, behaviors and attitudes about their drinking water and wastewater service. The survey is open May 1-17. Please widely share this survey link on your websites and social media to help COG get a good response rate:

<https://forms.gle/TgHacz4wnC2C9j9y7>

Climate Change, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

COG is pleased to report that the Commonwealth of Virginia has identified and authorized use of funds to help cover the first two-thirds of the 50/50 cost-shared Northern Virginia Coastal study. COG is the non-federal sponsor for the study and is coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District and local cost-share partners (Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority) to re-launch the study. The 3-year, \$3.4M effort will evaluate the current and future performance of flood protection infrastructure on the northern Virginia side of the Potomac given increasing downpours, sea level rise, and storm surge due to climate change. After this 'feasibility study' is completed the region will be eligible for 65/35 federal cost-share funding for construction of identified coastal flood protection systems. For more information, contact Steve Walz swalz@mwkog.org or Amanda Campbell acampbell@mwkog.org.

Climate and Energy Leadership Awards

The 2019 application period for COG's Climate and Energy Leadership Awards is now open through June 28, 2019. The Awards recognize organizations that develop climate stewardship projects and programs that engage and serve the region's underserved communities. COG will provide awards to one organization (or partnership) in each of the following categories: Government Agency, Non-Governmental Organization, and Educational Institution. Applications can be submitted at www.mwkog.org/climateawards or emailed to mdavis@mwkog.org.

Tree Canopy Work Group

Last year, the Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup developed a Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy document in cooperation with local forestry staff in the region. COG has begun to form a subcommittee to help implement the reports' recommendations, which are designed to support Region Forward Sustainability Goals for regional forest cover management, state and local initiatives to continue to improve air quality, and the Chesapeake Bay Program's targets and indicators to protect water quality and support a healthy regional green infrastructure. COG staff have identified key regional participants for the subcommittee's composition. Invitations have been sent and replies are being processed. Prospective meeting dates are proposed for June. For more information, contact Brian LeCouteur at

blecouteur@mwkog.org.



Utility Energy Registry

COG is a partner on the U.S. Department of Energy-funded Utility Energy Registry (UER) pilot project to develop a publicly accessible online platform of community-scale utility energy data. The UER will provide communities with essential information to support clean energy planning, implementation, and assessment of locally-defined clean energy initiatives. COG partnered with University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, District Department of Energy and Environment, Maryland Energy Administration, Climate Action Associates, NYSERDA, Great Plains Institute, and State of Minnesota to pilot state-level utility data protocols and platform development. COG has received utility energy data in the UER template and is beginning the process of organizing and analyzing this data for local government member use. For more information, contact Maia Davis at mdavis@mwccog.org.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next CBPC meeting - May 17, 2019

CEEPC Meeting - May 22, 2019

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