

CHESAPEAKE BAY and WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE WATER QUALITY FORUM HIGHLIGHTS November 20, 2015

BACKGROUND

- This was the CBPC's 5th Annual Water Quality Forum. It represents an ongoing history of dialogue with EPA & states.
- The CBPC addresses a broad range of water issues, including:
 - Water-related Legislation
 - Source Water Protection
 - Water Quality and Quantity
 - Climate Resiliency
 - Water Workforce Development
- Emphasis was on holistic approaches to address water issues
 - Local waters to Rivers to Bay
 - 'One water' concept (e.g., wastewater, stormwater, drinking water, source water; and water quality protection from the scale of local streams to the Bay)
 - Links to other water-related issues (e.g., water-energy, & water-climate, water-security/resiliency, etc.)
 - This year drinking water and source water protection were explicitly addressed to provide a more holistic discussion of water resource issues.

AGREED UPON KEY THEMES

- Public education and engagement is important to water quality, and we need to do more—both via partnership building and making our work tangible/relevant for the public.
 - Economic developing is another frame for outreach
- There is mutual recognition of several uncertainties impacting Bay water quality, such as lag time, and climate change.
- All agreed that sharing data and tools with local governments is important.
- Taking local actions are critical steps in overall water quality efforts (example: PAH ban in the Anacostia watershed).

COG ACTION ITEMS

- Communication planning and public education ranked highly as Forum action items.
- COG staff will work with EPA and state staff to identify and pursue development of specific actions over the coming year to address issues, including but not limited to:
 - Security, water treatment, source water protection, MS4s/stormwater retention, examples of wildlife benefits (ex: Eagles on the Anacostia), and Conowingo Dam could all be parts of future messaging.
 - Shared infographics federal, state and local.
 - Economic benefits messaging:
 - Stormwater investment equals "Avoided costs" of flooding, dredging, etc.

- Stormwater investment in green infrastructure makes for positive neighborhoods. Examples include Anacostia's waterfront redevelopment (Yard Park), and public-private ventures
 - There should be more use of the Value of Water Coalition (NACWA, AWWA, etc.) campaign messages.
- Data management tools for local use are also very helpful: Whether to guide permitting decisions, or as a library of possible chemical contaminants in a future contamination scenario, tools under development are critical to local governments.
- CBPC members noted interest areas for 2016 CBPC Meeting Topics (see below).

KEY POINTS FROM EPA AND STATE SPEAKERS, AND COG MEMBERS:

RICH ROGERS, EPA REGION III ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

- Actions on the local level will improve the Bay. He gave examples of how upstream BMPs are improving water quality for downstream utilities in Delaware.
- He shared his work with utilities in the COG region on harmful algal blooms and other source water protection measures, as well as water security efforts.

NICHOLAS DIPASQUALE, CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- The CBP is preparing for the 2017 mid-point assessment, including research how climate change will impact Bay water quality (dissolved oxygen, etc.).
- The CBP is updating the Water Quality Model, including the land use classifications using high resolution land cover data. The CBPC will make this data available to local governments.
- In preparation for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), Frank Dukes, Institute for Environmental Negotiations, has been holding focus sessions with local stakeholders.
 - In addition, there is a new protocol in development for Federal facilities to set their own pollution reduction targets, and local governments may be able to take credit for federal facilities located in their jurisdiction
- The CBP is working on a technical memoranda for nutrient trading equity/equivalency between Bay states.
- Provided an update on the Bay Agreement:
 - Work plans are in development for the Management Strategies.
 - There is a local leadership workgroup. Andrew Fellows is the Chair.

BENJAMIN GRUMBLES, SECRETARY, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Maryland is using broadened approaches to meet the Bay TMDL goals including making nutrient trading a priority.
- Maryland is also working to strengthen its MS4 permitting, and to prioritize MDE actions based upon science.
- The new state phosphorus management plan should help Maryland to manage its 300 million chickens.

- Maryland will be restructuring to add energy to its Department of the Environment, which will further enhance the water-energy nexus.
- Maryland DNR manages the Conowingo Dam, which will have implications for the Bay TMDL.

RUSS BAXTER, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, VIRGINIA

- Virginia has made significant progress in wastewater ENR upgrades. Via a 50/50 state/local match the wastewater sector is \$70 M away from completing its \$1.5 B investment in upgrades.
- Agriculture, and stormwater sectors are following suit, ag being more cost-effective, and stormwater being capital intensive.
- Virginia clearly recognizes how the sectors' progress is interrelated.

TOMMY WELLS, DIRECTOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPT. OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- DC has an Omnibus Fisheries Bill which includes a management plan for microbeads and herring.
- DC has a project underway to examine Anacostia sediments.
- Shared success stories of the shad returning to the Potomac watershed and the nesting Eagles to the Anacostia River. COG is helping to monitor shad.
- DC has an ongoing trash survey.

COG MEMBERS:

LISA FELDT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIRECTOR

- Costs of managing stormwater has increased.
Capital Improvement Projects Budget
Prior to 2015, the Capital Improvement spending was \$78 M
From 2015 to 2020 the CIP budget is \$363 M
- Other challenges include:
 - Permit streamlining to make the stormwater permitting process faster and smoother
 - Need for more community engagement, so that the public understands more stormwater and the value of stormwater management.
 - There is a lag time for stormwater water quality progress to show in the Bay (especially urban reductions in pounds of Nitrogen)
 - The fast schedule/pace of inspections: It's a challenge to meet the stormwater facilities triennial inspections schedule

MARK PETERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS, LOUDOUN WATER

- Loudoun Water is located in a portion of the COG region experiencing rapid population growth. This is both a challenge (keeping up with demand), and an opportunity (more modern infrastructure than other parts of the region, and steady revenue).
- Loudoun Water is focused on its successful partnerships:
 - With Loudoun County on land use
 - With the public/private investor on repurposing a quarry for raw water storage
 - With customers: Messaging about sustainability and conservation, and data centers are able to use Loudoun Water's reclaimed water.

GREG PRELEWICZ, MANAGER OF PLANNING, FAIRFAX WATER

- Fairfax Water is involved in several regional work groups, including COG's Water Security Work Group and the Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership, where several source water protection tools development and studies are underway.
- The Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership is developing a contamination events database. It is also conducting a forest protection (riparian buffer) study to maximize best practices, as well as a road salts study to better understand the impacts of sodium chloride on local stream health and on drinking water systems.
- The Water Security Workgroup is studying regional water supply redundancy (how to interconnect water utilities).

COMMITTEE INTEREST AREAS

Proposed CBPC Topics for 2016:

- Legislative tracking/comments:
 - HR 1321 (Microbeads-Free Waters Act of 2015.) Microbeads was raised several times from CBPC members, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has sent a letter supporting an amended HR 1321 that bans all microbeads from cosmetics and toothpastes. COG will be tracking the fate of this national bill.
 - Federal legislation proposing to remove relicensing control from state authority, (MD DNR currently has relicensing authority for the Conowingo Dam).
- Water security and source water protection will be further discussed, as two sub-themes of drinking water
 - Road salts was raised as an issue of interest.
- Chesapeake Bay Program technical updates: Including Bay Water Quality Model changes due to high resolution land cover data; Phase III WIPs; and setting waste load targets for federal facilities.
- Financing/economics of water programs (CBP's Executive Council will host a financing symposium on April 15 and 16).
- Develop a CBPC water education platform and factsheets

ATTENDANCE:

Members and alternates:

Andy Fellows, College Park

Bruce Williams, Takoma Park

Craig Rice, Chair, Montgomery County

Dan Sze, Falls Church

Hamid Karimi, DOEE

J Davis, Greenbelt

JL Hearn, WSSC

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises

Libby Garvey, Arlington County

Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County

Mark Peterson, Loudoun Water

Mark Charles, Rockville

Maureen Holman, DC Water

Penelope Gross, Fairfax County

Shannon Moore, Frederick County

Tim Lovain, Alexandria

Guests:

Allan Brockenbrough, VA DEQ

Benjamin Grumbles, MDE

David Goshorn, MD DNR

Darold Burdick, Fairfax County

Fred Rose, Fairfax County

Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Jutta Schneider, VA DEQ

Lee Curry, MDE

Marel King, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Melanie Mason, Alexandria Renew

Nicholas DiPasquale, Chesapeake Bay
Program Office

Rick Rogers, US EPA Region III

Russ Baxter, Governor McAuliffe's Office

Tera Fong, DC Water

COG Staff:

Christine Howard, DEP

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Steve Walz, DEP Director

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