

COG's Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM) Annual Work Program Elements, Priorities & Levels of Effort – FY 2016

(Priorities endorsed by CBPC 11/21/14, & IMA-RC 12/15/14; updated to reflect COG Board budget/program assumptions, 3/2/15)

Key features of proposed FY 2016 RWQM Work Program:

Overall Focus & Priorities

- Same drivers, challenges, areas of focus and level of effort as FY 2015
- Refinements to reflect FY 2016 priorities are noted in [blue text](#)
- But now closer to Bay 2017 Re-evaluation and 2017 mid-point goals, and new water quality/environmental challenges and permit/regulatory issues are emerging

Overall Water Quality Goal & Key Drivers

Goal – Continue to protect water quality & public health in a sustainable & affordable manner for the region.

Drivers:

- o Permits and other regulatory requirements
- o Chesapeake Bay restoration requirements ([i.e., preparations for 2017 Mid-term Evaluation](#))
- o Local water quality and restoration goals
- o Other environmental objectives
- o [Climate change impacts and sustainability/resiliency needs](#)

Challenges & Priorities

COG's local governments and water utilities will need to address the following challenges:

- o Maintain existing/aging infrastructure
- o Build/implement new technologies & systems
- o Meet existing/new regulatory requirements, schedules & deadlines
- o Address extreme weather/climate change impacts
- o Respond to emerging issues & meet multiple environmental objectives
- o Prepare to sustain efforts in face of continued growth and TMDL limitations
- o Address overall fund needs in an affordable & sustainable manner
- o Address work force issues

The priority associated with each of these challenges will of course vary, and will depend upon the unique features & circumstances of each jurisdiction and water utility.

New/Changing Focus & Priorities in FY 2016

- Implications of the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement
 - o [Renewed concerns regarding two new goals and the associated management strategies to address 1\) Climate Change and 2\) Toxic Contaminants](#); in particular how these pollutants/TMDLs may be dealt with in a regulatory context and implications for wastewater & stormwater permits
 - o [Questions about the level of progress that has/will have been made toward meeting the 2017, and ultimately 2025 nutrient/sediment reduction implementation goals; and the level of implementation required in the next \(Phase III\) Watershed Implementation Plans \(WIPs\)](#)
 - o Cross-media environmental issues are becoming more common and quantification of local data is being emphasized (e.g., landuse/planning assumptions, modeling of septic/on-site systems & biosolids land application, water/energy nexus, water sector jobs, etc.)
- Beginning to know more about climate change/adaptation planning/implications in region – but not clear yet re: Bay/local water quality implications, [or impacts on BMP effectiveness](#)
- Wastewater plant upgrades are/coming on-line (challenges of maintaining cap loads in face of continued growth projected for several decades – e.g., [new technologies, reuse, water-energy nexus, trading, climate change impacts/sustainable practices](#)) and related biosolids management challenges
- Stormwater permits evolving/being actively challenged (i.e., legal and programmatic issues) [and many are up for renewal](#)
- Blue Plains' permit up for renewal
- Regional emphasis on all forms of infrastructure (i.e., [continuation of COG Board's 2014 work program priority](#))

- Increased interest in broader/integrated outreach efforts re: water sector's accomplishments, issues, challenges, funding needs and opportunities
- Recognition of funding and financing challenges and need for innovative financing, affordability and regulatory flexibility

RWQM Work Program – FY 2016

Same general elements/overall organization proposed as in FY 2015

RWQM Program Areas – FY 2016	
I. Policy, Program Development & Outreach <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports policy development, advocacy, CBPC support, program management, and outreach.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Water Resources Policy and Advocacy B. COG Board & Member Support C. Work Program Management D. Water Resources Outreach 	
II. Water Quality Technical Analysis <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports technical work for the WRTC on a wide range of water quality/water resource issues.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Potomac Trends and Reports B. State/Federal Regulatory Analysis C. Emerging Issues (i.e., Toxics, Climate Change, Reuse, Sustainability, Water-Energy Nexus) 	
III. Watershed Management Services <i>[As before, work is fully funded by Regional Environmental Fund & COG Membership fees, and grants]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address environmental initiatives with water quality implications/impacts and integrate efforts with other regional initiatives.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Urban Stormwater Regulatory Analysis and Information Exchange B. Watershed Management and Forestry Projects C. Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Agriculture Projects 	
IV. Water Supply & Security <i>[As before, security work is funded separately]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address water supply and security issues with water quality/water resource implications and impacts</i>	
Water Supply Emergency and Drought Management	

Total Regional Water Fund (RWF) to support RWQM Work Program

FY15 Total RWF (approved)
 \$1,337,441

FY16 Total RWF (approved by COG Board, 1/14/15)
 \$1,360,797 (~1.75% increase over FY15 funding level)

Allocations to be similar to FY15 (i.e., 80% paid by Blue Plains Parties per Service Agreement (SA) #2; with remaining 20% paid by other jurisdictions/agencies based on percent of adjusted population)

Reference SA #2 – C.4.a.

The Parties agree to pay 80% of the Program based on the following allocation:

- DC Water – 20%, on behalf of the District;
- Fairfax – 20%; and
- WSSC – 40%, on behalf of Montgomery and Prince George's (20% each)