

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC) MEETING

July 8, 2010

(10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Board Room, 3rd Floor

Lunch will be provided

AGENDA

I. **Welcome** – *Elaine Schaeffer, Chair*
(10:00 – 10:05 a.m.)

II. **Chesapeake Bay Program Updates** – *Tanya Spano, Karl Berger, and Ted Graham, COG staff*
(10:05 – 11:15 a.m.)

The CBP just issued draft nutrient load allocations by state/by basin (ref. CBP July 1, 2010 document on WRTC Web site). These draft load allocations will be used by the states/DC to produce their draft WIPs and submit them to EPA by August 1st. These draft loads update the target load allocations previously issues (ref. CBP Nov. 3, 2009 document on WRTC Web site). These draft allocations begin the final phase of completing the Bay TMDL processes – which will result in 92 TMDLs being issued by December 21, 2010 and accompanying WIPs (ref. CBP June 11, 2010 document on WRTC Web site).

Ms. Spano will review the draft load allocations - focusing on the Potomac River, compare the loads with previous allocations, provide updates on the state's WIPs developments, outline the latest schedule for all of these efforts, and highlight some recent assumptions regarding Potomac River water quality attainment and how these issues are expected to be addressed. She will also discuss a proposed October WRTC work session for COG's members and EPA/states to discuss draft TMDL and WIP issues – to aid in developing formal comments during the TMDL public comment period.

Mr. Berger will review COG staff's analysis of the Watershed Model's urban land use designations and discuss what additional technical analysis would be useful to the WRTC members. He will also review how some WIP pilots (e.g., Anne Arundel County, MD) are addressing local land use issues.

Mr. Graham will then review an initial list of COG staff questions and concerns about these interrelated issues to see which items appear most relevant or greatest concern to the WRTC members. This feedback will help COG staff to: a) focus their analysis of information being issued over the next three months; and b) draft formal comments to submit on behalf of COG's members during EPA's official TMDL public comment period (September 24th – 45-day period).

Mr. Berger will also review a draft letter from the CBPC Chair to EPA outlining key concerns (*ref. Draft letter on WRTC Web site*). This letter is intended to be one of other future comments from the COG region to be provided to EPA and/or the states as this Bay TMDL and WIP process unfolds.

Feedback: The WRTC members are asked to: a) identify their critical issues and concerns; b) identify additional WSM analysis that they would like COG staff to do; and c) provide comments/edits on the draft letter to EPA.

III. Legislative Updates - Karl Berger, COG staff
(11:15 - 11:45 a.m.)

Mr. Berger will discuss changes to the S. 1816 Cardin Bill, and will provide highlights of two newly introduced Bay-related bills, *H.R. 5509 and S. 3481*. He will also discuss issues of potential concern for the region in the legislation, and options for addressing those issues.

Feedback: The WRTC members will be asked whether:

1. Is holding the federal government accountable for stormwater fees an issue affecting more jurisdictions than the District?
2. Is there support for a COG region letter that backs Senator Cardin's new legislation?

IV. ICPRB's Washington Metropolitan Area Water Supply Reliability Study: Demand & Resource Availability Forecast for 2040 – Steve Bieber, COG staff
(11:45 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)

Mr. Bieber will provide an overview of this Study (ref. report on ICPRB's Web site - <http://www.potomacriver.org/cms/publicationspdf/ICPRB10-01.pdf>), the key findings, and next steps in this process.

Feedback: The WRTC members are asked to identify any issues or concerns.

V. Lunch & Demonstration of Chesapeake STATs and COG's Blogs – Steve Bieber, COG Staff
(12:00 - 12:30 p.m.)

VI. Regional Monitoring Subcommittee Meeting & Input on Greater Washington 2050 Environmental Indicator – Tom Broderick, Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (RMS Chair), and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Staff
(12:30 - 12:45 p.m.)

Mr. Broderick, will provide highlights of the RMS's June 21st meeting (ref. RMS's Web site, http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/default.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=54) and discussion regarding environmental indicators. Ms. Bonnaffon will explain how that information is expected to provide input into the development of the region's benthic environmental indicator and reporting progress towards meeting its goal – as part of COG's Greater Washington 2050 initiative.

Feedback: The WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional steps needed to ensure that the benthic indicator meets its goal by 2050.

VII. Around the Room – COG staff and WRTC Members
(12:45 - 1:00 p.m.)

The WRTC members will be asked to identify any issues or activities of potential interest to the other members.

VIII. Adjourn - Elaine Schaeffer, Chair
(1:00 p.m.)

GENERAL UPDATES

1. COG's Community Engagement Campaign: Water Blogs Are Live

COG is launching a 6-month pilot of blogs with messages about water conservation, source water protection, the virtues of tap water, and arguing the case for water infrastructure investment via a Mom blog, Lawn & Garden blog, and Infrastructure Blog. Two of our three bloggers have been hired. The Mom Blogger, Ericka Howder, is a mother of two boys and lives in northern Virginia. The Lawn and Garden Blogger is Betsy Franz, an experienced nature lover/gardener from Florida. She is savvy on how to make her blogs relevant to the plants & issues affecting the National Capital Region. You can read more about these two bloggers on their blogs, links provided below.

Our 3rd blogger, infrastructure, will be brought on board shortly. We will keep you posted when this blog goes live. In addition, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has also launched its blog to prevent dog waste from going down the drain. A link to this blog is also provided below.

Metro DC Mom Blog:

<http://www.metro-dc-mom-blog.com/>

Metro DC Lawn and Garden Blog

<http://www.metro-dc-lawn-garden-blog.com/>

Northern Virginia Dog Blog

<http://northern-virginia-dog-blog.com>

2. USGS Study Examines Effects of Urban Development on Stream Ecosystem Health.

Findings show that aquatic insect communities demonstrate little, if any, initial resistance to low levels of urban development that were previously thought to be protective of aquatic life. By the time a watershed reaches about 10 percent impervious cover in urban areas, aquatic insect communities are degraded by as much as 33 percent in comparison to aquatic insect communities in forested watersheds. For more information, including access to USGS reports and video podcasts, please visit <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/urban/>

3. Regional Fats, Oils, and Grease Collection/Utilization Meeting

On Monday, June 28th DC Water held a meeting on '*Regional Fats, Oils, and Grease Collection/Utilization.*' DC Water, WSSC, and their consultants discussed a need to prevent accumulation of grease in collection systems, analyzed FOG related programs that used the material as a valuable feedstock for renewable energy, and costs and offsets of these programs. Also a new District based company - DC Biodiesel, talked about its plans to build a plant to process multiple-feedstocks including "waste" vegetable oils, yellow grease, and brown grease into high-quality biodiesel. Customers will include DC Water, as well as public and private fleets in the metropolitan Washington region. Material presented at this meeting will be posted on the WRTC's Web site.

FUTURE MEETINGS / KEY EVENTS

Friday, July 30th *New Date* – CBPC Meeting

- Action on federal legislation
- Discuss how will the federal government partner with locals on clean-up plans
- Bay Program updates

Friday, September 10th – WRTC Meeting

Friday, September 17th – CBPC Meeting

October (Date TBD) – Special WRTC Work Session with EPA/State Staff re: Draft TMDLs/WIPs