



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES GENERAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

(As of 7/21/17)

Updates on work supported by COG's RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG's Department of Environmental Programs

Water Quality	COG Contact
<p><u>Early June 2017 Hypoxia Report</u> In the beginning of June, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and University of Michigan scientists predicted a slightly larger than average hypoxic volume for the bay due to higher spring flows (January-May) and nitrogen loading from the Susquehanna River.</p> <p>COG staff will continue to monitor conditions and provide members with additional updates throughout the summer.</p> <p>For the link to the news release: http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/06/22/early-hypoxia/</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Christine Howard (202) 962-3366 cdhoward@mwkog.org</p>
Water Infrastructure	COG Contact
<p><u>American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition</u> AWWA's ACE was held last month from June 11th-14th in Philadelphia, PA. COG staff were selected to present regional efforts tackling issues related to protecting water quality, public health, and wastewater infrastructure. COG staff lead the "Staying Ahead of the Communications Curve" session and discussed the Community Engagement Campaign's unique approach to public outreach and regional collaboration with the Protect Your Pipes campaign.</p>	<p>John Deignan (202) 962-3318 jdeignan@mwkog.org</p> <p>Lisa Ragain (202) 962-3357 lragain@mwkog.org</p>
Wastewater	COG Contact
<p><u>Biosolids Research Presented</u> COG and DC Water co-sponsored a biosolids research workshop on June 22nd to provide updates on various research projects that support the biosolids management program for Blue Plains' Class A biosolids.</p> <p>Presentations from the workshop are available at: https://dcwater-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mramirez_dcwater_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?folderid=123c0b0d60c82455b942b5f73190d5cf9&authkey=AR66b-PvHZNehInGDI9tFCM&expiration=2017-09-24T21%3a12%3a15.000Z</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Nasser Amen (202) 962-3394 nameen@mwkog.org</p>

Stormwater

COG Contact

Stormwater Procurement Workshop Held

Many COG members participated in a stormwater procurement workshop that COG and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection co-sponsored on June 14th. The workshop explored traditional and new approaches to various types of stormwater procurements and provided the opportunity for members to learn from each other's experience to date with these methods.

The following link provides access to COG's website with a variety of materials from the workshop:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2017/6/14/stormwater-procurement-workshopcog/montgomery-county-dep-joint-workshop/>

COG and Montgomery County DEP staff are working on implementing follow-up actions from the workshop, including the development of a regional repository for stormwater contracting information.

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Drinking Water

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Drought Report

The COG region received an above average amount of rain in the past 30 days and continues to be drought free. Since the start of the calendar year, dry conditions have improved significantly and only a small portion of abnormal dryness remains in southern Maryland. Local reservoirs are full, regional groundwater and streamflows are currently near median levels, and drought status conditions in Maryland and Virginia are improving.

In [Maryland](#), the Central region has improved to drought Watch and the Eastern region has moved from Watch to Normal. In [Virginia](#), the Drought Watch Advisory previously issued for the Northern Virginia drought evaluation region has been lifted.

[Record setting heat](#) continues for our region. COG will continue monitor conditions and provide additional updates if drought conditions should change throughout the month.

Risk Communication Workshop: Cyanotoxin Contamination

On July 10, 2017, COG held a Risk Communication Workshop at Alexandria Renew Enterprises. Participants included regional health officials, water utilities, and other stakeholders. The workshop focused on discussing regional notification and communication procedures for a health emergency using a Cyanotoxin contamination incident response scenario. The workshop was intended to increase familiarity among health officials, water utilities, and coordinating agencies, as well as improve internal and external communications processes when responding to a water contamination event or other health incident.

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Medical Facilities and Water Supply Emergency Planning Workshop

On July 25, 2017, COG will be holding an emergency water supply planning workshop, primarily focused on medical facilities and water utilities. Medical facilities require a safe and reliable water supply for all aspects of operations. During a water supply emergency, this interdependency may result in significant consequences and severely affect operations or result in evacuation. This workshop will review regional efforts to mitigate water supply emergencies for medical facilities. Case studies will be presented to illustrate outcomes. Planning and response tools and strategies will be presented. Finally, participants will understand roles, responsibilities and capabilities for responding to an emergency water supply incident.

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Potable Water Reuse in the Mid-Atlantic

The Water Environment & Reuse Foundation (WE&RF), along with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) and Xylem, is conducting a one-day workshop focusing on the state of the science of potable reuse – particularly as it pertains to the Mid-Atlantic region – on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. The workshop will focus on treatment technologies, treatment system design and permitting, economics, operations, and achieving stakeholder support to overcome regulatory barriers and gain public trust. The workshop will be held at Fairfax Water’s Frederick P. Griffith, Jr. Water Treatment Plant in Lorton, VA.

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Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

COG Contact

Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy Report (draft)

The Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup has drafted a [Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy](#) document in cooperation with local forestry staff in the region. This document is a guideline for local government staff to assist in the management and enhancement of forest cover at the community level. Furthermore, recommendations in the report 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. The draft Report is out for public comment, and comments are due to Brian LeCouteur by August 25th.

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Eight Annual World Summit on Infrastructure Security

The Eight Annual World Summit on Infrastructure Security will have been held on July 24 & 25, 2017 in Washington, DC at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. COG staff will be speaking at the event about work that the water sector agencies in the COG region have carried out to prepare for and mitigate against extreme weather events that have the potential to severely disrupt the normal functioning of the region’s water infrastructure.

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