

CBPC Focus for 2008

COG staff draft
January 8, 2008

Longstanding Issues

- **Advocate for funding -- continue to encourage the development of new or greater sources of state and federal funding for the Bay restoration effort**
 - Federal – Work with Chesapeake Bay Commission, congressional Bay Task Force and other potential partners on FY 09 budget requests
 - State – Support appropriate state legislative initiatives in Maryland and Virginia
 - Develop recommendation for allocation of Maryland’s new “Green Fund
- **Identify links between growth policies and water quality**
 - Provide water quality focus to Greater Washington 2050 initiative
 - Work with COG’s Green Building and Global Climate Change initiatives to quantify water quality aspects of these related environmental efforts
 - Work with Chesapeake Bay Program on quantifying nutrient loads that may be created by future growth in the region (2030 analysis)
- **Advocate for local government voice in Bay Program decision making**
 - Work with CBP Local Government Advisory Committee in retaining local government representation in revised Bay Program structure
 - Advocate for local government roles in Bay Program’s evolving strategy on growth, on TMDL development efforts and on urban stormwater enhancement efforts
- **Support regional public outreach efforts**
 - Continue to work with Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and other parties on the sponsorship of public outreach messages on environmentally friendly lawn care practices.
 - Finalize COG Board report on compounds of emerging concern
 - Explore potential for joint outreach efforts on public health-environmental issues such as compounds of emerging concern with COG’s Health Officers Committee
- **Help to coordinate the Trash-Free Potomac Watershed Initiative**
 - Continue to track member participation in this initiative, which is coordinated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, and assess potential for trash-based TMDL development..

Potential New Issues

- **Global climate change and airborne pollutants**
 - Efforts to reduce air emissions of various pollutants, such as those overseen by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality, also help to reduce nitrogen pollution to Bay waters. With various local jurisdictions now increasing their focus to include efforts to

reduce carbon dioxide emissions, there will be further opportunities to simultaneously benefit the Bay restoration effort.

- Climate change also is expected to greatly impact the local environment and potentially local government's ability to provide services such as drinking water and waste water treatment.. COG staff already is working with local utilities and their national trade groups on potential implications and responses.
- **Decline in forest coverage**
 - This was listed in 2007, but the committee did not pursue anything. There are a number of related aspects of this in the region, such as preservation of green infrastructure and urban reforestation efforts under Green Building and other initiatives.
- **Farmland preservation**
 - As detailed in a presentation at the November 2007 meeting, COG staff is currently involved in several activities in this area. It is coordinating a "working lands" initiatives with several components aimed at maintaining productive farm and forest land in the region.
- **Others - ?**

Actions to Support Focus on Issues

- **Committee meetings** (6 per year)
- **Committee tour** (details to be determined)
- **Federal legislation** (provide opportunity to meet with local congressional delegation)
- **Individual presentations/appearances by members**