

**Notes on the Planned Potomac River Water Quality
Monitoring Forum
RMS Committee Meeting
August 15, 2007**

- **Mark your calendar:** COG is planning on convening a Potomac River Water Quality Monitoring Forum at COG on **Friday, February 29, 2008**
- **Value & Purpose** of the proposed Potomac Watershed Water Monitoring Forum:
 - Present and document ongoing WQ monitoring activities
 - Inform the full spectrum of interested parties regarding these activities
 - Identify needs, priorities and funding issues
 - Data gathering
 - Reporting
 - Funding
 - Eliminate any duplications; determine opportunities for efficiencies through combined efforts
 - Provide an opportunity to see vendor products
- **Numerous Ongoing Monitoring Activities** in the Potomac watershed and interest in them runs strong.
 - A Google search on "water quality monitoring" and "Potomac River" produced 24,500 hits. Just "water quality" and "Potomac River" produced 150,000 hits.
 - Here is a sampling of the many organizations that came up in that search:
 1. **USGS** – NAWQA; Intersex Fish;
 2. **MD DNR** – SAV Monitoring; Phytoplankton; Potomac River Integrated Monitoring Program; Oyster Restoration
 3. **WV DEP** - North Branch of the Potomac TMDL)
 4. **VA DEQ** – Fish Tissue & Sediment Monitoring
 5. **CB Program** – Benthic Monitoring; Public Education, directly & through the **Bay Journal**
 6. **ICPRB** – Monitoring Links; Drinking Source Water Protection; WQ Reports
 7. **DC-WASA** – Raw Water Monitoring (Prior to treatment)
 8. **WashCOG** – Chain Bridge Monitoring
 9. **M-NCPPC** (Montgomery) – Environmental Resources Inventory
 10. **DC Department of the Environment** - Potomac & Anacostia; WQ; Fish Consumption
 11. **Earth Force** – Student Monitoring; Environmental Education
 12. **NOAA** – National Estuarine Research Reserve (Lower Potomac)
 13. **Anacostia Watershed Society** – Bacteria
 14. **WSSC** – Raw Water Monitoring
 15. Volunteer Monitoring Listing – **Many local governments & NGOs**

- 16. **WV Dept. of Agriculture** – Bacteria & other impairment-related parameters
- 17. **PA DEP** – Nutrients & sediment
- 18. **EPA** – Anacostia EMPACT; Shad restoration
- 19. **Potomac Riverkeeper** – Education; Advocacy; Awareness; Enforcement
- 20. **Fairfax County** – Citizen Bacteria Monitoring
- 21. **US Fish & Wildlife Service** – Sediment Discharge from Washington Aqueduct
- 22. **VIMS** - Virginia Estuarine and Coastal Observing System
- 23. **MDE** – WQ Impairments
- 24. **Potomac Conservancy** – Advocacy; Public Education
- 25. **WTOP News** (and others) – Algal Blooms
- 26. **National Geographic** – Intersex Fish
- 27. **US Forest Service** – Watershed Restoration & Protection
- 28. **Fish America Foundation** – Protection of Safe Fishing
- 29. **Trust for Public Land** – Potomac River WQ Protection
- This is far from an exhaustive list; it goes on and on.
- **The many purposes** of the Potomac water quality monitoring activities can generally be grouped as:
 - **Regulatory** (e.g., TMDLs and permit compliance, basis for model calibration)
 - **Science** (both long-term and issue specific, SAV, algal blooms, fish kills, intersex fish, etc.)
 - **Advocacy & Public Education** (news outlets and numerous print publications; environmental education)
 - **Public Health & Public Safety** (e.g., water utility source protection; water security; bacteria; swimming safety; fish consumption safety)
 - **Restoration Monitoring** (e.g., nutrient & sediment loads related to Bay program and other goals)
 - **Stream Assessment**
- **The data sources include:**
 - Federal, state & local governmental agencies
 - Water & wastewater Utilities
 - Universities
 - NGOs: Watershed Associations and Advocacy Groups
 - Citizens groups
- **Request for volunteers** to serve on an ad hoc committee to help COG staff plan for the forum, including such issues as
 - Participants & invitees
 - Topics & agenda
 - Outcomes & potential follow-on activities
 - Vendor participation