



GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

(as of 1/10/14)

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATES

Draft Bay Agreement

A draft of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement is slated to be released to the public the end of January for a 45-day comment period. The CBPC will be submitting a comment letter in February on behalf of membership. Visit the [Bay Program website](#) for more information and a link to the draft Agreement.

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Bay Articles: Troubled Water Series

The Capital Gazette ran a week of articles and videos in October related to the Chesapeake Bay called the Troubled Water series. To view the articles please visit this [Capital Gazette link](#).

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Conowingo Dam Issue

The state of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Program and other parties have commissioned several studies to evaluate the accumulation of sediment behind the three large dams on the lower Susquehanna River and how new patterns of scour and deposition are affecting water quality in the Bay. Reports from these parallel studies are expected to be issued in 2014. COG staff is tracking the study results and expects to provide a presentation to the CBPC later this year that will document the impact of the sediment build-up on the Bay TMDL and what options are being considered for addressing the issue.

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WATER QUALITY DATA

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee

In cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and state agencies, COG hosted a workshop in December to review water quality monitoring efforts in the region that are designed to measure the impact of runoff from urban (that includes wastewater and stormwater inputs) watersheds. A particular focus of the workshop was to educate participants on the status of the Bay Program's tidal and non-tidal monitoring networks, particularly in the Potomac watershed and explore the Bay Program's plans for revising the monitoring program in the wake of budget cuts. After further review, COG's technical committees expect to provide a recommendation to the CBPC for commenting to the Bay Program on the importance of maintaining a robust monitoring program.

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WASTEWATER

COG Service Area Maps

A series of COG region-wide county-based maps are being updated for COG's members and water utilities, displaying wastewater and drinking water treatment plant service areas and Regional Activity Centers. These maps hope to link COG's efforts to develop thriving communities throughout the metropolitan region with COG's water infrastructure efforts.

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DRINKING WATER

The Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (DWSPP)

The DWSPP held a workshop on Friday, October 25th for drinking water utilities to discuss the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). The workshop was designed by Potomac River drinking water utilities specifically for other local water systems to provide information on how to effectively communicate UCMR3 monitoring results. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The first Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 1) was published on September 17, 1999, the second (UCMR 2) was published on January 4, 2007 and the third (UCMR 3) was published on May 2, 2012. This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. It provides scientifically valid data on the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. This data set is one of the primary sources of occurrence and exposure information that EPA uses to develop regulatory decisions for emerging contaminants.

All of the meeting materials as well a summary of the facilitated discussion on communicating monitoring results have been posted to the DWSPP website. Click [HERE](#) to download the information.

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CROSS SECTOR UPDATES

Green Streets

In 2012, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership recommended that the Transportation Planning Board adopt a regional Green Streets policy, parallel to its adopted regional Complete Streets policy. COG staff developed a green streets policy inventory to gauge the current status of policies and programs in the region. Green streets documents were shared with CBPC and WRTC members earlier this year, and updates on the Green Streets policy were shared with WRTC and CBPC at the November meetings. In response to comments, the policy was slightly revised and DEP staff created a Green Streets Resources fact sheet. The draft regional [Green Streets policy, policy template, and attachments](#) will be presented at the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) January 15th meeting as an informational item, and is expected to be adopted by TPB in February.

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Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

CEEPC's annual climate and energy surveys will be sent to wastewater and water utilities and service providers on January 24 and are due February 14. The survey will ask questions related to environmental initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The information collected in the survey will be aggregated to highlight regional results and highlight utility best practices in the CEEPC Annual Climate and Energy Progress Report.

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CEEPC November Meeting Summary

On November 20, CEEPC was briefed on the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report and why cities play an important role in combatting climate change. CEEPC heard a presentation by Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth on the importance of transit-oriented (TOC) and mixed-use development for the sustainability of the region's transportation system and preservation of environment quality and held a panel discussion on sustainable practices in new commercial development in the region.

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UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- **February 25 - Stream Restoration Workshop** (COG Training Center, 10 am -3 pm) - New stream restoration requirements and techniques in the wake of the Bay Program's approval of Expert Panel recommendations for this BMP.
- **March 21 - CBPC Meeting** (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- **January 22 and March 26 - CEEPC Meeting** (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- **January 31 and March 6 - WRTC Meeting**
- **February/March 2014 (date/time TBD) - COG Stream Restoration Workshop: Meeting New CBP Protocol**
- **March 2014 (date/time TBD) - "Water Resources Infrastructure" Event**