



GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

CHESAPEAKE BAY

Gov. McAuliffe new chair of Chesapeake Executive Council

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has been selected to chair the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) in 2015, succeeding the outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. The EC is the overall policy making entity for the Chesapeake Bay Program. It consists of the governors of the six Bay partner states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission chair and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Adaptation Workgroup

COG staff is participating in the Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Adaptation Workgroup. Meetings were held in December, January, and February. The workgroup is tasked with identifying how climate changes may influence the ability of various management strategies to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement identified climate resiliency as a new goal. **The draft management strategy is slated to be posted for public review from March 16 to April 15, 2015.**

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Toxics Contaminant Workgroup

COG staff is participating in the Chesapeake Bay Program's Toxic Contaminant Workgroup. Meetings have been held in December, January and February. The workgroup is tasked with addressing toxic contaminants Policy & Prevention and Research Needs as they relate to the management strategies to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement added toxic contaminants as a new goal. **The draft management strategy is slated to be posted for public review from March 16 to April 15, 2015.**

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STORMWATER

VWEA Stormwater Conference

The Virginia Water Environment Association's Annual Stormwater Conference will be in Richmond, VA on **March 19th**, with a variety of speakers talking about stormwater opportunities. Mark Charles will be the keynote speaker. Here is the [brochure](#) for more information and to register.

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UMD's Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center

The University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center is partnering with the Low Impact Development Center to create an open online course over the next five years for communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Neil Weinstein has reached out to COG to seek input on identifying training needs and information gaps. You can download additional information on COG's [stormwater website](#).

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CLIMATE

District of Columbia Climate Adaptation Informational event

The District of Columbia Department of the Environment is hosting Dr. Katharine Hayhoe to present preliminary results on their analysis of climate projections for the District. Following her presentation, Dr. Hayhoe will be joined by a panel of climate experts, policymakers and adaptation specialists to discuss communicating climate risks and translating science into action. The event is free and open to the public but registration ([registration link](#)) is encouraged. The event is **Wednesday, March 11th, 6-8pm** at the National Geographic Society, 1600 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Multi-Sector Working Group

COG's Multi-Sector Working Group held its first meeting January 30th. The working group, with consultant support, will examine implementable local, regional, and state greenhouse gas reduction actions in four sectors - Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment. The workgroup will quantify benefits, costs, and potential implementation timeframes for greenhouse gas reduction actions and consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for all sectors. **WRTC will have an opportunity to comment on potential strategies -- that the consultant will analyze -- during the April comment period.** An interim report is expected September 30, 2015 and final report expected January 2016.

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North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study out in January

The US Army Corps of Engineers published the [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study](#) to January 29th. The \$19.5M study, launched in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, spanned the East Coast from Virginia to Maine, analyzing coastal vulnerabilities and management strategies for reducing risks to people, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The study analyzed policy challenges, the performance of nature-based infrastructure, community vulnerability, and sea level rise and sediment management.

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Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

ACPAC is planning another round of Climate & Energy Leadership Awards for the region this year.

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COG BOARD & CBPC

CBPC Advocacy Workgroup

At their January meeting, the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee formed a workgroup to track national and state water legislation, and to facilitate fast comment on any bills, as necessary, as well as to be advocates for the Bay and water resources issues. This Workgroup has been tracking the national issues of funding for the WIFIA program and maintaining tax-exempt bond status. They have also been watching Maryland and Virginia legislation concerning biosolids and stormwater utility fees. For a list of who is serving on the workgroup or the bills being tracked and their status, please contact Heidi Bonnaffon.

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COG Board's Regional Infrastructure Report

The COG Board [Regional Infrastructure report](#) focused on the health of the region's infrastructure in 2014. This included transportation, energy, water, emergency communications, and public buildings. The assessment of water infrastructure included wastewater, drinking water and stormwater. Staff are now working to develop specific actions to implement the five recommendations outlined in the report over the coming year.

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OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

AWRA - National Drinking Water [and Wastewater] Week

COG's [Community Engagement Campaign](#) will be organizing events to highlight our region's water and wastewater infrastructure and success stories throughout the **week of May 4, 2015**. It will include a [TapIt](#) water bar on the Mall for the Smithsonian Garden Fest on May 8. More information about media outreach, utility tours, and other events being planned for the week will be forthcoming.

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EPA Cybersecurity Workshop

COG will be hosting an EPA cybersecurity workshop for water and wastewater utilities on **April 30th**. The workshop will provide water and wastewater utilities with information about the cyber threat, ways to manage the threat, and tools (such as AWWA's cybersecurity tool) available to help utilities. This event will also include a facilitated response exercise using a realistic cyber threat scenario, allowing all participants to talk through the actions they would take in response to the threat. The goal is to identify general planning or procedural gaps in cybersecurity practices that can then be corrected.

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Regional Source Water Assessment with Corona Environmental Consulting

Over the next year, COG will be working with water utilities in the region and Corona Environmental Consulting to conduct a regional source water assessment and develop a related data system. We will also be working on the development of regional

decontamination/flushing protocols for drinking water systems. An important outcome will be the development of an information system that will facilitate the organization, maintenance, and delivery of essential information about storage of chemicals in the critical zone near drinking water intakes and produce a detailed methodology of how this information can be located, extracted, quality controlled, and maintained. The dual focus on improved data stewardship and tool development will help all stakeholders meet pressing immediate needs and will contribute to meeting longer term needs by turning data into knowledge. This work is being done in conjunction with two Water Research Foundation (WRF) projects:

- a. Project 4572: “Flushing Guidance for Consumer Premise Plumbing and Service Lines to Avoid or Address a Drinking Water Advisory.”
- b. Project 4581: “GIS to Identify and Catalog Potential Contaminants Stored in Tanks Upstream of Drinking Water Intakes”.

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National Capital Region Water Resources Symposium

This year’s symposium theme is Urban Water Management and Resilience in Uncertain Times. Hosted at the University of District of Columbia on **April 10th**, this one-day symposium will bring together experts from governmental agencies, academia, the private sector, and non-profits to discuss challenges and opportunities for sustainable management of water resources and infrastructure in the region, as well as nationally and internationally. The featured speakers include Daniel Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency for the City of New York (keynote), and panelists; Carolyn Kousky (Resources for the Future), Vicki Arroyo (The Georgetown Climate Center), Mary M. Cheh (Council Member, District of Columbia), and Panel Moderator Roland C. Steiner. In addition, 25 papers will be presented at four con-current sessions and poster exhibits.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Friday, March 20th - CBPC Meeting

Wednesday, March 25th - Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee

Tuesday, April 28th - WRTC Meeting

Week of May 4th - 8th - National Drinking Water Week - Events planned for COG region