



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES May 2021

Chesapeake Bay Program

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week (CBAW) is June 5-13

This year's theme is recreation!

- Find an event here: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/action/attend>
- Post your jurisdiction's events to the CBAW calendar:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc39L9SHnChdVagqL2kvPsTApKL1YXlasu6sUTlbcBDG4MPRg/viewform>
- #BayAwarenessWeek, and #OneChesapeake
- A press release, and other information will be forthcoming.

Local Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

The CBP's Local Leadership Work Group has newly created educational materials for local officials *A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay* are non-branded, editable modules that you can tailor and adapt for local governments in your network. The content is very flexible and useful for lots of different formats: webinars, meeting presentations, handouts after panels, recorded videos, handbooks, blog posts, infographics, adding to resource lists etc. The modules are posted to the [LLWG page](#),

Community Engagement Campaign's (CEC) May Messaging Efforts

COG's CEC committee ran a concerted Facebook and radio ad campaign about water bill assistance the first week of May. For residents whose bills are in arrears there are funding programs available, so the message was to contact your utility for assistance. More information here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/waterbill/>

This May the CEC is also increasing messaging about wipes not being flushable since they continue to pose as a wastewater system clogging threat. More information is on the Protect Your Pipes website: <https://protectyourpipes.org/wipes>

Infrastructure and Jobs

Water Workforce Resources

As part of its [Sustainable Water Infrastructure](#) program, EPA has recently released [America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative: A Call to Action](#) and a [compendium](#) of water workforce case studies, *Making Water a Career of Choice*. The compendium includes a case study from Alexandria Renew Enterprises.

The U.S. Water Alliance's [Water Equity Taskforce](#) has released [Roadmaps](#) describing challenges faced by six communities in their efforts to intentionally make water management outcomes and processes equitable.

EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Funds DC Water & New Funding is Available

EPA has opened a new round of WIFIA funding to provide up to \$5.5 billion to support \$11 billion in water infrastructure projects. Five areas are prioritized:

- Supporting economically stressed communities.
- Protecting water infrastructure against the impacts of climate change.
- Reducing exposure to lead and addressing emerging contaminants.
- Updating aging infrastructure.
- Implementing new or innovative approaches including cybersecurity and green infrastructure.

On April 16th U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced a \$156 WIFIA loan to DC Water. <https://www.dewater.com/whats-going-on/news/epa-administrator-regan-announces-156-million-loan-dc-water-accelerate-critical>

More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>

ASCE's Infrastructure Report Card is here: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/>

It includes links by categories and by state:

Drinking Water (C-) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/drinking-water/>

Stormwater (D) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/stormwater/>

Wastewater (D) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/wastewater/>

Virginia (C-) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/virginia/>

Maryland (C) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/maryland/>

District of Columbia (C-) <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/district-of-columbia/>

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

The latest U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought. Potomac streamflows are near median levels, and local reservoirs are full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are at normal levels. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months. Visit COG's Water Supply and Drought site to learn more: <https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/drinking-water-and-drought-monitoring/current-drought-conditions/>

Food and Agriculture

Flower Farms Support the Local Economy while Using Sustainable Agricultural Practices

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/beautiful_bay_blooms

Climate and Energy

[Flooding In The District - Lunch & Learn Series Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

A weekly learning series about flood risk in the District for built environment, sustainability, and resilience professionals. The DC Silver Jackets team invites built environment, sustainability, and resilience professionals with planning, regulatory, or operations responsibilities representing DC, regional, and federal agencies to a weekly series of “lunch & learn” sessions during the month of June to learn about flood-related topics and how stakeholders can take action to reduce the risk in the District.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES SCHEDULE

JUNE 9 – How to Find a Building’s Flood Risk

JUNE 16 – What Can You Do to Prepare Facilities and Residences for a Flood?

JUNE 23 – Roles and Responsibilities for Floodplain Regulation and Preparedness in DC

Contact Joshua Schnitzlein - joshua.schnitzlein@dc.gov, Martin Koch - martin.koch@dc.gov with questions.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Meetings:

May 21: WRTC Webinar 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. USGS SPARROW modeling results

Joel Blomquist of USGS will discuss recent SPARROW modeling results that explain nitrogen and phosphorus trends in the Potomac River and other Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Contact Christine Howard, cdhoward@mwkog.org, for the meeting link.

May 26, 2021: VWEA/VA AWWA Utility Management Workshop Series session *What will your future look like? How to ensure a successful workforce for tomorrow* hosted by Christene Mitchell (HRSD) with Margie Hamner (Starfish Consulting) and Mindy Gulati (Fundamental Advisory). The discussion will focus on challenges in today’s workforce with training, succession planning, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. [Register](#) on-line with VWEA.

July 28, 10:00-12:00: CBPC Joint Meeting with COG’s Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Events:

COG Salts Webinar Series

Salts Education and Outreach Campaigns

Friday, May 28 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. - Corey Miles, Clean Water Partners, Heidi Bonnaffon, COG’s Community Engagement Campaign, and Ryan Zerbe, Montgomery County Salt Wise

Engaging Private Property Owners on Salt Practices

Friday, June 4 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. - Clara Elias, District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) regarding a salt use survey of private businesses and business improvement districts

Chloride Monitoring in Maryland and Northern Virginia
Friday, June 18 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. - Speakers TBD (will be updated with information)

Contact Heid Bonnaffon for additional details and the meeting links.

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