**GENERAL UPDATES**

**Region Forward Coalition – Baseline Report**

The baseline report, which includes two specific metrics that address regionally meeting Bay TMDL implementation goals and local stream restoration goals, is being drafted and should be available to transmit to the WRTC and CBPC for review by late March. Depending on the feedback that is received, COG staff will then convene a conference call of interested parties to discuss any comments/proposed edits to the metrics or the overall report.

**COG staff contact:**    Tanya Spano 202/962-3776 / tspano@mwcog.org

**DC Water Wins 2012 National Environmental Achievement Award**

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, recognized the contributions of DC Water’s research program with its Research and Technology Award for a process design project. This process design, external carbon based suspended growth denitrification, enables facility and process upgrades to further reduce nitrogen levels in effluent.

<http://www.dcwater.com/news/listings/press_release532.cfm>

**DC Water Green Infrastructure Project**

DC Water is proposing a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of green infrastructure on a massive scale. The program would cover 50 acres of the Potomac and Rock Creek sewersheds at a cost of $10-30 million. Green infrastructure technologies (LID) treat stormwater as a resource and include: rain gardens, porous pavements, green roofs, infiltration planters, trees and tree boxes, and rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses such as toilet flushing and landscape irrigation. DC Water is under a 2005 Consent Decree to build a massive tunnel system to control combined-sewer overflows. DC Water is proposing a green infrastructure pilot program to explore whether a large-scale green solution can reduce overflows enough to make tunnels smaller or eliminate some of them altogether. (ref. DC Water brochure)

**Smart Growth and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Washington Region**

* The EPA DRAFT Climate Adaptation Guidebook was open for COG stakeholder comment from December 12, 2011 – January 6, 2012.
* EPA is reviewing all COG comments and a final guidebook will be available in March 2012.
* After the March 28, 2012 Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) meeting,  EPA and the consultant, SRA, will present the final guidebook in Room 1 beginning at 12:30pm.

**COG staff contact**: Maia Davis 202-962-3227/ mdavis@mwcog.org

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **March 28** - **Presentation of final Climate Adaptation Guidebook** (12:30pm), following the CEEPC) meeting.
* **March 30 – NVRC Planning Roundtable**

Real World Challenges: Water, Energy and Transportation Intergovernmental Planning to Solve Complex Problems

* **April 2,3 &4 - Potomac River Basin Functional Exercise**

Exercise Description: The Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) and the Metro Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 3 and the Horsley Witten Group will be conducting a functional exercise for stakeholders from local, state, and federal governments, drinking water primacy and public safety agencies, and utilities in the Potomac River Basin.

Who should Participate: Water Utilities, Public Health, Emergency Management, Primacy Agencies, and Other Water Sector Stakeholders in the Potomac River Basin.

Exercise Objectives:

* Test communications between utilities;
* Practice public message coordination between utilities; and
* Evaluate information systems designed to assist utilities during an incident affecting multiple jurisdictions along the Potomac River Basin.

This exercise also serves as an opportunity for participants to test and evaluate their own internal agency/utility/jurisdictional emergency response plans (ERPs).

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* **May 10 (10:00 to 2:00 pm)** – WRTC meeting and technical work sessions

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* **May 18th (10:00 am to 1:00 pm) - Special CBPC meeting -** with Jeff Corbin (EPA), which will be followed by a tour of the Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant.

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