



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES GENERAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

(As of 10/31/17)

Updates on work supported by COG's RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG's Department of Environmental Programs

Water Quality	COG Contact
<p><u>Nutrient Dynamics in the Potomac River Estuary – COG Meeting</u> Researchers with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science will present results from work tracking the fate and transport of nitrogen in the Potomac estuary from the Washington region to the river's confluence with the Chesapeake Bay. The meeting will be held on December 14th at COG. More information on the meeting will be available shortly.</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p>
Water Infrastructure	COG Contact
<p><u>Drug Take Back Day & “Protect Your Pipes” ad in Movie Theaters</u> COG's Community Engagement Campaign committee partnered with COG's Police Chiefs' Committee to promote the DEA's Drug Take Back Day on October 28, encouraging the public to drop off unwanted medications at locations around the region. Proper disposal of medications in the trash protects human health, and water quality. A related goal of the CEC is to increase permanent drug drop boxes in metropolitan Washington over the next year. The CEC will be convening with the Police Chiefs in December to plan.</p> <p>The Protect Your Pipes campaign will be running a 30-second advertisement in nine regional movie theaters the week of November 17. The animated ad will state that wipes, fats, oils, grease, and medications belong in the trash, not down the drain or toilet. To see the advertisement, visit the Protect Your Pipes homepage.</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>AWWA Webinar – Water Sector Black Sky Resilience</u> On October 18th, COG staff, the Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Council, and the Las Vegas Valley Water District presented a webinar on Water Sector Black Sky Resilience. Recent events have highlighted the need to build water sector resilience to Black Sky events (i.e., long-duration, widespread power outage). Panelists provided information about water sector risks, vulnerabilities, consequences, operations, and potential mitigation investments. A recording of the webinar is available to AWWA members here: http://www.awwa.org/conferences-education/distance-learning/webinars/w171018-black-sky.aspx</p>	<p>Steve Bieber (202) 962-3219 sbieber@mwkog.org</p>

<p><u>National WARN Chairs Meeting</u> On November 2, 2017, COG staff will represent the National Capital Region Water/Wastewater Response Network (WARN) at the National WARN Chairs meeting in Houston, TX. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss best practices related to water sector mutual aid, including operational planning, mitigation, response, and exercises and training. NCRWARN was formed in 2008 and has activated several times in response to hurricanes, spills, flooding, and other events.</p>	<p>Steve Bieber (202) 962-3219 sbieber@mwcog.org</p>
<p><u>NCR Water Security Work Group</u> The regional Water Security Work Group will hold their next meeting on November 6, 2017. The main focus of the meeting will be ranking and prioritizing improvement planning tasks from previous incidents and exercises with a goal of identifying the highest priority items to address in the next 12 months. Additional items on the agenda for the November 6th meeting include a briefing from the FBI about water treatment chemical bid-rigging and a briefing from the Mitre Corporation about a Power-Water-Economics Interdependency Model to support capacity planning.</p>	<p>Steve Bieber (202) 962-3219 sbieber@mwcog.org</p>
<p><u>Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study</u> COG continues to coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers to serve as the non-federal sponsor for a Coastal Storm Risk Management Study which will investigate flood risks in the vicinity of the region's tidal areas, and identify potential solutions to protect the vulnerable infrastructure assets upon which the region relies. The study will provide a comprehensive coastal flood risk assessment that will provide more detailed analysis than previous efforts, and would build on existing studies.</p> <p>The current focus is to develop the detailed project scope and budget, and work with potential partners to secure cost-share funding for the study. The \$3 million study requires a 50% non-federal cost-share (\$1.5 million) over the next three years. A draft Project Management Plan is being prepared and stakeholder meetings are planned for later this year.</p> <p>The CBPC and CEEPC and WRTC members will continue to get periodic updates about the study at key points in the process.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwcog.org</p> <p>Amanda Campbell (202) 962-3324 acampbell@mwcog.org</p>
<p style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 2px;">Wastewater</p> <p><u>BPSA Wastewater Flow Forecast Methodology: Update & Scheduling</u> The Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) was originally created just for the Blue Plains Service Area (BPSA) to assist the Blue Plains Users with their long-term planning needs. It was subsequently expanded by COG staff to assist in region-wide planning. The last formal update of the BPSA methodology was done in 2009 by Black & Veatch on behalf of the Blue Plains Users. As part of their ongoing</p>	<p style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 2px;">COG Contact</p> <p>Nasser Ameen (202) 962-3394 ameen@mwcog.org</p>

<p>long-term planning efforts, the Blue Plains Users have agreed to update the RWFFM again. This update I: first evaluate flow projection methods used in the region; and then re-examine the 2009 base year flows, and assess whether the flow factors and I/I assumptions that are currently used in the RWFFM – and determine if they are still appropriate.</p> <p>COG staff will review the existing information, and draft a scope of work by spring 2018. COG expects to be able to initiate a contract by mid-2018. As part of the investigation phase, COG staff will be contacting various COG members to find out more about their flow projection methods and trends.</p>	
<p><u>Wastewater Flow Projections – Round 9.0</u> COG staff used the existing RWFFM and incorporated COG’s most recent Cooperative Forecast demographic projections (Round 9.0) to generate wastewater flow projections for the region and to compare the results in the year 2045 to the plants’ design capacities. COG staff have produced ‘draft’ results and will be working with COG members to update and verify the current estimates.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p> <p>Nasser Ameen (202) 962-3394 nameen@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>Greenhouse Gas Inventory</u> COG staff have again used the RWFFM GIS layers to help estimate the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) contributions from the region’s wastewater treatment plants. Those direct loads are minor compared to other source sectors, but helps to improve the accuracy of the region’s inventory and efforts to reduce GHGs.</p> <p>An update on the regional findings will be presented to the WRTC at an upcoming meeting.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p> <p>Nasser Ameen (202) 962-3394 nameen@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Stormwater</p>	<p>COG Contact</p>
<p>COG staff is working with staff from the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Chesapeake Stormwater Network to organize a forum on stormwater BMP accounting and implementation to be held February 15, 2018, at COG. More information on the forum will be available shortly.</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p>
<p>COG staff and Maryland MS4s will be reviewing MDE’s draft Nutrient Trading Regulations. They are expected to be published for public comment sometime in November.</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Drinking Water</p>	<p>COG Contact</p>
<p><u>Water Supply and Drought</u> The October 24, 2017 U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing some abnormally dry/DO drought conditions (note this does not reflect the most recent rainfall). The Potomac River Basin received an above average amount of precipitation in October,</p>	<p>Christine Howard (202) 962 3366 cdhoward@mwkog.org</p>

most regional groundwater levels are normal, and local reservoirs are full. COG will continue to monitor conditions and provide additional updates throughout the month. Please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website at <https://www.mwcog.org/drought> to learn more.

NRG Spill Exercise

On October 26, 2017, Metropolitan Washington water utilities and COG staff participated in an oil spill exercise hosted by NRG at the Dickerson Generating Station. The exercise was based on a pre-planned scenario involving an oil discharge from the Plant into a waterway (not always the Potomac River), and was designed to play out the steps NRG staff and other responding agencies would take (per the Station Emergency Action Plan) when responding to oil discharged to a waterway.

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Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

COG Contact

COG Board Resolution Reaffirming Commitment to Climate & Energy

After the Administration's announcement of the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, many jurisdictions pledged to continue their work to protect the climate. The COG Board at its October meeting approved of a resolution that reaffirms the region's commitment to support local leaders and stakeholders in reaching goals in the Climate & Energy Action Plan.

The resolution is available here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/file.aspx?D=fFRkHrkBV8GmSEVKMmKM7gynh5cqz3R8ZOhSC%2bJ1oN4%3d&A=z9igFH4adkfn8qcnOSQPbMpnMo1q94bXwWucltvXpfM%3d>

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COG's Climate & Energy Progress Dashboard

COG published a web-based Climate & Energy Progress Dashboard which shows trends in renewable energy, greenhouse gas reduction, green buildings and other areas. The Dashboard is accessible here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/data-and-tools/climate-and-energy-progress-dashboard/>

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Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

The Climate & Energy Leadership Awards winners were announced at the October meeting of the COG Board. Recipients include Arlington County's Energy Lending Library; Mundo Verde Bilingual DC Public Charter School, for sustainability education initiatives, and City Blossoms' educational community gardens program. Videos and descriptions of each initiative are available here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2017/10/11/council-of-governments-honors-regions-climate-and-energy-leaders-climate-awards/>

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ACPAC toured the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Center for their October meeting and learned about the facility's advanced treatment, energy and fertilizer production, and environmental stewardship.

Upcoming Meeting & Events

- December 14th – WRTC Work Session:
Nutrient Dynamics in the Potomac River
Estuary
- January 12th – WRTC Meeting
- January 19th – CBPC Meeting

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