



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES September 2022

Chesapeake Bay Program

[New plan in place for pollution problems at Conowingo Dam](#)

Bay Journal

[New technology, equipment helps ShoreRivers better track algae blooms in Chesapeake Bay](#)

The (Easton, Md.) Star Democrat

[Chesapeake Bay advisory board gives update on health of the Bay](#)

Augusta Free Press (Waynesboro, Va.)

[Army Corps, Maryland DOT sign agreement to commence \\$4 billion Chesapeake Bay restoration project](#)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

[EPA to Review Pennsylvania's Latest Cleanup Plan For the Chesapeake Bay](#)

The Bay Journal

The 2019 version spurred suits from other states and environmental groups, contending that Pennsylvania's failure to curb water-fouling nutrients would keep the region from reaching its 2025 Bay cleanup goals.

CBP Resources

The Chesapeake Bay Program has a Case Studies Database, searchable by location, topic, best practices, and environmental and economic benefits. <https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/casestudies/>

The CBP's Communications Director, Rachel Felver, welcomes feedback on this new database and you can submit your own case studies, which will be added on a quarterly basis,

rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

Check out CBP's Behavior Change website for ways to engage citizens to take on-the-ground restoration actions. <https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/>

The Bay Program's Local Leadership Work Group will be producing four more Educational Modules for A Local Government Guide 2.0 by December 2022. The new educational modules (factsheets and presentations) will cover the topics of flooding, agriculture, communications and engagement, and environmental health. These will be added to the cadre of seven existing ones, presented to the CBPC by Shannon Moore in 2021, which are accessible here:

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/local_leadership_workgroup

Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

[COVID Sewage Surveillance Labs Join the Hunt for Monkeypox](#)

NPR

The same [wastewater surveillance techniques](#) that have emerged as a critical tool in the early detection of COVID-19 outbreaks are being adapted for use in monitoring the startling spread of monkeypox across the San Francisco Bay Area and some other U.S. communities.

[USDA, EPA Partner to Provide Wastewater Funding Assistance](#)

Waterworld

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have announced Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative, a partnership to provide wastewater sanitation to underserved communities.

[An Increase in Salt in the Region's Water Sources Will Affect Habits and Human Health, Experts Say](#)

Greater Washington

As wastewater in Greater Washington becomes saltier due to road salt runoff, pollution from various commercial sources, and saltier human diets, drinking water may become saltier too. The EPA does not have standards regulating sodium in drinking water or streams. The sodium concentration in the Potomac has steadily grown between 1996 and today.

[Salt in Water Sources Becoming Worrisome in D.C. Region, Experts Warn](#)

The Washington Post

Paved streets, sidewalks, and parking lots need de-icing in winter, with the sodium chloride in [road salt](#) running off into streams. Washing machines drain sodium-containing detergents and industrial firms discharge sodium-laden water into wastewater systems, which already treat the human waste of a society [addicted to salty foods and drinks](#).

[Renewed push to allow swimming in Potomac River in DC](#)

DC News Now (Washington, D.C.)

[2022 Potomac River Conference: A conversation on PFAS](#)

Join the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin for a virtual conference on the state of the science, policy, technology, and the future of PFAS in the Potomac River basin.

[AWWA Source Water Protection Week](#)

AWWA invites water utilities, sections and other partners to join the Association in recognizing Source Water Protection Week from Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 2022. Throughout the week, we will be raising awareness about the importance of caring for our beautiful drinking water sources. Source Water Protection Week materials are now available, and many additional resources will be added between now and Sept. 25.

[Breakthrough Might Break Down PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'](#)

U.S. News

A team of researchers say they've figured out a cheap, easy and effective way to break down two of the major classes of PFAS compounds, leaving behind harmless end products. The new process uses two readily available chemicals — lye and dimethyl sulfoxide — to break down PFAS compounds that are capped with carbon dioxide, according to the scientists. The process also works at a temperature much lower than previous efforts to break down PFAS compounds. The breakdown occurs at 248 degrees Fahrenheit, just above the boiling point of water; earlier methods have required temperatures as high as 752 degrees Fahrenheit, the researchers said.

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

[Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of September 5, 2022](#)

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released August 30 indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought. The areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality are under a normal status. Groundwater, streamflow, and precipitation levels are normal, and local reservoirs remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months. For more information, please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

[Drought Affected Nearly a Third of Americans in August](#)

U.S. News

[The great drought and the great deluge, all at the same time](#)

The Washington Post

Fairfax Water will be hosting a Drinking Water Summit at Griffith Water Treatment Plant on September 29th for invited guests.

Fairfax Water will provide information on how Fairfax Water is addressing future water supply needs; how a supplemental Potomac water supply would benefit Northern Virginia; sodium and PFAS in source and drinking water, and a tour of the Griffith Plant to learn about the water treatment process.

Food and Agriculture

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is happy to announce plans for the 2022-2023 Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum and Listening Sessions. The Forum brings together NFWF grantees, partners, and practitioners in agricultural conservation from across the region to discuss emerging trends and topics, network and share ideas, and inform what's next in our collective efforts towards greater agricultural sustainability.

This year's Forum will be delivered virtually through a series of focused, crowd sourced sessions. We've identified several important, emerging topics related to our shared work, framed around key questions that we're seeking your help in answering. For each session, NFWF will be accepting proposals for 5–15-minute flash talks that help answer, at least in part, each of these key questions. After hearing from selected presentations, participants will then have the opportunity for loosely structured networking and discussion on each topic, with the goal of leaving each session with new understanding, ideas, and partners to help tackle these shared challenges.

Please see the attached Forum description and detail for information on each session. All participants must register by October 13 and proposed presentations must be submitted by October 1, 2022, using this form: <https://forms.gle/hc1YUyfpqdmTkAad7>

[How Americans Are Coping With Rising Food Prices Amid Inflation in 2022](#)

The Washington Post

Inflation is strangling kitchen-table budgets across the United States. [Food costs](#) have climbed every month this year. Groceries are 12.2 percent higher now than they were last summer – the biggest year-over-year spike in 43 years, federal data shows. Fruits and vegetables cost 8 percent more, staples such as bread and cereal have jumped 14 percent, and butter and margarine are up a whopping 26 percent.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

WRTC Meeting – November 10

CBPC Meeting – November 18

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