



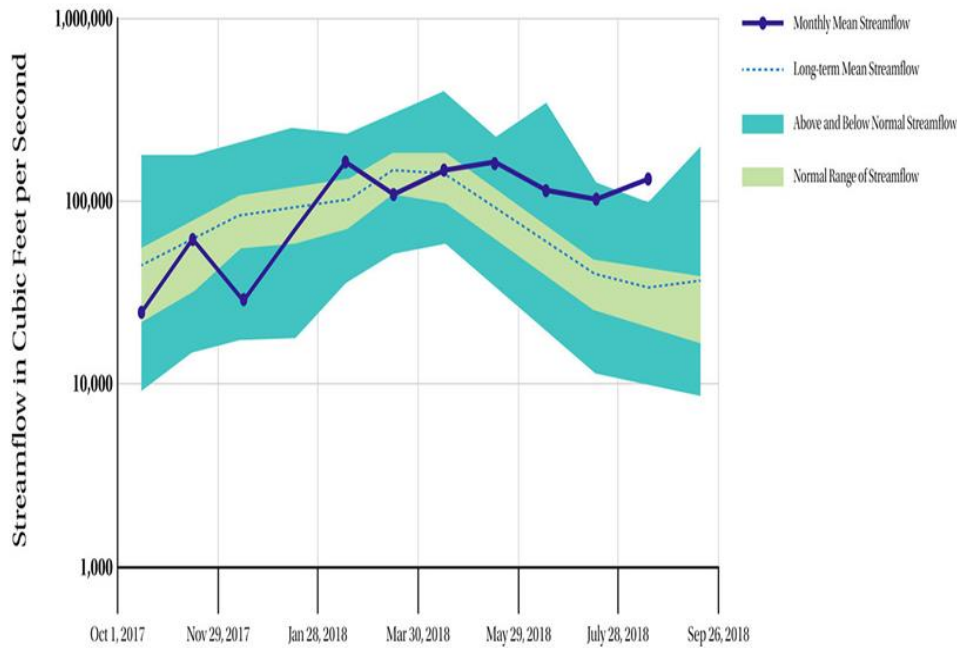
COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) UPDATES (as of 10/29/18)

Updates on key CBP activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members & the RWQM Work Program.

Bay TMDL – Phase III WIPs & Other Updates	COG Contact
<p><u>Climate Change Narrative Guidance is Approved by CBP Management Board</u> The Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Change Narrative Guidance (approved by the Management Board on October 18, 2018) is designed to be a template for WIP Phase III writers for what to include in their climate narratives (qualitative approach). COG staff provided comments on the draft version which resulted in the addition of wastewater climate change considerations being added to the final version. Here is the link to the final Climate Change Narrative Guidance document: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/25487/final_climate_change_narrative_10.11.18.pdf</p> <p><u>The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) approved Citizen Science MOU.</u> At the October 12th PSC meeting, the PSC approved a MOU with the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative. formalizing the inclusion of citizen science in the Bay partnership, including commitments for data QA/QC and an open-access data clearinghouse. The Local Government Advisory Committee wrote a letter in support of this effort, and COG added its support and logo to the MOU. The Monitoring Cooperative is a partnership of the Alliance for the Bay, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and Izaak Walton League For further details about the citizen monitoring MOU visit: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake_bay_program_welcomes_citizen_science_into_its_efforts</p> <p><u>Quick Reference Guide to Best Management Practices</u> In August, the Bay Program has released its <i>Quick Reference Guide to Best Management Practices (BMPs)</i>, with factsheets about how BMPs are credited. Knowing BMP crediting will assist states and locals in developing their Phase III WIPs. To access the Guide: https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/BMP-Guide_Full.pdf</p> <p><u>Local Government Advisory Committee invites CBPC Members to their November 29th meeting</u> The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) has invited CBPC members to its quarterly meeting being held in Washington, DC on November 29. This is a good opportunity to discuss topics of local/regional concern, and to share successes, lessons learned, challenges faced, etc. CBPC members, to RSVP, please use this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScswTy8p7_tPmLa7ZXGLoPr_8xWo6QQVgOlhqt6nf-9kXLA/viewform?c=0&w=1 Point of contact: Ola Davis, odavis@allianceforthebay.org</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Bay Restoration – Water Quality <u>Summer Rainfall Impact on the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Being Assessed</u> Both Virginia and Maryland received unusually high summer rainfall, amounting to the 2nd wettest July in Maryland. The Susquehanna River, which normally contributes about half of the Bay's fresh water, reached the highest flow the river has seen since Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. The volume of debris washing over the Conowingo floodgates was the largest in 20 years, according to Exelon, the owner of the dam. Large amounts of sediment and nutrients were also delivered</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>

to the Bay during these high flows. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded high fresh water flows from both the Susquehanna and Potomac River. This influx could have wide-ranging impacts on the Bay's plant and animal life including adverse effects on fish and shellfish, particularly oysters, and SAV. The Bay impacts of the high freshwater inflow and added nutrients and sediments are being monitored, but it will take a while to fully assess their effects.

Monthly Average Streamflow Entering the Chesapeake Bay



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

To read more:

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

Despite unusual weather, hypoxic volume expected to be similar to previous years.

Both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences track the level of hypoxia, or low oxygen, in the Chesapeake Bay every year, using different means. Final information for the 2018 warm weather season is still being calculated, but the two entities expect to issue a joint hypoxia report card soon. In the meantime, VIMS is reporting that “Overall, the total amount of hypoxia in 2018 was estimated to be very similar to 2017, but the seasonal patterns in hypoxia were very different and hypoxia was estimated to start earlier and last longer in 2018 than in recent years.”

See www.vims.edu/hypoxia for more information.

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<p>Conowingo Dam / Susquehanna Watershed</p> <p>1) On October 12, the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) approved the Conowingo WIP steering committee structure, guiding principles, and development priorities. Chair Grumbles acknowledged the CBPC’s letter requesting specific points in the process for local engagement and agreed that working with local governments is essential. The PSC held a long discussion about the timeline for the Conowingo WIP implementation but was unable to reach consensus. They will be scheduling a conference call in the next few weeks to agree upon the timeline.</p>	<p>COG Contact</p> <p><u>Heidi Bonnaffon</u> (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Watershed and Water Quality Models– Activities and Issues</p> <p><u>Climate Change Modeling Focus</u> COG and NVRC staff participated in a climate change modeling workshop in September sponsored by the Bay Program’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Output from the workshop will inform the Bay Program’s efforts to upgrade the simulation of climate change in its modeling framework. Although the Bay Program partners currently have the discretion to address climate change solely through narrative means in the Phase III WIPs, the Bay Program has set a 2022 deadline for addressing climate change impacts directly through load reduction measures. Although the models are still being upgraded to perform this task, preliminary indications are that climate change might require the additional reduction of up to 9 million pounds of nitrogen bay-wide by 2025.</p>	<p>COG Contact</p> <p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Mukhtar Ibrahim (202) 962-3364 mibrahim@mwkog.org</p>
<p>Outreach</p> <p><u>Upcoming in January: Bay Barometer and State Factsheets</u> The Bay Program plans to release its Bay Barometer report and state-by-state factsheets on January 8, 2019. COG plans to share these as part of our Bay outreach efforts.</p>	<p>COG Contact</p> <p><u>Heidi Bonnaffon</u> (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>

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