



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) (AS OF 7/21/17)

Summary of 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 – Overall Program & Midpoint Assessment (MPA) Activities	COG Contact
<p><u>COG Board Supports Full Funding for EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Work</u> At its June 14 meeting, the COG Board approved Resolution R35-2017, "Resolution Supporting Continued Federal Funding for the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program." https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2017/06/14/certified-resolution-r35-2017--chesapeake-bay-program/</p> <p>Members of COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC), led by Chair Dan Sze, endorsed the continuation of Chesapeake Bay Program and related funding in the 2018 federal budget and recommended the Board action. COG sent copies of the resolution in letters to members of Congress representing the COG region and various appropriations committees. The resolution also was distributed to members of the Maryland and Virginia general assemblies, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council and Principals' Staff Committee, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2017/06/14/area-officials-act-in-support-of-full-federal-funding-for-the-chesapeake-bay/</p> <p>Current Status of CBP Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016 enacted funding - \$73 million (included \$6 million each for Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants and \$6 million for Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants)• 2017 enacted funding - \$73 million• 2018 President's budget request - \$0• 2018 House Interior appropriations bill - \$60 million (including \$5 million for same two grants – for a \$13 million cut over prior years' appropriations; but same level proposed by House in past three years)• 2018 Senate appropriations bill – TBD <p>COG staff continue to actively monitor and report on this as well as other water-related federal funding matters, and make recommendations to the CBPC.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwcog.org</p> <p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwcog.org</p>
<p><u>Maryland's Governor Hogan to Convene Summit to Address Conowingo Dam Loadings</u> Governor Larry Hogan and Secretary Ben Grumbles will be convening a Summit of officials and contractors to examine the issue of the pollution and sediment loadings from Conowingo Dam. COG staff are seeking more information about the Summit.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwcog.org</p>

Here is a link to a MACO article with more details:

<https://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org/2017/07/18/hogan-reviewing-conowingo-dam-proposals-plans-to-call-for-summit/>

Current MPA Schedule

The Bay Program Partnership’s schedule for the Midpoint Assessment (MPA) is outlined in a **COG graphic that outlines the overall [MPA schedule](#)** as well as noting key milestones and decision points where COG member input on technical and policy matters will need to be provided over the next few years. Key decisions include the use of the updated Phase 6 modeling tools, allocation of the ‘new’ Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna Watershed loads, and the development of the Phase III Planning Targets which leads to the development of the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs).

This MPA process includes a stakeholder review and analysis of all the model outputs and results part of a **‘Fatal Flaw Review’ (June through August 2017)**. That review would attempt to identify substantive (i.e., fatal) flaws in any of suite of the modeling tools’ assumptions, calibrations, or outputs that would appear to have major impacts on overall Bay Partnership plans and decisions. COG staff will be holding a Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) work session (late June/early July) with the support of NVRC staff, to present the results of staff analysis and identify any issues to bring to the attention of the CBPC. This summer is a critical timeframe for COG staff to work with our members to review this information and potentially provide formal comments regarding the accuracy of this key data. **COG staff are actively working with COG members’ technical staff and the WRTC to analyze the information and develop recommendations for the CBPC.**

Key Deadlines

- Final decisions regarding allocation of Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna Watershed loads – Late October 2017
- Draft Phase III WIP Planning Targets issued – October 31, 2017
- Final Phase III WIP Planning Targets issued – March 2018
- Draft Phase III WIPs issued – February 2019
- Final Phase III WIPs issued – April 2019

Note: This schedule allows a one (1) year interval from the issuance of the Final Planning Targets to issuance of the Final WIPs.

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Watershed and Water Quality Models– Activities and Issues

COG Contact

CBP Forum on Future Growth Scenarios

Several COG members, including Fairfax County Supervisor and CBPC member Penny Gross, participated in a Chesapeake Bay Program forum (June 7th) on predicting future land use in the Bay watershed. The *Forum on Future Land Use Growth Scenarios* was jointly sponsored by the Bay Program’s Local Government Advisory Committee and its Land Use Workgroup, to obtain local input on the overall direction and underlying assumptions that the Bay Program should use in developing scenarios for how population growth will change land use. Under its Midpoint Assessment process for the Bay TMDL, the Bay Program will decide whether to use such a forecast in the development of Phase III WIPs.

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COG staff (Karl Berger) chairs the Land Use Workgroup and will continue to coordinate member input into the development of future growth scenarios and ensure their compatibility with COG’s Cooperative Forecasting data.

Draft Phase 6 Watershed Model Released

The Bay Program has issued draft results from the new Phase 6 version of its watershed model for review and comment under a “Fatal Flaw” review process that lasts through July. The Bay Program uses the watershed model to track progress toward the nutrient and sediment reduction goals of the Bay TMDL and for other assessment purposes. The new version of the watershed model, under development for the past 5 years, will replace the version of the Phase 5.3.2 version of the watershed model that was used to establish the Bay TMDL. Upgrades to the Bay Program’s modeling suite, which includes the Water Quality and Sediment Transport Model that predicts the extent of attainment with Bay TMDL water quality criteria in tidal waters, are essential to decisions regarding allocations and how to address the Conowingo Dam issue and the effects of climate change to be made under the current Midpoint Assessment process.

COG staff is currently working to develop regional load estimates using the new model and will share its results with members at upcoming WRTC meetings and workshops. Members can contact COG staff for assistance in navigating the various tools for depicting model output, in particular, the Chesapeake Assessment and Scenario Tool (CAST). This assistance includes preparation of a [COG’s Guide to Bay Modeling Navigation](#) to assist members in analyzing output from the Bay Program’s updated suite of models, which can provide a relatively simple way of accessing output from Bay Program model scenarios and doing local planning.

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Climate Change & Water Resource Impacts

COG Contact

CBP Climate Change Assessments

COG staff continue to monitor the Bay Program’s efforts to address climate change efforts – both quantitatively by evaluating modeling results as well as qualitatively by assessing which stormwater BMP practices appear most vulnerable or robust under potential future climate conditions. **A presentation on the Bay Program’s climate impacts and planning efforts is scheduled for the July 28th CBPC meeting.**

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

On July 18th, the [COG signed an agreement with the USACE, Baltimore District to begin an approximately \\$3-million, three-year study on possible ways to address coastal flooding and storm damage](#) in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas of suburban Maryland and northern Virginia. COG is serving as the non-federal sponsor for the study which involves coordinating among local cost-share partners, and the National Capital Planning Commission will serve as a study advisor and will help coordinate federal participation.

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This state-of-the-art analysis will expand on past studies by assessing a range of possible future conditions to account for uncertainty and changing risk over time resulting from climate and sea level change. Study deliverables include detailed scenario-based coastal flooding inundation mapping, an infrastructure interconnection and flooding vulnerability assessment, and recommended flood mitigation measures.

COG staff will also be working to ensure that the climate inputs in this study are comparable with those being used by the Bay Program as well as other formal studies.