



## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES January 2023

### Chesapeake Bay Program

#### [2022 Chesapeake Bay Foundation State of the Bay Report](#)

In 2022, the State of the Bay score remained unchanged at 32, a D+. Of the 13 indicators assessed, three improved and three declined. A big gain for oysters was tempered by a worrying drop for blue crabs, while pollution and habitat indicators showed only modest change. These mixed results reflect the struggle between restoration efforts and powerful forces that are reshaping the watershed.

#### [Record Amount of Funding Awarded to Spur Watershed Restoration](#)

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund finances 104 projects throughout the region

#### [Local Government Advisory Committee \(LGAC\) Held a Climate Resiliency Forum: Here are the Take Aways](#)

LGAC's December one-day Forum pointed towards flexible funding, partnerships and communications as some of the needs for better integrating climate resiliency planning into existing frameworks.

#### [Conowingo Dam License is Vacated, so License is back to FERC](#)

#### [DC Appeals Court Invalidates Conowingo Dam License](#)

### Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

#### [Projects to improve stream health, reduce urban runoff and restore fish passage receive funding](#)

From working with farmers in Pennsylvania to restoring degraded streams in Virginia, this year's 49 Chesapeake Stewardship Fund grant recipients will each leave their positive mark on the Chesapeake Bay and its 64,000 square-mile watershed.

### Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

[The ICPRB CO-OP](#) held a Drought Exercise in November included a regional Drought Coordination Technical Committee conference call to discuss potential water use restrictions associated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments "WARNING" stage, communication with Washington Aqueduct (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) on the Low Flow Allocation Agreement thresholds, and data collection and operational predictions through CO-OP's data portal and daily flow prediction tool to determine the need for "simulated" releases from Little Seneca and North Branch reservoirs.

#### [President Biden Signed WRDA, Authorizing Army Corps Study of Secondary Drinking Water Supply for the District of Columbia](#)

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, President Biden Signed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022, authorizing three District of Columbia water studies championed by Del. Holmes Norton.

#### [The Fascinating Story of DC's Aqueducts and Reservoirs](#)

## Climate and Energy

[“Witness Trees” Planted in Flood-prone Black Neighborhood in Baltimore County to Bring Multiple Benefits](#)

[Hughes Center Technical Study on Maryland Tree Canopy](#)

This report, released in November, will be a topic on the upcoming March CBPC agenda.

## Funding Resources

Below are links to Maryland Department of Environment’s (MDE) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) main webpages for grant and loan program information, as well as information on an EPA green infrastructure grant program. Maryland is on an annual funding cycle with applications due in the December-January timeframe.

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WQFA/Pages/index.aspx>

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/water/clean-water-financing>

<https://www.epa.gov/G3/green-streets-green-jobs-green-towns-g3-grant-program>

## Food and Agriculture

[Report Details Local Economic Benefits of Investing in Farm Conservation Practices](#)

Fully funding the farm pollution-reduction practices needed to restore the Chesapeake Bay would inject \$655 million annually into the region’s economy, including \$269 million per year in higher earnings for businesses and workers, according to a new report released today by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- COG’s Water Salinization Workshop (part of Water Summit Series)  
February 15 (1:00-3:00)
- CBPC 2023 Meeting Dates:  
January 20  
March 10 – New Member Orientation  
March 17  
May 19  
July 21  
September 15 – Annual Forum  
November 17
- FARM Meeting  
February 10 (9:00 – 1:30)

## COG Staff Contacts

Heidi Bonnaffon, [hbonnaffon@mwkog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org)

Christine Howard, [cdhoward@mwkog.org](mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org)

Lindsay Smith (Food and Agriculture), [lsmith@mwkog.org](mailto:lsmith@mwkog.org)