



## COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

(As of 1/14/16)

### General Water Resources:

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 & Source Water Protection

#### Health Officials Committee & Water Utility Exercise on January 21<sup>st</sup>

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, COG will host a joint Health Officials Committee and Water Utility tabletop exercise. The primary purpose of this tabletop exercise is to enhance the ability of health officials, utility personnel and stakeholders (primarily local and state agencies), to effectively prepare for, manage, and respond to consequences resulting from a water contamination incident. The exercise will emphasize the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of local health officials, utilities, and other stakeholders during a response to drinking water and wastewater-related consequences resulting from a water contamination incident. The Initial Planning Conference for the exercise is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>.

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#### Federal Ban on Plastic Microbeads

The Microbeads-Free Waters Act of 2015 bill has been signed by the President. It requires manufactures to begin phasing out plastic microbeads from personal care products by July 2017. The small beads pass through wastewater treatment plant processes, and enter waterways. In streams, they attract toxic compounds like PCBs, and are consumed by fish and other species.

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#### Federal Plans to Overhaul Toxic Substances Control Act

The Senate and House have also passed separate versions of bills to update EPA's outdated Toxic Substances Control Act. Once the bills are reconciled it will likely require EPA to establish priorities for assessing chemical risks and will increase the number of chemicals reviewed annually by federal inspectors. This renewed focus on chemical safety was partially spurred by the Elk River, West Virginia chemical leak in January 2014.

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### Water Infrastructure

#### Regional Water System Redundancy Study at Broad Run

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, COG will be holding Workshop #4 of a regional water system redundancy study. The workshop will be held at Loudoun Water's Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility. The focus of workshop #4 will be Improvement Alternatives. During the workshop, we will evaluate Emergency Operating Scenarios and Improvement Alternatives. Black & Veatch will present and discuss improvement options to mitigate consequences of failure scenarios that were developed earlier. These may include:

1. Raw water storage;
2. Transmission options;
3. Finished water transfer; and
4. Additional interconnections.

As part of this workshop, we will review water supply balances for each failure scenario, assess operational responses, and identify preferred improvement options. We will also evaluate potential benefits (e.g., reduction in people outage days, direct and economic costs, etc.) that would be expected from each preferred improvement.

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| <p><b><u>Water Infrastructure Survey</u></b><br/>         COG staff will be transmitting surveys to COG's local governments and water utilities to help update and expand on the region's water infrastructure database. This data will be used to help ensure that accurate and up-to-date data for the region's wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems and facilities is available to support various COG factsheets, reports and in some cases to ensure that CBP modeling data for the region is accurate.</p>  | <p>Tanya Spano<br/>         (202) 962-3776<br/> <a href="mailto:tspano@mwkog.org">tspano@mwkog.org</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Wastewater</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b><u>RWFFM &amp; WWTP Data</u></b><br/>         COG is working to update the Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) to generate new flow projections for COG's WWTPs, based on the COG's recently approved Round 8.4 demographic data trends. COG is working to send out a survey to update/verify the historical wastewater data for the region. This will not only help provide accurate and up-to-date data for various COG factsheets and other water infrastructure summaries; but the data will also ensure that the inputs to the CBP's models is accurate. This wastewater data also aided into gathering the water-related emissions and other findings for COG's GHG inventory project.</p> | <p>Tanya Spano<br/>         (202) 962-3776<br/> <a href="mailto:tspano@mwkog.org">tspano@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Nasser Ameen<br/>         (202) 962-3394<br/> <a href="mailto:nameen@mwkog.org">nameen@mwkog.org</a></p>              |
| <p><b>Stormwater</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b><u>Research on Stormwater Procurement Opportunities</u></b><br/>         COG staff members Karl Berger and Heidi Bonnaffon have been holding meetings with individual jurisdictions to learn how COG may be able to assist programs with stormwater contract information sharing and/or regional procurement of stormwater goods and services. They are also in the process of updating the regional table of utility fees/taxes. More details on stormwater procurement and cost data will be shared a future meeting.</p>  | <p>Heidi Bonnaffon<br/>         (202) 962-3216<br/> <a href="mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org">hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Karl Berger<br/>         (202) 962-3350<br/> <a href="mailto:kberger@mwkog.org">kberger@mwkog.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>Water &amp; Energy</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b><u>Potomac River Watershed Source Water Assessment and Data System Tool</u></b><br/>         COG will be briefing the regional HazMat Committee on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the Emergency Managers Committee on January 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the capabilities of the WaterSuite tool.</p>  | <p>Steve Bieber<br/>         (202) 962-3219<br/> <a href="mailto:sbieber@mwkog.org">sbieber@mwkog.org</a></p>   |
| <p><b><u>Multi-Sector Working Group</u></b><br/>         A final report, including 'consensus' strategies that can be recommended for region-wide implementation, will be included in the final report, expected in January, 2016. An Action Plan will be developed in 2016. The Interim Summary Report and other materials are posted here:<br/> <a href="http://www.mwkog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=285">http://www.mwkog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=285</a></p>  | <p>Steve Walz<br/>         (202) 962-3205<br/> <a href="mailto:swalz@mwkog.org">swalz@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Amanda Campbell<br/>         (202) 962 3324<br/> <a href="mailto:acampbell@mwkog.org">acampbell@mwkog.org</a></p>        |
| <p><b><u>Climate &amp; Energy Progress Report</u></b><br/>         This years' Climate &amp; Energy Progress Report focuses on case studies of progress throughout the region in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing renewable energy, net zero energy, waste, and vehicles, and in clean technology and community engagement. The final report is found here:<br/> <a href="http://www.mwkog.org/uploads/committee-documents/aVxfWFhb20151104091043.pdf">http://www.mwkog.org/uploads/committee-documents/aVxfWFhb20151104091043.pdf</a></p>  | <p>Maia Davis<br/>         (202) 962 3227<br/> <a href="mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org">mdavis@mwkog.org</a></p>   |

**Water & Climate**

**DC Climate Projections and Scenario Development**

The District of Columbia issued a report that identifies the likely impacts of climate change on the District. It is the first step in a multi-phase project led by the District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (formerly DDOE) to develop a citywide climate adaptation and preparedness plan for the District. The report is found here: <http://doee.dc.gov/node/1110407>

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**COG Region Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Key Findings**

COG staff conducted regional greenhouse gas inventories for 2005 and 2012 to determine the region’s baseline emissions and whether it was able to meet the first emissions target to reduce emissions by 10% below baseline projections by 2012. The results indicated that the region was able to achieve its first emissions target, as well as reduce per capita and overall emissions despite population growth. Wastewater processes only accounted for 0.1% of total emissions; however, this number does not include the emissions from electricity and fuel use associated with wastewater treatment or pumping. Quantifying those contributions and reduction efforts, as well as those of drinking water facilities and systems will be worked on over the coming year.

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**Drinking Water**

**Proposed Amendment to Virginia Water Protection Permit (VWP) Regulations**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has published a proposed amendment (public comment to be accepted through January 29, 2015), to the Virginia Water Protection Permit (VWP) regulations. Among other changes, the proposed regulation would move provisions affecting surface water withdrawals to a new Part V. The proposed regulation also would define “Public water supply safe yield” as part of a larger proposal to move the safe yield definition from Virginia Department of Health waterworks regulations to the VWP. Additionally, the proposed regulation could affect VWP rules addressing definitions, treatment of exclusions to the permit, the VWP application process, compensatory mitigation requirements, and permit modifications.

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**Additional Items**

**Water and Wastewater Professionals Appreciation Day**

Prince William County Service Authority submitted a resolution to the Virginia General Assembly, sponsored by Delegate Anderson, to recognize utility professionals. COG, NVRC and the Virginia Rural Water Association were listed as supporters of the resolution, along with VA AWWA and VWEA.

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Winter (date TBD)** – WRTC Technical Work Session
- Spring (date TBD)** – PCBs & Permitting Issues Work Session
- Spring (date TBD)** – Road Salts “Best Management Practices” Workshop with DOTs
- March 18th** – CBPC Meeting