

## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES September 2020

### Chesapeake Bay Program

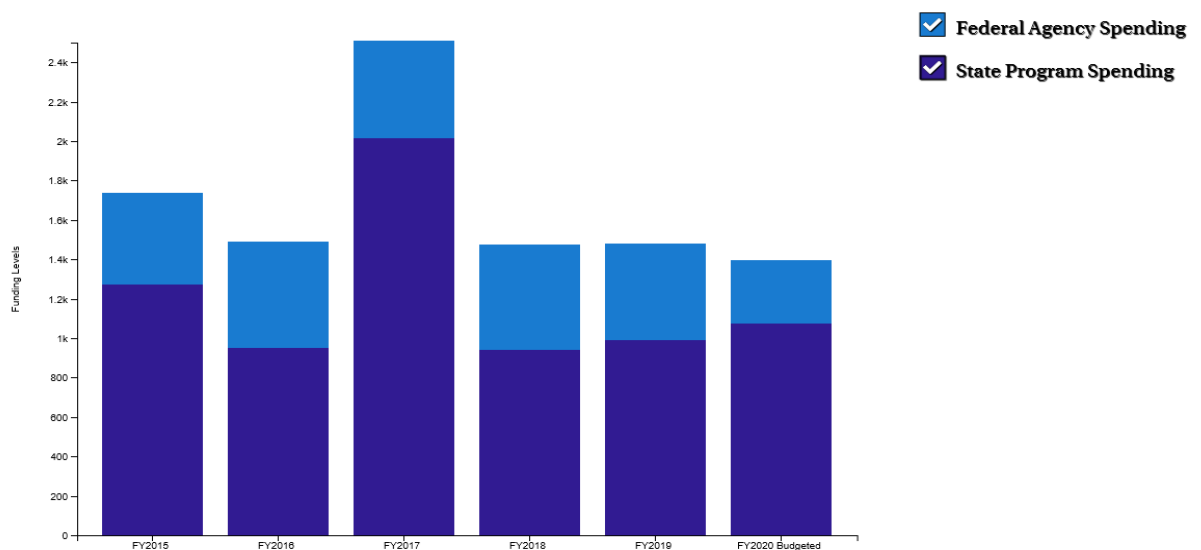
At the August 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Council meeting, the EC adopted a historic statement, [Statement in Support of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice](#) committing the Chesapeake Bay Program to strengthening and improving diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in all its partnership areas. The Executive Council also heard from representatives of the Local Government, Scientific, and Citizens Advisory Committees. Virginia Governor Northam was unanimously elected as successor to Maryland Governor Hogan, three term chair. Further details are here: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the\\_chesapeake\\_executive\\_council\\_tackles\\_the\\_issues\\_of\\_2020\\_in\\_a\\_virtual\\_wa](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_chesapeake_executive_council_tackles_the_issues_of_2020_in_a_virtual_wa)

### Bay Program Funding Detailed

The Chesapeake Bay Program, under its Chesapeake Progress web site, has updated its summary of federal and state expenditures in support of the Bay restoration effort. The data, covering actual spending from FY 2015 – 2019 and projected spending for FY 2020, shows that total spending by the six Bay Partner states and the District of Columbia significantly exceeds spending by all of the federal agencies involved in the restoration effort.

#### Spending for Watershed Restoration (Fiscal Year 2015-2020)

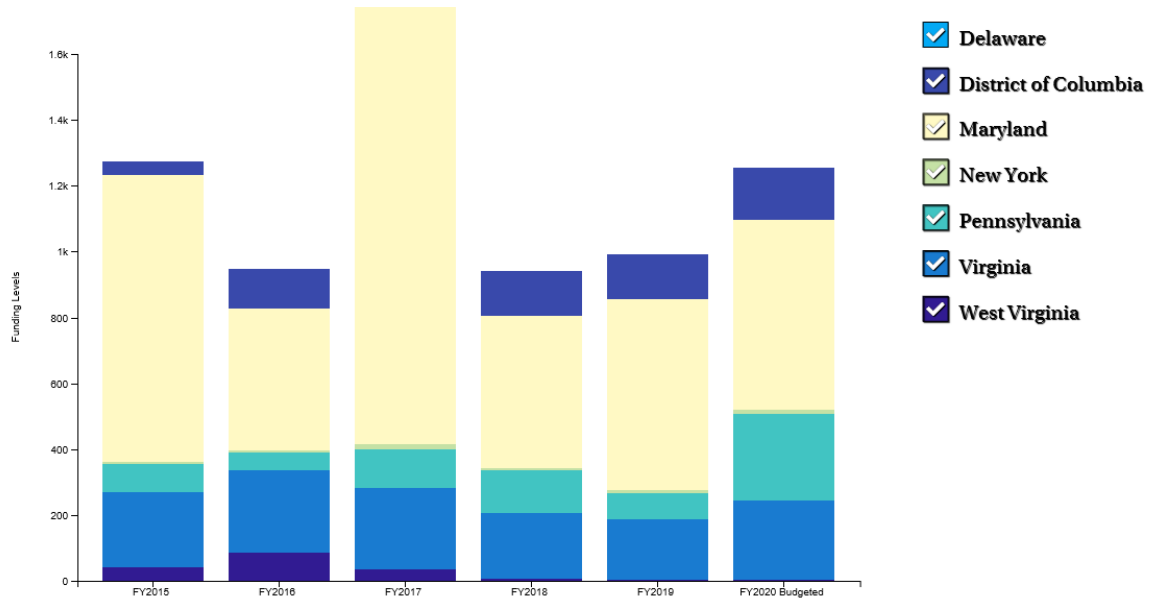
Funding Levels Reported in Millions of Dollars



The data also shows that Maryland has spent significantly more than the other Bay Partner jurisdictions, although this comparison does not account for the differences in the scale of the effort among the jurisdictions.

### State Program Spending for Watershed Restoration (Fiscal Year 2015-2020)

Funding Levels Reported in Millions of Dollars.



For more information, see: <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/funding>

### 2020 Bay report cards paint mixed picture

From the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies (UMCES) -- the Chesapeake Bay overall scored a 44%, the lowest score and first C- since 2011. See: <https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/bay-health/>

From the Chesapeake Bay Foundation -- its Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint evaluates progress toward the 2025 Bay TMDL goal on a state-by-state basis; the latest version credits Maryland and Virginia with being on track to meet their 2025 goals. <https://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/chesapeake-clean-water-blueprint/>

### EPA evaluates state milestones

EPA Region III released its evaluations of the final 2020-2021 milestones submitted by Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, New York, the District of Columbia and a set of federal agencies. The evaluations comment upon the extent to which the parties met their 2018-2019 milestones and the adequacy of their 2020-21 milestones for making progress toward the 2025 Bay TMDL restoration goals. See: <https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl>.

## **Infrastructure**

A report released August 26 by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Value of Water Campaign, entitled ***“The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure: How a Failure to Act Would Affect the U.S. Economy Recovery”***, United States has foregone investing in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, which negatively impacts households and the economy.

## **Local Water Quality**

On behalf of the District's Department of Energy and the Environment, COG plans to contract the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) to perform microbial source tracking analysis of surface water grab samples. The tracking work will distinguish h among human, dog, deer and avian sources of fecal coliform bacteria. The work is expected to begin this fall and end in the summer of 202.

## **Salinization**

### **Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory to receive grant**

Virginia Tech’s Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory will receive a grant from the National Science Foundation for a monitoring and mitigation project to address the freshwater salinization issue. The work will focus primarily on the Occoquan watershed, but should also have relevance to salt mitigation efforts elsewhere in the region.

### **NoVA Salt Management Strategy**

The northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) Toolkit is being developed by its Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Toolkit is to provide local governments with recommendations and resources for maintenance staff and organizations to effectively address and monitor winter salts. A draft of the SaMS Toolkit will be out for public comment in the January-February timeframe. To learn more, visit <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/SaMS.aspx>

## **Drinking Water and Storm Water**

**COG’s Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) conducted its Annual Water and Wastewater Survey.** A few of the starkest findings were that over half of respondents did not know their source of drinking water and that wipes labeled as “flushable” were generally thought safe to flush. **COG** shared the key survey findings in a press release and summary issued September 8<sup>th</sup> entitled “Utilities Urge Residents to Get to Know Their Water”: <https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2020/09/08/local-utilities-urge-residents-to-get-to-know-their-water/>

## **Food and Agriculture**

On September 9th, the COG Board approved a Resolution to create the Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad-Hoc Committee. Draft Bylaws were also shared with the Board. The Resolution was introduced by CBPC Chair, Councilmember Jon Stehle. Councilmember Stehle

will serve as a Vice Chair, along with Councilmember Craig Rice. Councilmember Mary Cheh has agreed to Chair the Committee. The Resolution and draft Bylaws can be found on page 31 of [September's Board Packet](#). In October, FARM will present a list of Committee members to the Board.

Other Announcements:

The Regional Food Systems Program at COG is also:

- Collaborating with two researchers, one at Georgetown, and one at a Maryland-institution, to understand urban agriculture's adaptation to the pandemic. The study seeks to learn from community garden managers, school garden managers, and urban farm operators in DC, Prince George's and Arlington counties to understand a) what new opportunities and changes they've observed since the beginning of the pandemic, b) how their projects have tried to adapt to these changes, and c) whether or not these efforts were successful.
- Working with Future Harvest, The Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, and the Mid-Atlantic Food Resilience and Access Coalition to undertake a brainstorming exercise on investments and policy changes required to support a Resilient, Crisis-Ready Food System. Here's [a link to the exercise and survey](#).

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

WRTC November 13,2020

CBPC November 20, 2020

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