



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES March 2023

Chesapeake Bay Program

[New mapping tool shows underserved communities and their access \(or lack thereof\) to nature](#)

A mission to chip away at the issue of green space inequity in the Chesapeake region

[Oyster Farmers of the Chesapeake Bay Breathe Hopeful Sign of Relief After Conowingo Dam Decision](#)

Oyster aquaculture is a growing industry in the state of Maryland. Similar to watermen, these intrepid individuals and companies utilize the water column or bottom of the Bay to cultivate, and harvest farmed oysters. The industry has achieved steady growth since the allowance for aquaculture leases in 2010. In turn, generating new jobs and economic multipliers.

[Oyster farming co-op earns money from Maryland county to help reduce pollution](#)

Charles County to Apply Oyster Restoration Credits to Meeting Stormwater Credits. This is a topic on the March CBPC agenda.

[2022 was another hot year in the Chesapeake watershed](#)

Water Quality, Wastewater And Stormwater

[The National Stormwater Policy Forum is April 24th at the NLC and NACo Offices](#)

The National Stormwater Policy Forum is a half-day event co-hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The event provides an opportunity for COG, WEF, NMSA, NLC and NACo members to learn about current policy issues driving the stormwater sector today. The Forum will include a “hot topics” panel discussion including flood resilience planning, emerging contaminants, and federal funding for stormwater from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. To attend in-person, please complete this [registration form](#). There will be a separate registration for virtual participants that will be available soon.

[ICPRB: The Potomac River Has Lost a Champion](#)

Curtis Dalpra, keeper of the Potomac News Reservoir newsletter for the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) recently passed away, but staff will keep it going. Here are some upcoming ICPRB events too:

[Walk in the Woods: Let's be Smart About Winter Salt](#) (April 1 in Gaithersburg, MD)

[Stream Cleanup: Rock Creek](#) (April 15 in Frederick, MD)

[Walk in the Woods: Frederick Municipal Forest](#) (April 29 near Frederick, MD)

[How Do Road Salts Impact Chesapeake Critters?](#)

Road Salts Applied In The Winter Can Have A Year-Round Impact On Chesapeake Wildlife.

[While harmful algal blooms like it hot, a new study finds they can handle the cold](#)

Lake Superior researcher sheds light on international effort to understand cold-water blooms.

[Tracking microplastic 'fingerprints'](#)

Scientists at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and MBARI recently published an open-access library — a collection anyone can use for free — of the chemical fingerprints of microplastics and other particles that are commonly found in and around the ocean. Researchers can use the library to figure out what kind of plastics are entering the ocean, where they are coming from and what we can do to keep them out in the future.

[Working Forests Protect Water Quality Across the U.S.](#)

More than half of all drinking water in the United States originates in forests, according to the National Association of State Foresters. And that's not just from protected park lands. Close to 30 percent of drinking water comes from privately-owned, working forests, according to this article by the U.S. Forest Service.

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

[March 22: Regional Summit on PFAS](#)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are “forever chemicals” used in industry and consumer products worldwide that enter the environment and water cycle. Join government officials, researchers, utility leaders, and others as we discuss the policymaking implications related to PFAS.

This invitation-only event is part of a series dedicated to water policy and science in our region.

Please contact Lisa Ragain of COG staff for additional information: lragain@mwkog.org

[Maryland to Receive \\$19M in Federal Funds for PFAS Testing. Infrastructure for Water](#)

Maryland is getting about \$19 million in federal funding to help municipalities trying to test or reduce levels of “forever chemicals” in their water supply.

EPA Proposes Rule to Limit PFAS in Drinking Water

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/14/epa-drinking-water-regulations-pfas/>

https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-forever-chemicals-are-all-around-us-from-winter-coats-to-fast-food-wrappers-5a250b05?st=0cbeytegsrir8ps&reflink=share_mobilewebshare

[The Latest Technology Can Help Achieve a Deeper Understanding of PFAS](#)

How the latest tools and techniques are being used to protect waterways by helping analyze the nation’s known and unknown PFAS.

Climate and Energy

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

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

Food and Agriculture

Save the Date: Loudoun County Farm Tour – May 12

Thanks to the support of the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development and the collaboration of FARM Members, Supervisor Kershner and his office, and the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, Multiple stops will be offered for this optional, educational visit for FARM Policy and CBPC Committee members. Topics that will be covered include farming economics, food system infrastructure, marketing and promotion, agritourism, food security, regulatory issues, and best management practices for supporting healthy animals, soil, and water quality.

[USDA Invests \\$9.4 Million in Compost and Food Waste Reduction Projects](#)

Congratulations to the City of Alexandria, City of Frederick, City of Greenbelt, Town of Edmonston, and Montgomery and Prince George’s counties on their awards!

[In majority-Black Prince George’s, a struggle to help Black farmers](#)

[From \\$258 to \\$23, SNAP recipients will see a major reduction in benefits](#)

Emergency allotments expire at the end of February.

[Baltimore County schools plan to offer free meals to students](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- CBPC 2023 Meeting Dates:
 - May 19
 - July 21
 - September 15 (Annual Forum)
 - November 17

- Next FARM Policy Committee Meeting – April 14: 10 am to noon at COG and online.
 - Please RSVP by Monday, April 10 for planning purposes:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Yzf0q9Vzti>

- Loudoun County Farm Tour – May 12

COG Staff Contacts

Heidi Bonnaffon, hbonnaffon@mwkog.org
Christine Howard, cdhoward@mwkog.org
Lindsay Smith (Food and Agriculture), lsmith@mwkog.org