

GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

WATER RESOURCES GENERAL

Climate Change Adaptation

- COG staff created and released a report entitled *Summary of Potential Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerabilities, and Adaptation Strategies in the Metropolitan Washington Region (2013)*: A synopsis of lessons learned from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' climate adaptation planning initiatives from 2010 - 2012.
- Water sector leaders from the region (Maureen Holman-DC Water, Laurens van der Tak-CH2MHill, Karin Bencala-ICPRB, Tanya Spano-COG, Steve Bieber-COG) to the Institute for Sustainable Communities Water Sector Climate Leadership Academy training held June 2013.

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Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee and CBPC Joint Meeting in July

- On July 24, 2013, the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CBPC) met to hear presentations on areas of mutual interest and discuss areas of overlap. Materials are posted [here](#).
 - Mike Knapp, Fairfax County and Brian LeCouteur, COG presented on the Tree Canopy Workgroup's draft Strategy Report about the extent and health of urban tree canopies across the COG region
 - Chris Peot, DCWater, presented on efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of Blue Plains and develop renewable energy.
 - COG staff shared a fact sheet on climate & energy initiatives at water utilities in the region.
 - The committees discussed their areas of mutual interest for the water-energy-climate change nexus and have agreed to continue to meet annually. For a full list of meeting outcomes, please contact Heidi Bonnaffon.

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Community Engagement Campaign Updates

- The Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) has released two free smart phone apps for finding businesses, within 50 miles of DC, that will provide free TapIt water bottle refills. The Apps are called "TapIt MetroDC" and are available in the iPhone App store and Android Play stores now. For more information and to download the Apps please visit the webpage: www.mwkog.org/TapIt.
- As part of the CEC's Do Not Flush Campaign, the CEC will be getting the word out via its social media outlets about the next DEA Drug Take Back Event scheduled for October 26, 2013. Lastly, the CEC will also be running ads \ about Can the Grease for its fall Fats, Oils, Grease Campaign. We will update you on the ad details at the November WRTC meeting.

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Green Streets

In 2012, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership recommended that the Transportation Planning Board adopt a regional Green Streets policy, parallel to its adopted regional Complete Streets policy. DTP and DEP staff are presenting a draft regional Green Streets policy and policy template for review and comment at the TPB Technical Subcommittee meeting today (September 6th, 2013).

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STORMWATER

WRTC Stormwater Member Input Requested

COG water staff are requesting *WRTC stormwater member input* on two documents:

1. Review and notify COG staff of any edits needed to the draft 2013 Stormwater Tax/Fee Table (included in meeting materials).
2. Complete a [SurveyMonkey survey of stormwater](#) topics of greatest interest for a winter workshop or series of workshops. Stormwater members: *Please complete the survey by Wednesday, September 11.*

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WASTEWATER

Wastewater Work Session Held

On August 8, 2013, COG hosted a Wastewater Work Session to discuss issues particularly relevant to the wastewater sector. Participants provided feedback on information presented regarding the regional flow forecast model and map, infrastructure event, and messaging strategies, among other topics. Staff will report on progress in responding to topics raised at the September 6th WRTC meeting.

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Bay Program STAC Wastewater Report Released

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and the Wastewater Treatment Work Group (the latter chaired by Tanya Spano, COG staff) released a workshop report entitled "[Real World Wastewater Technologies Workshop: Advancing the World We Live In - Exploring Cutting Edge Wastewater Treatment Technologies.](#)" This report provides a summary of STAC's May 2012 workshop and includes the following specific recommendations identified by workshop participants, which included many of COG's members:

- Identify additional and dedicated/long-term funding for research, development, and demonstration; and
- Consider multiple benefits as part of design and operating considerations, as well as permit/regulatory considerations.
- Understand and address high levels of variability in the application of advanced technologies with new approaches to:
 - (1) quantify greater permit/compliance risks, benefits, and costs; and
 - (2) design instrumentation and train support staff to meet new demands.
- Increase successful technology implementation with support for state/federal regulators to:

- (1) write appropriate permit conditions;
- (2) consider stochastic rather than completely deterministic permit limits, and allow for outliers; and
- (3) utilize regulatory flexibility to allow for the testing and evaluation of new technologies.

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CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

New Chesapeake Bay Agreement

The Bay Program partners have been developing language -- including goals, outcomes, principles and operational commitments -- for a new voluntary Chesapeake Bay agreement to replace the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. Current plans call for a new agreement to be signed by the original six signatories (Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Commission) plus West Virginia, New York and Delaware at an Executive Council meeting in December. COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee [supplied comments](#) on an early version of the agreement in July and plans to submit more detailed comments during an official comment period this fall.

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Reductions to Nontidal Monitoring Network

As a result of budget reductions, the Bay Program has reached agreement on a one-year plan to reduce the number of water quality monitoring stations it is funding as part of its nontidal monitoring network. In addition, the Bay Program will re-examine both its tidal and nontidal monitoring networks as part of comprehensive retrenchment it will make in 2014, when further funding cuts are expected to occur. (See further details under Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee below.)

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WATER QUALITY DATA

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee

The Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee is expected to host a workshop on the Bay Program's monitoring network sometime this fall. The workshop, to be held in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey, will examine the purpose and status of the Bay Program's tidal and nontidal monitoring networks, particularly those parts of the nontidal network focused on urban areas.

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DRINKING WATER & DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

The Potomac River Basin received another month of above average rainfall and moderate temperatures. The September 2013 Water Supply and Drought report indicates that precipitation, Potomac River stream flow, and groundwater water levels are all within a normal to above normal range. The most recent seasonal drought outlook produced by NOAA indicates that our region should not experience a drought over the next few months. For additional information, please visit [COG's Water Supply and Drought Website](#) for a copy of the most recent drought report and relevant water supply links.

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WATER QUALITY - ALGAE BLOOM UPDATES

It has been a relatively quiet summer for observed algal blooms although COG received a few reports of blue-green algae in the region (cyanobacteria, *Microcystis*). On August 10th, the Virginia Department of Health, in conjunction with VADEQ and ODU, collected samples from observed blooms on Potomac Creek in Stafford County. Results showed that various types of cyanobacteria were present and included *Microcystis* species at moderate levels. They did not issue any type of public notification or water/swimming advisory; however, additional sampling is scheduled to monitor conditions.

In July, DDOE received a report of algal blooms in the Anacostia River near Bladensburg, MD (near the New York Avenue Bridge and near the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens) but additional sampling did not detect cyanobacteria. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources did not identify any *Microcystis* in their tidal Potomac monitoring samples collected on their most recent cruise (August 12th).

EPA is hosting a webinar on September 15th as part of a summer webcast series to build awareness about harmful algal blooms. "Linking Nutrient Pollution and HABs: State and Science and EPA actions" will take place from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on September 15th. The registration link can be found here: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/248409642>

Additional HAB Links:

- Virginia Department of Health HAB website: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/HABS/HABmap.htm>
- Eyes on the Bay HAB website: <http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/eyesonthebay/habs.cfm>
- COG's Water Quality in the Potomac Estuary website: <http://www.mwkog.org/environment/water/potomacestuary.asp>

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UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- September 20th - CBPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- September 25th - CEEPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- October (date/time TBD) - "Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program" - COG Workshop
- October 5th - 9th - [Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference](#), in Chicago, IL
- Thursday, November 7th - WRTC Meeting (Rooms 4 & 5, 10 am - 12:30 pm)
- Friday, November 15th - CBPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- Mid-November/Early December (date/time TBD) - "Water Resources Infrastructure" Event