



GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

CHESAPEAKE BAY

Gov. McAuliffe - New Chair of Chesapeake Executive Council

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has been selected to chair the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) in 2015, succeeding the outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. The EC is the overall policy making entity for the Chesapeake Bay Program. It consists of the governors of the six Bay partner states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission chair and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chesapeake Bay Management Strategies

The new [Bay Agreement](#) (June 2014) identified five major themes and ten goals, and committed the partnership to develop Management Strategies to address those goals. These strategies are being developed now, with the draft management strategies slated to be posted for public review on March 16th. The formal public comment period is expected to be 45-days, ending on April 15th.

Link:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies>. COG staff has been involved and provided input in several of the strategies, and will be briefing the CBPC and WRTC members, and recommending formal comments to be submitted on behalf of COG's members.

COG Contact: Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 / tspano@mwkog.org

STORMWATER

Maryland Stormwater Bill SB 863

The Maryland General Assembly has taken final action on legislation (SB 863) to repeal the requirement that all the local governments with Phase I MS4 stormwater permits establish stormwater utility fees. The House of Delegates amended the Senate version of the bill; this House-amended version that was approved by the Senate on April 13 and it is now awaiting the signature of Governor Hogan.

Link:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=02&id=sb0863&tab=subject3&ys=2015RS>

COG Contact: Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 / hbonnaffon@mwkog.org

UMD's Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center

The University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center is partnering with the Low Impact Development Center to create an open online course over the next five years for communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Neil Weinstein has reached out to COG to seek input on identifying training needs and information gaps. You can download additional information on COG's [stormwater website](#).

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TMDL Plan Workshop

COG hosted a workshop April 20 for local government stormwater staff to explore how different jurisdictions are meeting the challenge of developing plans for achieving the wasteload allocations of applicable TMDLs under their stormwater permits. These plans are required under the next generation MS4 permits that have been or are being issued throughout the region. Presentations from the meeting and action items for COG staff are available at the following link, and will be updated with the speakers' presentations:

Link:

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=55

COG Contact: Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 / kberger@mwcog.org

CLIMATE

Multi-Sector Working Group

COG's Multi-Sector Working Group will next meet on May 8th. The working group, with consultant support, will examine implementable local, regional, and state greenhouse gas reduction strategies in four sectors - Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment. The workgroup will quantify benefits, costs, and potential implementation timeframes for greenhouse gas reduction actions and consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for all sectors. WRTC will have additional opportunity for input on future stages of the project. An interim report is expected September 30, 2015 and final report expected January 2016.

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Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

ACPAC is planning another round of Climate & Energy Leadership Awards for the region this year. ACPAC is submitting comments to MWAQC regarding EPA's proposed new Ozone standard.

COG Contact: Maia Davis (202) 962-3227 / mdavis@mwcog.org

COG BOARD & CBPC

CBPC Advocacy Workgroup

At their January 16th meeting, the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee formed a Workgroup to track national and state water legislation, and to facilitate fast comment on key bills, as well as to be advocates for the Bay restoration and local water resources issues. This Workgroup has been tracking the national issues of funding for the WIFIA program and the need to maintain tax-exempt bond status. They have also been monitoring Maryland and Virginia legislation concerning biosolids and stormwater utility fees. For a list of who is serving on the Workgroup or the bills being tracked and their status, please contact staff.

COG Contact: Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 / hbonnaffon@mwcog.org

COG Board's Regional Infrastructure Report

The COG Board [Regional Infrastructure report](#) focused on the health of the region's infrastructure in 2014. This included transportation, energy, water, emergency communications, and public buildings. The assessment of water infrastructure included wastewater, drinking water and stormwater. Staff is now working to develop specific actions to implement the five recommendations outlined in the report over the coming year.

Link:

<http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/pF5bXfw20150115102928.pdf>

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OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

COG Innovative Infrastructure Financing

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015 (9:00-11:00 AM) COG is hosting an interactive two-hour workshop to generate unique infrastructure financing ideas for local governments in the metropolitan Washington region. [Register Here](#)

COG Contact: Monica Beyrouti (202)962-3212/mbeyrouti@mwcog.org

National Drinking Water [and Wastewater] Week

COG's [Community Engagement Campaign](#) will be organizing events to highlight our region's water and wastewater infrastructure and success stories throughout the week of May 4th. It will include a [TapIt](#) water bar on the Mall for the Smithsonian Garden Fest on May 8. More information about media outreach, utility tours, and other events being planned for the week will be forthcoming.

COG Contact: Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 / hbonnaffon@mwcog.org

EPA Cybersecurity Workshop

COG will be hosting an EPA cybersecurity workshop for water and wastewater utilities on April 30th. The workshop will provide water and wastewater utilities with information about the cyber threat, ways to manage the threat, and tools (such as AWWA's cybersecurity tool) available to help utilities. This event will also include a facilitated response exercise using a realistic cyber threat scenario, allowing all participants to talk through the actions they would take in response to the threat. The goal is to identify general planning or procedural gaps in cybersecurity practices that can then be corrected.

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Regional Source Water Assessment with Corona Environmental Consulting

Over the next year, COG will be working with water utilities in the region and Corona Environmental Consulting to conduct a regional source water assessment and develop a related data system. We will also be working on the development of regional decontamination/flushing protocols for drinking water systems. An important outcome will

be the development of an information system that will facilitate the organization, maintenance, and delivery of essential information about storage of chemicals in the critical zone near drinking water intakes and produce a detailed methodology of how this information can be located, extracted, quality controlled, and maintained. The dual focus on improved data stewardship and tool development will help all stakeholders meet pressing immediate needs and will contribute to meeting longer term needs by turning data into knowledge. This work is being done in conjunction with two Water Research Foundation (WRF) projects:

- a. Project 4572: "Flushing Guidance for Consumer Premise Plumbing and Service Lines to Avoid or Address a Drinking Water Advisory."
- b. Project 4581: "GIS to Identify and Catalog Potential Contaminants Stored in Tanks Upstream of Drinking Water Intakes".

COG Contact: Steve Bieber (202) 962-3219 / sbieber@mwkog.org

USGS Press Release - April 13, 2015:

Two USGS studies of the toxicity of runoff from coal-tar-based seal coated pavement and effects of that runoff on DNA have just been published in the scientific journals *Environmental Science and Technology* and *Science of the Total Environment*. The studies were done to address the concern that rainfall runoff occurring within hours or days of coal-tar-based sealant application might be toxic to fish and other organisms in streams. The two studies collected and tested simulated runoff at various times beginning just hours after coal-tar-sealant application. Coal-tar sealants have significantly higher levels of PAHs and related compounds compared to asphalt-based pavement sealants and other urban sources, including vehicle emissions, used motor oil, and tire particles. To learn more, visit the USGS website on [PAHs and sealcoat](#).

Links:

<http://tx.usgs.gov/sealcoat.html>

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tuesday, April 28th - WRTC Meeting

Week of May 4th - 8th - National Drinking Water Week - Events planned for COG region

Friday, May 15th - CBPC Meeting

Summer (date TBD) - WRTC Technical Work Session (proposed)

July 17th - CBPC Meeting