



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP)

(AS OF 9/6/17)

Summary of key CBP activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG’s members & the RWQM Work Program.

Bay TMDL – Overall Program & Midpoint Assessment (MPA) Activities	COG Contact
<p>The Bay Program Partnership’s schedule for the Midpoint Assessment (MPA) is outlined in a COG graphic that outlines the overall MPA schedule noting key milestones and decision points where COG member input on technical and policy matters will need to be provided over the next few years.</p> <p>Key MPA decisions include whether to approve the new Phase 6 suite of modeling tools; whether to use 2025 growth projections in the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs); how to allocate the ‘new’ Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna Watershed loads (who should be responsible, and the timeframe for addressing the additional loads); how to factor climate change into the Phase III WIPs; and the development of the Phase III Planning Targets, which will lead to the development of the Phase III WIPs. The Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT), when it meets on September 25-26th, will discuss these issues and make recommendations to the Management Board and Principals’ Staff Committee.</p> <p>COG staff will continue to brief and solicit input from the WRTC and CBPC members over the coming months to note any technical issues, and seek guidance on policy positions that should be communicated to the CBP.</p> <p>Key Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Final</u> decisions regarding allocation of Conowingo Dam/Susquehanna Watershed, Growth, and Climate Impact loads – Late October 2017 • <u>Draft</u> Phase III WIP Planning Targets issued – October 31, 2017 • <u>Final</u> Phase III WIP Planning Targets issued – March 2018 • <u>Draft</u> Phase III WIPs issued – February 2019 • <u>Final</u> Phase III WIPs issued – April 2019 <p>Note: This schedule allows a one (1) year interval from the issuance of the Final Planning Targets to issuance of the Final WIPs.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwcog.org</p>
<p>Watershed and Water Quality Models– Activities and Issues</p> <p>Land Use Change Analysis</p> <p>The Bay Program’s Land Use Data Team is developing estimates of land use change from the present through 2025 for potential use in the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans to be developed as part of the Midpoint Assessment. The team will develop its estimates of land use change</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwcog.org Land use lead</p>

according to several different future forecasts, including ones based on historical patterns of development and on current zoning policies. COG staff will provide these forecasts to member government water quality and planning staff for review and comment.

Phase 6 Watershed Model Analysis

As key deadlines approach under the Bay Program’s Mid-Point Assessment process, COG staff is analyzing draft results from the new Phase 6 version of the watershed model. However, the watershed model and the other parts of the Bay Program’s modeling suite for assessing attainment with water quality criteria are still in a state of flux.

Changes resulting from the “Fatal Flaw” review process and updates to the data that states submit as input into the watershed model will require that model to be recalibrated. Bay Program staff is currently estimating this recalibration will be completed by mid-October. Data from this final version of the model is not expected to be significantly different than what is currently available; but that cannot be confirmed until actual recalibration results are issued.

COG and Northern Virginia Regional Commission staff plan to conduct a workshop on Phase 6 watershed model results once final model results are available sometime after mid-October. In the meantime, members who are interested in specific modeling issues or who would like assistance in navigating the tools that exist for depicting model inputs and outputs can contact COG staff for help.

Conowingo Dam Updates

Conowingo Permit - Exelon applied for a renewal of its Section 401 water quality certification for discharges from the Conowingo dam (<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/ExelonMD-Conowingo-FERC-Vol1-Vol3.aspx>) in May 2017. The renewal request is under review by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), which had a public comment period on the request in July and August and may reopen it in the future. MDE plans to hold a public meeting on the request sometime this fall. The agency hopes to reach a final decision by May 2018.

Maryland Dredging Pilot Study - The Maryland Environmental Service expects to issue a request for proposals by the end of August under a pilot study to evaluate the beneficial reuse of sediment to be dredged from the Conowingo reservoir. The pilot dredging study will be designed to remove 25,000 cubic yards of sediment at a cost of about \$4 million. Scientists estimate the reservoir, the lowest in a series of three dams on the lower Susquehanna River, now holds about 200 million tons of sediment under conditions known as dynamic equilibrium, in which the amount of sediment and associated nutrients coming into the dam and washing over the dam is roughly the same over longer periods of time. They also estimate that returning the reservoir to its condition in the early 1990s, when it still functioned as a sink for much of the incoming sediment, would require the removal of about 35 million cubic

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yards at a cost ranging from \$500 million to \$3 billion. Maryland officials will use the results of the pilot study to evaluate dredging as one option for reducing phosphorus loads, for which additional effort is likely to be required to address dynamic equilibrium in the dam system under the Bay Program’s Midpoint Assessment process for the Bay TMDL.

Climate Change & Water Resource Impacts

COG Contact

On September 7-8th, the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) will be holding a workshop to review agricultural and stormwater BMPs in the context of climate. STAC will begin analyzing BMP design and siting to maximize BMP effectiveness in changing weather patterns, and increasing storm frequency and intensity. A goal of the workshop will be to identify remaining gaps and highest priority needs (i.e., research, monitoring measures, and programmatic efforts), to better inform and improve BMP development and implementation. COG was able to secure seats at this invitation-only workshop for several COG members.

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Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

CEEPC members were invited to attend the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee meeting on Friday, July 28, 10am-12pm in the COG Board Room. Members heard a presentation from Zoe Johnson, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, on the work of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup to form recommendations for incorporating climate change into the Bay model and stormwater management implementation. Kate Johnson of the District of Columbia described highlights from DC’s Climate Ready DC Plan. Materials are posted [here](#). For more information, contact Heidi Bonnaffon at hbonnaffon@mwkog.org.

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