

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC)

BUSINESS MEETING & WORK SESSIONS

November 13th 2008

(10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

COG Meeting Rooms 4 & 5, First Floor

Business Meeting (10 a.m. –12:15 p.m.)

Working Lunch (12:15 – 12:30 p.m.)

Parallel Work Sessions (12:30 - 1:30 p.m.)

COG Meeting Rooms 3, 4 & 5, First Floor

AGENDA

I. Call to Order & Introductions – *Elaine Schaeffer, WRTC Chair*
(10:00 – 10:10 a.m.)

II. WRTC Participation Enhancements – *Tomlyne Malcolm and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG*
(10:10 - 10:20 a.m.)

Ms. Malcolm will briefly discuss two new “remote” options for our members to participate in meetings (i.e., conference call-in, and Breeze Web conferencing). Ms. Bonnaffon will provide an overview of our online RSVP process.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any other enhancements that could improve member participation.

III. Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) & Related Updates - *Tanya Spano, Steve Bieber, & Ted Graham, COG*
(10:20 – 11:00 a.m.)

COG staff continues to provide regular updates on the activities of the Bay Program Partners related to nutrient and sediment load reductions, potential reallocations, and TMDLs.

Ms. Spano will briefly summarize the latest CBP and related developments; noting in particular the latest discussions and decisions from the Water Quality Steering Committee meeting (November 6-7th); as well as CBF’s proposed lawsuit against EPA. Mr. Bieber will present key results from the latest updated watershed and water quality model runs, noting what the preliminary findings are regarding nutrient and sediment load allocations and their ability to meet water quality standards – for the Bay as-a-whole and for the Potomac River. Mr. Graham then will provide highlights from the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) meeting (October 23rd), and note what issues/decisions are expected to be addressed at the upcoming Executive Council meeting (November 20th, at Union Station). COG staff will then identify several potential issues and options that the region may wish to consider discussing/pursuing (e.g., use of adaptive management to phase in meeting requirements, pursuing a UAA, etc.) as these new TMDL requirements unfold over the next few years.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional information needs.

Action Item: WRTC members will be asked to identify any potential policy implications for local governments/authorities should the upgraded models results lead to revisions in nutrient and sediment allocation in the Potomac basin; and to identify any specific issues, or recommendations to bring to the attention of the CBPC at their November 21st meeting.

IV. COG's Potomac Water Quality Report - Steve Bieber, COG
(11:00 – 11:15 a.m.)

Mr. Bieber will present an overview of a Potomac Water Quality Report that COG staff are preparing, highlighting areas of particular interest to the WRTC members.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to provide comments on the proposed scope and focus of the report.

V. Highlights from the Regional Monitoring Subcommittee (RMS) Meeting – Tom Broderick, Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility, Loudoun Water
(11:15 – 11:30 a.m.)

Mr. Broderick, RMS Chair, will provide highlights and outcomes of the RMS meeting held at Broad Run.

VI. COG's Watershed Modeling Work Session – Norm Goulet, NVRC; Karl Berger and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG
(11:30 – 11:50 a.m.)

A COG Work Session on the Bay Program's watershed model was held on October 9th, to explore the newest version of the Bay model and the assumptions it uses to estimate nutrient and sediment loads. Follow-up steps from that Work Session include:

- *Compile additional questions about the model and seek answers from CBP staff.*
- *Discuss policy implications of using watershed model output to set MS4 waste load allocations under a Bay-wide TMDL or county allocations under a tributary strategy.*
- *Get back together to jointly review Phase 5.2 output at the local jurisdictional level.*
- *Hold another work session to focus on how the Bay Program will establish land use for the modeling year to be used in setting TMDL allocations.*

Mr. Goulet will provide some highlights from the meeting, noting any technical concerns/issues that COG's members should be aware of. In pursuit of the second step noted above, Mr. Berber and Ms. Bonnaffon will present a set of policy questions related to use of the watershed model in setting numeric goals under TMDLs and other regulatory frameworks.

Feedback: WRTC members, especially those who participated in the October 9th workshop, will be asked whether there is a regional consensus on the policy issues that have been identified.

VII. Climate Change: Updates and Next Steps – Tanya Spano, COG
(11:55 – 12:10 a.m.)

Ms. Spano will provide an update on COG's Climate Change Report and next steps; review how the CBPC comments (based on the recommendations from the WRTC) were/are being addressed.

[Note: Updates regarding the proposed WWTP workshop and related Greenhouse Gas inventory issues will be addressed in the Wastewater Work Session.]

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any additional information needs.

VIII. Regional Updates – COG staff
(12:10 – 12:15 p.m.)

COG staff periodically prepare a summary of various legislative, regulatory and regional activities that are of interest or potential impact to COG's members; noting their status and listing COG staff contacts for these issues. Please refer to the emailed meeting material, "General Updates."

COG staff will address any questions the WRTC members may have regarding these and any other issues.

COG Legislative Initiatives – Steve Bieber

The COG Board will be considering the adoption of regional legislative policy statements at their November meeting.

Mr. Bieber will briefly review and address any questions the WRTC members may have regarding the policy issues identified on a handout that will be provided.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to identify any other issues or initiatives that they would recommend to the CBPC that COG staff pursue - including any issues regarding Richmond and/or Annapolis' legislatures.

IX. Working Lunch/Around the Room – WRTC Members
(12:15 -12:30 p.m.)

COG staff has compiled a list (see attached) of upcoming meetings and events in the region that may be of interest to the WRTC members.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked to note any particular activities their jurisdiction/agency is undertaking or additional items of interest or concern that they believe would be of interest to the other members.

X. Adjourn Business Meeting – Elaine Schaeffer, Chair
(12:30 p.m.)

XI. Work Sessions
(12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

A. Stormwater – Addressing the latest regulatory developments
(Rooms 4 and 5)

This work session will include a discussion of EPA's Stormwater Source TMDL Handbook an overview of Montgomery County's draft MS4 permit, a brief overview of the draft Norfolk MS4 permit and some highlights from a recent critique of EPA's stormwater program by the National Research Council and also a recent "Bay-Wide Stormwater Partners Retreat.

1. TMDL Handbook for Urban Stormwater - Christine Ruf, EPA Headquarters

Ms. Ruf will present an overview of the recently drafted "Handbook for Developing and Implementing Stormwater-source TMDLs."

The handbook (which has six chapters and is quite extensive) reflects EPA's efforts to improve the connection between TMDLs and stormwater permits. It addresses a range of questions, such as: "How to develop more detailed [waste load] allocations" and "How to translate waste load allocations into implementation strategies and permit language/requirements."

2. Draft Montgomery County & City of Norfolk MS4 Permits and Final Permit for the District of Columbia – *Meo Curtis, Montgomery County DEP and Heidi Bonnaffon, COG*

Ms. Curtis will present an overview of the recently issued draft MS4 permit for Montgomery County. Her presentation will include significant changes from the previous permit, requirements related to TMDLs and the programmatic impact.

Ms. Bonnaffon of the COG staff will provide highlights of the recently issued draft MS4 permit for Norfolk, VA, and the final permit for the District, including any appropriate comparisons with and contrasts to the Montgomery County permit.

Action item: Determine whether there should be any region-wide policy on MS4 permitting developments, in particular, whether COG should advocate for consistency either for specific features or for the permits as a whole.

3. Summary of Recommendations from: (1) the Urban Stormwater Report prepared by the National Research Council; and (2) the Meeting of the Bay-wide Stormwater Partners Retreat – *Ted Graham, COG*

At EPA's request, the National Research Council issued a report on October 15, 2008 addressing EPA's stormwater program. According to the NRC press release, the program requires "radical changes," including issuance of discharge permits on a watershed (not political boundary) basis, integration of stormwater management and land management practices and greater focus on controlling flow. On October 16-17 a stormwater retreat was held in Shepherdstown, WV including representation from throughout the Bay watershed. From the former, a set of recommendations is attached; from the latter the meeting summary. Dr. Graham will briefly summarize highlights from both.

B. Wastewater Work Session – Addressing Climate Change Issues at WWTPs (Room 3)

Ms. Spano will review specific recommendations to COG's Climate Change report that will need to be addressed by and with the region's wastewater and drinking water facilities; including the proposed focus and timing of the proposed Wastewater Workshop. Mr. Pramanik (WERF) and Ms. Spano will then discuss proposed plans for COG's members to collaborate with WERF to address the issue of standardizing Greenhouse Gas emissions inventories for those facilities – in support of the larger regional effort.

Feedback: WRTC members will be asked if there is any additional information they need, as well as their thoughts on the proposed workshop and collaboration with WERF.

XII. Adjourn
(1:30 p.m.)

FUTURE MEETINGS / KEY EVENTS

2008

November 21st - CBPC Meeting

Proposed Agenda Items:

- State Legislative Recommendations
- Presentation on Proposed Stormwater Provision of Federal Transportation Funding Bill
- Presentation on Local Growth and Nutrient Cap/Allocation and TMDL Issues and Recommendations
- Potomac Water Quality Report
- Montgomery County MS4 Permit : Highlights

2009

Spring/Summer (Date TBD) – WRTC-sponsored Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility Tour (focused on wastewater treatment, reuse, and biosolids processes and issues)