

GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

**WATER RESOURCES GENERAL**

USGS Press Release (October 31, 2012):

**River Flow into Chesapeake Bay Following Hurricane Sandy Lower than Expected**

The higher river flows following Hurricane Sandy will bring an increased amount of nutrient and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay; however these amounts will not approach the nutrient and sediment loads seen in 2011 from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, according to preliminary data released by the U.S.

Flows in the Susquehanna River, the largest river entering the Chesapeake Bay, are expected to reach 155,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is much lower than last year's flow of more than 775,000 cfs following Irene and Lee. The flow in the Susquehanna River due to Sandy is not expected to produce significant scour of sediments from the Conowingo Reservoir. The record was 1.1 million cfs during Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

Hurricane Sandy had a larger effect on the Potomac River watershed and Eastern Shore. Current flow at Little Falls in Washington, DC is 137,000 cfs and is near its expected peak. Current flow from the Potomac River is comparable to the Susquehanna River, even though the Potomac watershed is only half the size. The record for the Potomac is 484,000 cfs, set in 1936.

The entire press release is located at:

[http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3442&from=rss\\_home](http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3442&from=rss_home)

Climate Change Adaptation

- The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is hosted the Climate Leadership Academy (CLA) on Adaptation & Resilience on October 3-5, 2012 in Portland, Oregon. The CLA is a unique training and peer-learning opportunity, focused on improving, expanding and accelerating cities' efforts to better assess, prioritize and manage the local risks of climate change.
- The National Capital Region was one of 10 teams from across the country to be selected to participate and receive scholarship to attend the CLA. The National Capital Region team members include: Mohsin Siddique, DC Water; Erica Bannerman, City of Alexandria; Dan Barry, DDOE; Rachel Healy, MWATA; and Maia Davis, COG staff. Other teams were from Austin, TX; Denver, CO; Eugene, OR; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Piedmont area, NC; New York City, NY; Santa Fe, NM; Snohomish County, WA; and Tucson, AZ.
- Top lessons learned include:
  - Communities across the country have similar climate adaptation planning processes and are moving forward in a similar direction: "mainstreaming." Mainstreaming is incorporating community resiliency best management practices into existing planning processes.
  - The most success when communicating climate adaptation with the public and getting public support is to personalize the message to what they care about. Do not use the term "adaptation."
  - Next steps for the field of climate adaptation planning include mainstreaming, creating a business case, private sector engagement and implementation of resiliency strategies.

## Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Workplan Water-related goals

COGs CEEPC policy committee is revising its workplan - forming goals and targets for 2013-2016 - and seeks feedback from WRTC members. CEEPC provides leadership to the COG Board and member jurisdictions, implementing and elaborating on [Region Forward](#) sustainability targets and [National Capital Region Climate Change Report](#) goals. Although the primary focus of the committee is climate & energy, the CEEPC workplan includes aspirational goals for a wide array of environmental sustainability issues while highlighting innovative achievements in the region. The draft workplan contains goals relating to green buildings, transportation, climate adaptation, and so forth (earlier version: <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/kl1cX1he20120926093548.pdf>); the following draft goals specifically pertain to the water sector:

- o 75% of potable water and wastewater entities (i.e. local government or utilities) in the COG region implement energy efficiency measures, alternative energy and/or renewable energy generation at their facilities.
- o 30% of local governments and /or wastewater utilities implement a rainwater capture/reuse or wastewater reuse project.
- o 75% of jurisdictions implement programs/policies (such as Prince George's County's [green infrastructure plan](#)) to protect and enhance ecosystem services (drinking water source protection, flood reduction, soil protection, pollutant absorption, etc.) provided by important natural areas such as wetlands, old growth forest, and streams/riparian areas.

Please send your comments on the draft CEEPC workplan, especially water-related goals, by Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to:

COG contacts: Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 / [tspano@mwcog.org](mailto:tspano@mwcog.org)  
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## Report on Regional Agricultural Food production

The Regional Agricultural Work Group is preparing a report that makes several recommendations for supporting local agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "What Our Region Grows: A Look at Agriculture Production and Demand in the Washington Area Foodshed" details the nature of agricultural food production and demand in and around the COG region.

COG contacts: John Galli (202) 962-3348 / [jgalli@mwcog.org](mailto:jgalli@mwcog.org)  
Brian LeCouteur (202) 962-3393 / [blecouteur@mwcog.org](mailto:blecouteur@mwcog.org)

## **WASTEWATER**

### Fats, Oils, Grease Ads -

The CEC will be airing Fats, Oils, Grease messages throughout the holidays via a Channel 7/8 package, which will include an interview with WSSC's Lyn Riggins, an electronic newsletter to 47,000 ABC7 fans on November 15th, 15-second ads that will run on Channels 7/8 from 11/7-11/20 and 12/17-12/21, and banner ads. For the newsletter text and a clip of the 15 second TV ad, please visit the COG website, <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/water/cec.asp>

COG contact: Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216/ [hbonnaffon@mwcog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwcog.org)

### Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) & Wastewater Process Updates

- COG staff is continuing to work with the jurisdictions/wastewater utilities to verify WWTP service area maps and identifying sewer vs. septic service areas for the entire COG region.
- Staff is continuing to update the process and contact information for all of COG's WWTPs based upon feedback from members.
- Initial summaries of this information will be available to review in December 2012.

COG contacts:       Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 / [tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org)  
                          Nasser Ameen (intern) (202) 962-3394 / [nameen@mwkog.org](mailto:nameen@mwkog.org)

### **DRINKING WATER & DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

- The October Regional Water Supply and Drought Outlook is available on the COG website (note that this report was produced before superstorm Sandy:  
<http://www.mwkog.org/environment/water/watersupply.asp>)
- The Potomac River Basin received above average amounts of precipitation for the month of September and streamflow levels at Little Falls and Point of Rocks were slightly above median levels.
- As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2012 fall season.
- As expect, Sandy erased drought conditions across the COG region. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor, released on November 1<sup>st</sup>, showed no signs of drought.
  
- COG contact:       Christine Howard (202) 962-3366 / [choward@mwkog.org](mailto:choward@mwkog.org)

### UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- November 16<sup>th</sup> - CBPC Meeting
- Week of the 12 -16<sup>th</sup> of November - Climate Adaptation Planning: Local-Level Strategies for US Communities (Royal Netherlands Embassy ; 9 am to 2:30 pm)
  1. To share innovative climate adaptation approaches from the Netherlands that have been applied successfully in the US;
  2. To present new climate adaptation planning practices proposed for the US, with a particular focus on the State of Virginia, at regional and local levels
  3. To stimulate meaningful place-based (local- and regional-level) climate adaptation planning in Virginia;
  4. To highlight the economic, environmental and social benefits derived from US/NL cooperation on a variety of climate adaptation policies.