



presentation about an intensive USGS monitoring project in Fairfax County's Difficult Run watershed, designed to pinpoint sources of nutrient pollution. Here's the link to access the presentations;  
<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2016/12/12/new-approaches-to-water-quality-monitoring-and-research/>

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## Water Infrastructure

### **Potomac River Sheen Discharge Event (November 2016)**

On Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, Water Security Work Group Chairman and Fairfax Water General Manager Chuck Murray briefed the COG CAO Committee on the Potomac River Sheen Discharge event. The oil spill was first reported by NRG's Dickerson Generating Station near Dickerson, MD on the morning of November 27, 2016. The combined federal, state and local response lasted for more than two weeks and overall required a major regional response from area water utilities, state and federal agencies. During this event, water utilities in the Metropolitan Washington region implemented a variety of protective actions such as temporarily closing some water treatment plant intakes, deploying protective booms, carrying-out intensive water quality monitoring, etc.

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COG staff are presently working with area water utilities, state and federal agencies to prepare an after action report (AAR) that will include information about the response and associated regional coordination; gaps in policies, plans and resources; and proposed regional after action steps. The AAR will also include an overview of the region's water supply systems for which the Potomac is the major source for nearly 5 million residents, summarize existing regional water supply emergency plans, and provide information about an ongoing water system resiliency analysis undertaken by the water utilities to identify actions for enhancing redundancy and resiliency of the region's water supply systems.

An update is planned for the CBPC on this event and the proposed follow-up actions.

## Wastewater

### **Reduction of Intersex Occurrences in Response to Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**

The *Environmental Science and Technology* recently published a 10-year study which found the level of intersex occurrences in fish drastically declined due to the microorganisms used to lower the ammonia in the wastewater treatment process at a plant in Ontario's Grand River. COG's WWTPs have been removing ammonia for decades, so COG staff are working with EPA, the states and the CBPO to see if any such findings may also be noted where WWTPs have upgraded even more to achieve additional nutrient removal.

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To read more, please visit:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170110151418.htm>

### **Community Engagement Campaign Booth - A Success at NBC4 Health Expo**

COG's Community Engagement Campaign had a booth at the NBC4 Health Expo, at the Washington Convention Center on January 7-8. The booth covered the importance of tap water for health, and the Protect Your Pipes campaign about

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what not to flush/put down the drain. There was a steady stream of interested and engaged community members on both days.

**Alexandria Renew Awards: Envision and Utility of the Future Today**

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure awarded AlexRenew's Nutrient Management Facility the Envision® Sustainable Infrastructure Platinum Award for its environmental, social, and economic outcomes. This is the first Envision Platinum Award in Virginia and the D.C. metro area and also the first for a U.S. water resource recovery facility.

In addition, a partnership of water sector organizations recognized AlexRenew as a **Utility of the Future Today**. **One of 61 wastewater facilities across the world to receive this first-of-its-kind honor, AlexRenew was acknowledged for sustainability, organizational culture, community engagement, and success at recovering resources from wastewater.** <https://alexrenew.com/alexrenew-spotlight-2016-year-review>

**Prince William County Service Authority's Kidz at Work Day in April.**

Prince William County Service Authority has been hosting a Kidz@Work event for more than a decade, modeled after the national "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" non-profit organization. This April's theme for the elementary aged children will be "Every Day Super Heroes" while the middle school and older students will have a "Choose Your Own Adventure" theme. This is to build awareness and appreciate of working in the wastewater field.

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**Stormwater**

**Virginia SLAF Funding**

The Department of Environmental Quality is soliciting applications for financial assistance through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF). DEQ will have approximately \$20 million in matching grant funds available for distribution. Applications are due by February 17, 2017.

For full details:

[http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/CleanWaterFinancingAssistance/StormwaterFundingPrograms/StormwaterLocalAssistanceFund\(SLAF\).aspx](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/CleanWaterFinancingAssistance/StormwaterFundingPrograms/StormwaterLocalAssistanceFund(SLAF).aspx)

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**Drinking Water**

**Regional Drought and Water Supply Status and Outlook**

The next Regional Water Supply Status and Drought Outlook will be prepared in April 2017. Currently our region is under a "NORMAL" status, and streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are within an average range.

For additional information, visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website:

<https://www.mwkog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/drinking-water-and-drought-monitoring/current-drought-conditions/>

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Climate, Energy, and Sustainability	COG Contact
<p><b><u>Multi-Sector Working Group and the Draft Climate &amp; Energy Action Plan</u></b>            COG convened a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary workgroup to examine local, regional, and state strategies for reducing the region’s greenhouse gases. The Multi-Sector Working Group proposed a set of voluntary strategies to move the region towards its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. A Policy Task Force convened to review the proposed strategies and develop consensus recommendations that were adopted by the <a href="#">COG Board on January 11</a>. Strategies involve addressing emissions from solid waste, building water and energy use, focusing development in activity centers while reducing loss of tree cover, and increasing alternative fuel vehicles and alternative travel choices. These themes are also incorporated in <a href="#">COG’s Draft Climate &amp; Energy Action Plan for 2017-2020</a>, a revised version of which is to be presented for approval by the Climate, Energy &amp; Environment Policy Committee in March.</p>	<p>Steve Walz            (202) 962-3205  <a href="mailto:swalz@mwkog.org">swalz@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Maia Davis            (202) 962-3227  <a href="mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org">mdavis@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Climate Resilience Workshop</u></b>            COG worked with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to produce the “Resiliency Planning for Northern Virginia: Developing a Climate Adaptation Roadmap” workshop held November 14, 2016. Speakers included Mayor Laurie DiRocco, Town of Vienna, Mayor Allison Silberberg of Alexandria, Jeff Harn of Arlington County, and Christophe Tulou, Senior Advisor for the US EPA on the Chesapeake Bay. Discussion revolved around the need to continue to form partnerships at the local and regional level to address climate impacts to water resources, habitats, transportation, and other sectors. Materials are posted <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Amanda Campbell            (202) 962-3324  <a href="mailto:acampbell@mwkog.org">acampbell@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Sustainability in Comprehensive Plans Workshop</u></b>            COG held a “Sustainability in Comprehensive Plans Workshop” on December 5, 2016, described in this <a href="#">blog post</a>. More than 50 local planners gathered to share their expertise about incorporating environmental, social and economic policies in community plans. Speakers from the American Planning Association described the Sustaining Places best practices guidance, and a speaker from STAR Communities described their rating system. Planners from around the region described their efforts to create innovative neighborhood plans. Materials and presentations are posted <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Amanda Campbell            (202) 962-3324  <a href="mailto:acampbell@mwkog.org">acampbell@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Fleets for the Future: Cooperative Purchase of Alternative Fuel Vehicles</u></b>            COG and the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (MAPT) is partnering with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on a US Department of Energy award winning project called <a href="#">Fleets for the Future (F4F)</a> to develop and implement five regional and one national scale procurement for alternative fuel vehicles and refueling/charging infrastructure. The purpose of the effort is to reduce the incremental cost of commercially available alternative, clean fuel vehicles and critical components in regional markets and nationwide.</p> <p>Eligible stakeholder public fleets in the Mid-Atlantic region include local, state, and municipal governments, school districts and universities, and public electric and water/wastewater utilities. Eligible vehicle types are light, medium, and heavy duty vehicles. Fuel types include plug-in electric vehicles, compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, and ethanol. This is a two-year funded project expected to provide participating governments and stakeholders long lasting cost-saving benefits. For more information, contact Leah Boggs at <a href="mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org">lboggs@mwkog.org</a> go to <a href="http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/">http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/</a>.</p>	<p>Leah Boggs            (202) 962-3336  <a href="mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org">lboggs@mwkog.org</a></p>

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 17<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting  
May 19<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting

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