

COG's Regional Water Quality Management (RWQM) Annual Work Program
Elements, Priorities and Levels of Effort – FY 2020

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO REVISION

February 27, 2019

Key features of proposed FY 2020 RWQM Work Program

Overall Focus and Priorities

Similar drivers, challenges, principles, areas of focus, and level of effort as FY 2018 - FY 2019 (see attached graphic).

2019 COG Board Water Quality Protection Legislative Priorities

(<https://www.mwco.org/documents/2019/01/09/cog-legislative-priorities-legislative-priorities/>)

- **Investments in water infrastructure** - Support sustained and expanded funding for federal water quality programs, including the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding, state revolving funds (SRFs), and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Ensure that local water infrastructure investments to meet water quality permit load allocations and handle future population and economic growth are protected. Invest in workforce training and development to ensure the availability of skilled workers to fill water sector jobs.
- **Ensure stormwater regulatory feasibility** - Support legislative and regulatory actions that provide for a feasible pace for MS4 stormwater permits and applies the “Maximum Extent Practicable” standard. Support flexible local funding for stormwater management. Ensure reporting requirements are reasonable.
- **Support climate and flood resiliency initiatives** - Support funding to address robust climate change analysis, adaptation and resiliency planning, flood control and management, and development and coordinated implementation of local best practices.
- **Ensure local government input** - Ensure that local governments and wastewater and drinking water utilities are given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on management decisions about the Chesapeake Bay and local water quality.
- **Support regulatory flexibility and affordability** - Support cost-effective scheduling and financing of water quality programs, including streamlining permits, flexibility to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction across wastewater, stormwater, and other sectors, and full funding for agricultural conservation programs.
- **Support water supply security** - Support water quality security and resiliency through research, planning, and programs and drinking water source protection policies and programs to ensure a reliable and clean drinking water supply for the region.

Additional water sector priorities in FY'2020 are:

- **Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) planning assistance for COG members and quantification of local level of effort.**
 - Quantification of local obligations/level of effort (for 2018-2025) - based on the Final Phase III WIP Planning Targets.
 - Application of EPA's Phase III WIP Expectations Guidance document, as well as the most-recent progress reports, to define the local level of implementation required by the Phase III WIPs
- **Assessing regional wastewater and drinking water capacity for growth.**
 - Evaluate potential implications of projected housing growth above the COG Round 9.1 forecast levels.
 - Assess the long-term technical and policy challenges and opportunities of maintaining cap loads in face of continued growth.
- **Technical assistance and support of regional water sector resiliency efforts.**
 - Evaluate possible capital improvements to mitigate risk and improve resilience.

- Engage and collaborate across sectors to continue to build understanding of water services as a regional preparedness priority.
- Continue working with federal, state, and local emergency and preparedness partners to determine capabilities and plans to protect and provide water supplies during emergency incidents.
- **Analysis of regional water quality through modeling and monitoring efforts.**
 - Application of the Phase 6 Watershed Model & tools (i.e., CAST);
 - Continued efforts to analyze outputs and ensure accuracy of local data used in various Bay modeling tools to assess progress and inform implementation requirements.
- **Develop regional metrics for measuring progress in improving water quality and sustainability.**
 - Continued assessment of key water quality parameters (i.e., nutrients & sediments).
 - Identify regional metrics and develop dashboards for tracking restoration progress.
- **New water quality/environmental challenges and permit/regulatory issues as they emerge.**

Note: Current planning assumptions re: Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) efforts (as endorsed by the CBPC) are that:

1. Water quality obligations driven by the Bay TMDL are codified in permits and other state regulatory requirements. They are also drivers for protection of local water quality and source watery protection needs – not just the Bay;
2. If there are reductions in federal funding for EPA and/or the Chesapeake Bay Program, a likely result would be extension of the timeline/schedule for implementing Bay TMDL efforts – but local permit requirements would not change; and
3. Therefore, there continues to be a need for analysis and advocacy to protect COG members' interests in these matters.

If any substantive changes occur that would modify these planning assumptions, COG staff will confer with committee members regarding the implications for this work program.

OVERALL GOAL

*Continue to protect Water Quality & Public Health
 in a Sustainable & Affordable manner for the region*

DRIVERS

NPDES & MS-IV Permits

Bay TMDL & WIPs

Local TMDLs & Restoration Goals

Other Environmental Goals

Aging/Expanding Water Infrastructure

Jobs Skills/ Workforce Needs

CHALLENGES

Regulatory requirements & environmental objectives

Need for sustainable & affordable solutions

Changes in funding streams

New/emerging water resource issues

Continued growth

Support for region's economy

Maintain existing/aging infrastructure

Build new infrastructure & implement new technologies

Address extreme weather/climate impacts on water resources/infrastructure

Address aging work force & new job/job skill needs

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Holistic Requirements

Equitable Responsibility

Sound Science

Communication and Voice

Implementation Flexibility & Innovation

KEY COG INITIATIVES

Dialogue & Policy

Partnerships

Strong Technical Analysis & Use of Sound Science

Advocate for Local Interests in Chesapeake Bay Program

Communicate Water Resource Successes & Challenges

RWQM Program Areas – FY 2020	
I. Policy and Program Development <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports policy development, advocacy, CBPC support, program management, and outreach.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. CBPC and Board/Member Support B. Regional Policy/Legislative Development and Advocacy Efforts C. Work Program Management 	
II. Water Quality/Water Resources Management and Technical Analysis <i>[Work is fully funded by Regional Water Fund]</i>	
<i>Supports technical work for the WRTC on a wide range of water quality/water resource issues.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Regional Water Quality Data Analysis B. Potomac Water Quality Monitoring Contracts C. Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model and WWTP Database and Analysis D. Regional Water Resource Infrastructure/Funding Analysis and Work Force Needs E. Technical and Program Support to WRTC F. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and Water Quality Model Work G. Water Resources Climate Change and Related Assessments H. Bay and Local – TMDL/WIP/ Local Planning Goals and Permit Support 	
III. Urban Watershed Management Services <i>[As before, work is fully funded by Regional Environmental Fund and COG Membership fees, and grants]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address environmental initiatives with water quality implications/impacts and integrate efforts with other regional initiatives.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Urban Stormwater Regulatory and Program Support B. Regional Agriculture and Forestry Management 	
IV. Water Resources Outreach, and Water Supply and Security <i>[As before, security work is funded separately]</i>	
<i>Supports work to address water supply and security issues with water quality/water resource implications and impacts</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Community Engagement Campaign B. Water Supply Emergency and Drought Management 	

Regional Water Fund (RWF) Support for RWQM Work Program

FY19 Total RWF *(approved)*
\$1,483,141

FY20 Total RWF *(approved by COG Board, 11/14/18)*
\$1,540,458 *(3.86% increase over FY19 funding level)*

Allocations similar to FY19 (i.e., 80% paid by Blue Plains Parties per Service Agreement #2; with remaining 20% paid by other jurisdictions/agencies based on percent of adjusted population)

Reference SA #2 – C.4.a.

The Parties agree to pay 80% of the Program based on the following allocation:

- DC Water – 20%, on behalf of the District;
- Fairfax – 20%; and
- WSSC – 40%, on behalf of Montgomery and Prince George's (20% each)

FY2020 REGIONAL FUNDS	Regional	Regional	Regional	Total
Proposed Fee Schedule by Jurisdiction	Water Fund (1)	Environmental Fund	Public Safety Fund (2)	Regional Funds
Alexandria, City of	30,508	21,692	15,436	67,636
Arlington County	45,478	31,980	23,134	100,592
Bladensburg, City of	-	-	-	-
Bowie, City of (WSSC)	11,269	7,660	-	18,929
Charles County	-	-	16,199	16,199
College Park, City of (WSSC)	6,332	4,502	5,000	15,834
District of Columbia (DC Water)	308,400	98,814	70,315	477,529
Fairfax County	308,400	158,501	112,787	579,689
Fairfax, City of	4,860	3,418	-	8,278
Falls Church, City of	2,725	1,937	-	4,662
Frederick County	-	-	-	-
Frederick, City of	-	-	-	-
Gaithersburg, City of (WSSC)	13,566	9,645	-	23,211
Greenbelt, City of (WSSC)	4,265	2,999	5,000	12,264
Hyattsville, City of	-	-	-	-
Laurel, City of	-	-	-	-
Loudoun County (Loudoun Water)	80,714	54,997	41,162	176,872
Manassas, City of	-	-	5,000	5,000
Manassas Park, City of	-	-	-	-
Montgomery County (WSSC)	308,400	131,339	102,128	541,867
Prince George's County (WSSC)	308,400	115,362	89,614	513,377
Prince William County	89,778	63,834	45,424	199,036
Rockville, City of	13,853	9,850	-	23,703
Takoma Park, City of (WSSC)	3,511	2,497	5,000	11,008
TOTAL	1,540,458	719,028	536,199	2,795,686
<i>(1) Where indicated, water and sewer utilities support the Regional Water Fund on behalf of the local jurisdiction.</i>				
<i>(2) Additional jurisdictions may opt into the new Regional Public Safety Fund before the start of FY2020.</i>				