



## COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES GENERAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

(As of 1/10/18)

Updates on work supported by COG's RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG's Department of Environmental Programs

Water Quality	COG Contact
<p><b><u>WRTC Work Session -Highlighted New Research on Nutrient Dynamics in the Potomac Estuary</u></b></p> <p>Participants in the December COG meeting heard about how the implementation of denitrification technology by wastewater plants in the Washington region has changed the fate and transport of nitrogen species throughout the Potomac estuary, including a comparison of pre- and post-denitrification at Blue Plains. A key finding of significance to COG's members is that the reduction in wastewater nutrients did not result in a linear increase in dissolved oxygen or other water quality parameters, as these are affected by complex nutrient dynamics in the estuary. For additional information, see: <a href="#">Documenting Impacts of Climate, Clams, and a Changing Watershed on the Potomac Estuary</a></p> <p>Participants also learned about the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program's SAV Synthesis Team on analyzing SAV segment trends, including those for the upper Potomac estuary. For additional information, see: <a href="#">SAV Status and Trends</a></p> <p>Both areas of research were presented by scientists with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.</p>	<p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 <a href="mailto:kberger@mwkog.org">kberger@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Christine Howard (202) 962-366 <a href="mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org">cdhoward@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Invasive SAV Species Being Tracked in Potomac and Local Waters</u></b></p> <p>A new and more invasive form of a non-native species of SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation) – water chestnut (<i>Trapa natans</i>) – was recently found in the tidal Potomac River for the first time in decades. In the 1940s, the Army Corp of Engineers eradicated this particular type of water chestnut from the Potomac River because of its negative impacts on navigation and on more desirable types of SAV. However, an invasive form of water chestnut was found in the tidal Potomac River at Pohick Bay in 2014 and has since been found in various local waterways, including stormwater ponds. There is some evidence that it is being spread among these waters by resident geese.</p> <p>Please contact Nancy Rybicki, a USGS scientist who studies SAV, at <a href="mailto:nrybicki@usgs.gov">nrybicki@usgs.gov</a> for more information about this invasive species or to report a finding. COG will continue to track this issue and provide additional details as warranted.</p>	<p>Christine Howard (202) 962-366 <a href="mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org">cdhoward@mwkog.org</a></p>

**Coal Tar Ban and Addressing Sources of PAHs**

The District of Columbia banned coal tar pavement sealants in 2008 to address a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from entering District waterways, the Anacostia River, and the Chesapeake Bay. PAHs are a human carcinogen and harmful to aquatic life. Research identified coal tar sealants as a major source of PAHs in urban areas, including the Anacostia watershed.

Although pavement sealant inspections to enforce the coal tar ban, the District's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) has found new products containing ethylene cracker residue (ECR) that are not subject to the current ban but contain high enough levels of PAHs to pose a risk to human health and aquatic life. DOEE has encountered five properties within the District in the last year using these new products, making it likely they are also being used in surrounding jurisdictions, including those with coal tar bans.

COG staff will be bringing the issue of coal tar sealants and options to limit PAH concentrations before the WRTC, Anacostia and CBPC at their March meetings.

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**Water Infrastructure**

**COG Contact**

**Water Rate Affordability Framework**

The National Academy of Public Administration produced a report entitled Developing a New Framework for Community Affordability of Water Services. The Academy's October 2017 paper makes a series of recommendations to EPA based upon their research about water affordability and how its measured; and integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water to achieve Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

COG staff will be gathering/updating water infrastructure during the coming months as part of potential discussions about federal funding for water infrastructure during 2018.

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**Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study**

COG is coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers development of a Coastal Storm Risk Management Study which will investigate flood risks in the vicinity of the region's tidal areas, and identify potential solutions to protect the vulnerable infrastructure assets upon which the region relies. The study will provide a comprehensive coastal flood risk assessment that will provide more detailed analysis than previous efforts, and would build on existing studies.

Project partners are continuing to refine the scope, budget, and schedule. Public hearings will be held in early 2018 in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (dates still TBD).

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Wastewater	COG Contact
<p><b><u>BPSA &amp; Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Methodology</u></b> As mentioned in the November WRTC meeting, the Regional Wastewater Flow Forecast Model (RWFFM) will be undergoing a formal update, as agreed by the Blue Plains Users. This update will evaluate the flow projection methods that are used in the region, along with re-examining the 2009 base year flows. This update will also assess whether the current flow factors and I/I assumptions are still appropriate.</p> <p>COG Staff will be reviewing the existing information early this year and will have a draft scope of work ready to review by spring. This work will also be of importance as growth is addressed as part of the CBP's Midpoint Assessment process and development of the Phase III WIPs (see CBP General Updates document for additional details).</p>	<p>Nasser Ameen (202) 962-3394 <a href="mailto:ameen@mwkog.org">ameen@mwkog.org</a></p>
Stormwater	COG Contact
<p><b><u>COG's New Stormwater Procurement Website</u></b> COG has launched a new Stormwater Procurement SharePoint website. This SharePoint site is a regional tool for sharing bids for contracts, contract language, and rideable contracts, by allowing stormwater and procurement staff around metropolitan Washington, and surrounding jurisdictions, to share procurement documents.</p> <p><b>Stormwater managers and procurement staff are requested to login, review the site, and upload contracts for sharing, following the Standard Operating Procedures.</b> The SharePoint site is for members only and is password protected. COG staff would appreciate feedback on this site and other ways to facilitate procurement.</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 <a href="mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org">hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</a></p>
Drinking Water	COG Contact
<p><b><u>Abnormal and Moderate Drought in the COG Region</u></b> The latest US Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing some abnormal and moderate drought conditions due to the lack of precipitation. Stream flows in the Potomac River are below normal but water supply levels are normal at this time. COG will monitor conditions and provide updates as needed throughout the month. Please visit COG's water supply and drought website for additional information: <a href="https://www.mwkog.org/drought">https://www.mwkog.org/drought</a></p>	<p>Christine Howard (202) 962-3366 <a href="mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org">cdhoward@mwkog.org</a></p>

Cross-Media Water Issues	COG Contact
<p><b><u>Road Salts/Chlorides – News &amp; Activities Across the Region</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Washington Post Article (Jan. 8, 2017)</u></b> <b><u>The nation’s rivers and streams are getting dangerously saltier</u></b></p> <p><b><u>VA-DEQ to Develop Salt Management Strategy for Northern Virginia</u></b> Driven by emerging chloride TMDLs – and in response to local stakeholder input; the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA-DEQ) is kicking off a multi-year, stakeholder-driven process to develop and implement a northern Virginia road Salt Management Strategy to protect local water quality. ICPRB is supporting VA-DEQ in the development of this TMDL.</p> <p>The Strategy will be performance-based, modeled after Minnesota’s Salt Management Strategy, and will include recommendations for best management practices, for monitoring and reporting salts, and for education and outreach. DEQ is asking parties interested in helping to develop the Strategy to contact DEQ by February 16. <a href="http://www.deq.virginia.gov/SaMS.aspx">http://www.deq.virginia.gov/SaMS.aspx</a></p> <p>There are two upcoming public information sessions: (1) Saturday, January 13, 8:30 a.m., via the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District’s <a href="#">Green Breakfast</a> at Brion’s Grill, and (2) Wednesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.at the <a href="#">Arlington County Central Library</a>.</p> <p>COG staff are working with the various parties and are planning to organize another workshop on these topics (following up on our successful 2016 workshop). Current planning is for summer 2018.</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 <a href="mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org">hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Christine Howard (202) 962-3366 <a href="mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org">cdhoward@mwkog.org</a></p>
Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related	COG Contact
<p><b><u>Letter in Support of the Clean Power Plan</u></b> COG’s Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC), the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) jointly wrote and submitted a comment letter to the EPA regarding the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan was a federal rule published in October 2015 that consisted of carbon pollution emission guidelines for the power sector. The letter states that repealing the Clean Power Plan would result in additional greenhouse gas emissions, NOx air pollutants, and nitrogen deposition that would negatively affect public health, water quality, and the region’s ability to meet our environmental goals. EPA is accepting <a href="#">comments</a> on the proposed repeal through January 16.</p>	<p>Steve Walz (202) 962-3205 <a href="mailto:swalz@mwkog.org">swalz@mwkog.org</a></p>

**AWRA NCRS Meeting: Interagency Coordination and Hurricane Disaster Response (January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:15pm)**

**Speakers:** Gordon Strassberg & David Conrad  
**Location:** COG Building (Training Center)

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Gordon Strassberg serves as the National Weather Service (NWS) Liaison to FEMA's National Incident Management Assistance Team East-2. He was recently deployed with his team to Puerto Rico prior to Hurricane Maria's landfall.

David Conrad currently serves as a Consultant to the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) on federal water resources policy. His work is focused on reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and on the series of disaster assistance legislation responding to 2017 major hurricanes and storms.

**Electric Vehicle Forum at the Washington Auto Show**

CEEPC (Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee) and MWAQC (Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee) and others are holding a work session at the Washington Auto Show on January 25, 3-5pm. The meeting will focus on actions needed to encourage and facilitate the expected electric vehicle ramp up, such as installing charging infrastructure.

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## Member Updates

**George Hawkins of DC Water was Honored with COG's Regional Ron Kirby Award**

At COG's annual membership meeting on December 13, government, business, and nonprofit leaders gathered together to celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary and highlight the importance of regional partnership. DC Water General Manager and CEO George Hawkins was honored with the Ronald F. Kirby Award for Collaborative Leadership for his achievements at the water and wastewater utility. <https://www.mwkog.org/newsroom/2017/12/14/officials-celebrate-60-years-of-partnership/>

## Upcoming Meeting & Events

- January 12<sup>th</sup> – WRTC Meeting
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – WRTC Meeting
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - WRTC Meeting
- May 25<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting