



MEDIA ADVISORY

May XX, 2016

CONTACT:

Megan Goodman: mgoodman@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3209
[May include member's PIO]

Experts Available: Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week *Metropolitan Washington Celebrates Local Contributions to Bay Restoration Efforts*

Washington, D.C. – Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania have designated June 4-12 as **Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week**.

Experts from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC), comprised of local elected officials and regional water utilities, are available to comment on the great strides our region has made in improving the water quality in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the Bay; and the importance of connecting the area's residents to their watersheds.

SUGGESTED EXPERTS

[May include photos, related clips, and a line or two of biographical information.]

Adam Ortiz, Acting Director, Prince George's County Department of the Environment
Carla Reid, General Manager, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Craig Rice, COG Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Committee (CBPC) & Chairman, Montgomery County Council Member
George Hawkins, General Manager, DC Water
Karen Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandria Renew Enterprises.
Lisa Feldt, Director, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
Maureen Holman, Sustainability Chief, DC Water
Penny Gross, Vice Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: Local government implementers of policies and regulations; Historical Bay and regional water quality knowledge; Wastewater utility managers; Stormwater program managers

Themes: Water Quality Successes and COG's Role

- Value of Water
- Local successes in wastewater
- Link local efforts to improvements to local waters as well as Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and the Bay
- Interconnectedness between all water subsectors (i.e., wastewater, stormwater, drinking water) and need for holistic solutions
- COG leadership in innovative processes/practices/programs
- COG's roles:
 - One voice for local governments, and outreach
 - Forum for exchanging information between members, and for dialogues with the states and EPA.
 - Foster partnerships

Challenges:

- Stormwater permit cycles and Bay TMDL timelines are short.
- Need to accommodate region's population growth at our wastewater plants
- Continue to protect water quality for all uses.
- Need to repair & maintain existing pipe systems & other infrastructure – much of which is underground or out of sight
- Need for climate resiliency and adaptive management approaches

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The Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association where area leaders address regional issues affecting the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. www.mwcog.org