



## COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

(As of 3/2/18)

### General Water Resources:

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>Chlorides/Salt Impacts</u></b> COG is working with COG's members and various parties to coordinate on this water quality issue as research and strategies are being developed across the region to address winter storm sodium chloride applications. As this is a multi-media issue, this coordination includes water quality, drinking water, stormwater and potentially wastewater implications.</p> <p><b><u>Chlorides Research Papers</u></b> VA DEQ is convening a stakeholder advisory committee to develop a northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy, and in Maryland, the State Highway Administration already has a salt management plan, and they are monitoring its effectiveness. All share the goal of meeting public safety needs balanced with winter weather road and sidewalk treatments, but being more protective of water quality in local streams, and protecting drinking water supplies, and water and wastewater infrastructure. In efforts to share broadly ongoing research and findings, here are links to two recent papers on chlorides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">ICPRB' Report - <i>Salt Management Strategy: Environmental Impacts and Potential Economic Costs and Benefits of Improved Management in Northern Virginia</i></a>, completed for VA DEQ.</li><li>• Paper by Dr. Kaushal (UMD) – Work funded by the National Science Foundation, which documents findings about changes in sodium chloride loadings, salinity and pH, in freshwater streams nationally. <a href="https://cmns.umd.edu/news-events/features/4059">https://cmns.umd.edu/news-events/features/4059</a></li></ul> <p><b><u>MDE Issues Draft 2018 Integrated Report (IR) of Surface Water Quality</u></b> The Maryland Department of the Environment MDE's has issued its Draft 2018 Integrated Report (IR) of Surface Water Quality, which includes the identification of new impaired waters for TMDL development, as well as changes to its water quality categories. Comments are due by March 19, 2018 <a href="http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2018IR.aspx">http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2018IR.aspx</a>.</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 <a href="mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org">hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 <a href="mailto:kberger@mwkog.org">kberger@mwkog.org</a></p>

**Wastewater**

**Wastewater Flow Projections**

COG staff continue to utilize the data from COG’s Cooperative Forecast process (i.e., locally-derived demographic projections) to develop wastewater projections for the Blue Plains Service Area (BPSA)/Blue Plains, as well as for the region’s major wastewater plants. This information is also used to support COG’s Region Forward efforts and to provide an external check on Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) assumptions.

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**Chesapeake Bay Program Projections for Wastewater**

COG staff continue to monitor CBP/states estimates of what wastewater flows might be in the Year 2025 as part of the Bay TMDL effort and work to protect the financial investments made in the region to handle future growth. Please refer to the CBP Updates document for additional information regarding these matters.

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**Use of COG Cooperative Forecast Data**

The COG Board is expected to officially approve the Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecast data in October 2018. COG DEP staff will utilize the official Round 9.1 data in the Regional Flow Forecast Model to generate wastewater flow projections for the COG region. In the meantime, the current Round 9.0 data will be used to evaluate estimates being generated by the CBP.

**BPSA Wastewater Flow Projection Methodology Work**

As part of its support to the IMA Parties, COG is working with the BPSA operating agencies (DC Water, WSSC, & Fairfax) to review current wastewater flow projection methodologies, the impacts of water conservation efforts, changes in inflow/infiltration patterns, and other factors that affect how future wastewater flows are projected. As part of this effort, COG staff will also reach out to other jurisdictions/agencies for their methodologies; and then will use all of that information to generate a scope of work for a consultant to conduct more detailed analysis. COG anticipates having a contract for the BPSA methodology update work in place by the summer of 2018. The results of this work are expected to update the ‘regional method’ used for the BPSA as well as for the rest of the COG region.

## Stormwater

### **Metro Area Stormwater Forum**

In partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Chesapeake Stormwater Network, COG sponsored a stormwater forum on February 15<sup>th</sup> to provide an opportunity for the private and public sector to engage state and federal regulators on how to integrate the new Bay protocols for BMP efficiencies, inspection and verification into their permit compliance programs. About 60 participants from the region attended.

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### **COG's Stormwater Procurement Website**

COG has launched a new Stormwater Procurement SharePoint website. All members are strongly encouraged to review the database for contracts and RFPs and to post those from your jurisdictions. 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. For login information, contact Heidi Bonnaffon

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### **DC's Stormwater Retention Credit Trading Program Featured**

The District of Columbia's Stormwater Retention Credit Trading Program was featured in a recent MOST (Municipal Online Stormwater Training) Center video interview with DOEE's Brian Van Wye.

<https://mostcenter.org/videos/localleaders>

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## Drinking Water

### **Drug Take Back Day is April 28<sup>th</sup>**

COG's Community Engagement Campaign, via [Protect Your Pipes](#), will be publicizing Drug Take Back Day to keep unwanted medications from being flushed, protecting source water. To find drop off locations and for more information visit:

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

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### **Drought Monitoring**

The latest U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is improving from recent dry conditions. Earlier this winter, moderate and severe drought existed throughout the COG region due to the cumulative lack of precipitation. Groundwater levels were extremely low in many areas, especially in Northern Virginia. The Potomac River Basin received an above average amount of rainfall the past two weeks, and the extended forecast looks promising.

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For additional information, please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website at <https://www.mwkog.org/drought>

Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related	COG Contact
<p><b><u>Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory</u></b> The regional greenhouse gas inventory is being finalized for 2005, 2012 and 2015. The inventory includes the relatively small emissions contributions from wastewater derived from the regional flow forecast model. COG is participating in a grant project to analyze the drivers that account for emissions changes between inventories.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 <a href="mailto:tspano@mwkog.org">tspano@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Maia Davis (202) 962-3227 <a href="mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org">mdavis@mwkog.org</a></p>

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- March 16<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Drought Workshop at Loudoun Water
- May 11<sup>th</sup> (early, date TBD) –WRTC Meeting
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting
- July 13<sup>th</sup> – WRTC Meeting
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting

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