

COG's Regional Water Quality Management Annual Work Program
FY 2014 Updates & FY 2015 Priorities *(draft, WRTC meeting 1/31/14)*

Key features of approved FY 2014 RWQM Work Program:

Overall Water Quality Goal & Key Drivers

Goal – Continue to protect water quality & public health in a sustainable & affordable manner for the region.

Drivers:

- Permits and other regulatory requirements
- Chesapeake Bay restoration requirements
- Local water quality and restoration goals
- Other environmental objectives

Challenges & Priorities

COG's local governments and water utilities will need to address the following challenges:

- Maintain existing/aging infrastructure
- Build/implement new technologies & systems
- Meet existing/new regulatory requirements, schedules & deadlines
- Address extreme weather/climate change impacts
- Respond to emerging issues & meet multiple environmental objectives
- Prepare to sustain efforts in face of continued growth and TMDL limitations
- Address overall fund needs in an affordable & sustainable manner
- Address work force issues

The priority associated with each of these challenges will of course vary, and will depend upon on the unique features & circumstances of each jurisdiction and water utility.

Key Initiatives & Deliverables - STATUS

- Input on the Bay Program's current initiatives & proposed new Bay Agreement - **PENDING**
- Continued collaboration with US Conference of Mayors & others to advocate for affordable, feasible, sustainable & holistic solutions to address water quality issues - **ONGOING**
- A Potomac River water quality trends report/factsheet – **1st Factsheet DONE**
- Regional wastewater flow projections & implementation status report -**DONE**
- A regional water resource infrastructure forum (in collaboration with COG's members & national organizations) to present challenges & opportunities – including regional infrastructure needs, costs, funding options, & work force issues – **BEING PLANNED (Spring 2014) – Will supplement COG's Regional Infrastructure/Region Forward efforts & will include factsheets, etc. with resource information**
- Outreach products (e.g., factsheets, webinars, & other mechanisms) to communicate the benefits & challenges of these water resource issues for COG's members – **ONGOING**
 - **Joint meeting w/ CEEPC – July 2013**
 - **USCM/Affordability – September 2013**
 - **Water Supply/Quantity & Growth – November 2013**
 - **Legislation – January 2014**
 - **Factsheet Topic/Priority Survey – Sent to WRTC, will be discussed at Jan. 31st meeting)**

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Proposed Key Topics/Presentations for Upcoming CBPC & WRTC Meetings

List is of tentatively proposed topics/presentations. COG staff will be organizing information and investigating potential speakers, and proposing specific topics/meeting dates for rest of 2014 for review with CBPC & WRTC members at their March meetings.

- Conowingo Dam & Bay TMDL/Water Quality & Local WIP Implications – May 2014 (tentative)
- DC Water's Green Infrastructure Initiative (& Potential Tour of Blue Plains) - TBD
- Chesapeake Bay Program Updates
 - Forum (w/ EPA & States) – May (tentative)
 - Chesapeake Bay Agreement (prepare CBPC comment letter) - February
- Outreach Efforts (all water infrastructure) – July
- Stormwater Program Updates (regulatory & Prince George's Co. P3 effort) – July (tentative)
- Local Water Quality (streams & links to Potomac/Bay) – TBD
- Potomac & Bay Water Quality Trends & Challenges (additional updates) – Fall 2014
- Extreme Weather/Climate Change Issues (e.g., post-Sandy findings) - Summer 2014
- Water Quality/Source Water Protection Issues – March (tentative)
 - Drought Plan Updates
 - Emergency Drinking Water Plan Updates
 - Regional Emergency Response re: Source Water Protection (including references to West Va. Situation/lessons learned)
- Joint Meeting w/ CEEPC (on joint climate, energy, & environment and water resource issues) – July 2015 (proposed)

Key features of proposed FY 2015 RWQM Work Program:

Overall

- Same drivers, challenges, areas of focus and level of effort as FY 2014
- But now closer to Bay 2017 Re-evaluation and 2017 mid-point goals

New/Changing

- Potential implications of new Chesapeake Bay Agreement (maybe yes, maybe no)
- Beginning to know more about climate change/adaptation planning/implications in region
 - but not clear yet re: Bay water quality implications
- Wastewater plant upgrades are/coming on-line
- Stormwater permits evolving
- Blue Plains' permit up for renewal
- Regional emphasis on all forms of infrastructure

Other Topics/Issues to Focus on?