



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (AS OF 1/27/17)

Summary of key CBP activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members & the RWQM Work Program.

Bay TMDL – Overall Program	COG Contact
<p><u>Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT)</u> Tanya Spano was reconfirmed for as an At-Large member of the WQGIT. Her term will be for two years. This continues to provide COG with a stronger voice within the CBP Partnership effort as part of a key committee that integrates technical and policy issues and makes decisions that are passed on to the Management Board and Principals Staff Committee (PSC)., which advice the Executive Council.</p> <p><u>State of the Bay Report</u> The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) recently released its 2016 State of the Bay report, issuing a grade of C-, the best grade the Bay has received in its eighteen years of tracking, due to marked improvement in their three indicators: Habitat, fisheries, and pollution. CBF goes on to say that “the states on track must stay the course” and that it will be a “heavy lift” to continue progress. Here’s a link to the Report summary, full Report, and comparison table to the 2014 Report: http://www.cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report-2016</p>	<p><u>Overall Program Effort</u> Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p> <p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>Chesapeake Bay Program Mid-Point Assessment Activities:</u></p> <p><u>Watershed Model – Activities and Issues</u></p> <p><u>Land Use</u> Production of new land use for the Phase 6 watershed model has lagged behind schedule, but is close to completion. Local governments in the Washington region have had the opportunity to review and comment on the land use estimates. The comments have identified some accuracy issues that will not be addressed until the next new version of land use is created.</p> <p><u>Model Inputs</u> The data that the states supply the Bay Program as inputs to the watershed model, such as location, number and effectiveness of BMPs, has been in a state of near-constant flux, although most of the data inputs should now be finalized. COG staff will work with members to evaluate how accurately this data matches local data through some technical work sessions this spring.</p>	<p style="background-color: #fce4d6;">COG Contact</p> <p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p> <p>Mukhtar Ibrahim (202) 962-3364 mibrahim@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>Water Quality Sediment Transport Model & Others - Activities & Issues</u></p> <p><u>Susquehanna Watershed/Conowingo Dam Updates</u> Currently the Bay Partners have narrowed the range of potential options for addressing these additional loads to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate responsibility to the Susquehanna watershed states (PA & MD) • Allocate some shared-responsibility directly to all or some sub-set of the State Partners • Allocate responsibility based on a cost-effectiveness basis <p>Some change in load distributions will naturally result due to the many modeling changes and new data (technical adjustments); but these allocation issues are clearly policy matters.</p>	<p style="background-color: #fce4d6;">COG Contact</p> <p>Tanya Spano (202) 962-3776 tspano@mwkog.org</p> <p>Karl Berger (202) 962-3350 kberger@mwkog.org</p>

Attainment Assessment

The Bay Program uses a complex combination of monitoring and modeling information to determine what constitutes attainment of water quality goals under the TMDL. COG staff continues to track changes in the attainment methodology to ensure that it maintains equity among all the parties involved in the restoration effort. COG staff will evaluate options for conducting an independent scientific evaluation of this attainment approach.

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Air Model

Deposition of various forms of airborne nitrogen emitted by vehicles, power plants and other sources onto the land and water surfaces of the Bay watershed is one of the major sources of nitrogen to the Bay. The Bay Program is updating its models for estimating these inputs, which COG water program staff will continue to track in conjunction with COG's air program staff.

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Climate Change

The Bay Program continues to incorporate estimates of future changes in temperature, rainfall and other factors likely to result from climate change into its modeling framework. COG staff is tracking how these changes could affect the attainment of water quality goals under the TMDL. This issue is being evaluated a final decision on how to handle climate change impacts under the Bay TMDL will be made at the Bay Program this spring.

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The range of key decision will be generally be whether to actually reflect loads due to climate impacts into the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) that will be issued this year, or to instead to prioritize selection of BMPs in the WIPs based on climate impacts.

Load Estimates / Target Loads & EPA's Expectations

The Bay Program endorsed the Local Area Targets Task Force recommendations that there should be should be Local Area Planning Goals to guide the development of the Phase 3 WIPs. The scale and responsible parties for addressing those goals can vary, but must be defined at levels below the state basin level.

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EPA also issued a final Phase 3 WIP Expectations document this month for what they are expecting to see in each of the states' Phase 3 WIPs. Ms. Spano submitted comments on a draft version in her capacity as an At-Large member, based on standing COG/CBPC priorities.