



WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (WRTC) MEETING

WRTC meeting 01/11/19 Summary and Briefing Points for CBPC

Meeting focus:

- The status of VA, MD and DC's Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs)
- Collaborative research project on Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) and the Role of Reuse on the Quality of the Potomac River
- COG's Potomac Water Quality Report and Executive Summary

Presentations:

- Kathy Stecker, MDE – MD Phase III WIP
- Katherine Antos, DOEE – DC Phase III WIP
- Karl Berger – Overview and VA Phase III WIP
- Erik Rosenfeldt (Hazen and Sawyer)

Summary Points:

Phase III WIP Roundtable

- Various representatives discussed the status of Phase III WIP development in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, including how the stormwater, wastewater and septic sectors will be addressed
- Key deadlines (note that the federal shutdown could affect these deadlines)
 - April 12, 2019 – States' draft Phase III WIPs due to EPA.
 - June 7, 2019 – Deadline for public comment on draft Phase III WIPs
 - August 9, 2019 – Final Phase III WIPs due to EPA
- Common points discussed:
 - Nitrogen reduction is the biggest challenge
 - Region currently has considerable nutrient "surplus" from wastewater sector
 - Need to consider long term beyond 2025

Impacts of Anthropogenic EDCs and the Role of Reuse and Conservation on the Quality of the Potomac River

- Dr. Rosenfeldt discussed a research project to identify and assess "hot spots" for endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) and nutrients in the Potomac River basin, initiated in response to the discovery of intersex fish in the Potomac in 2012.
- With additional funding from EPA, the multi-year project is now focused on whether it can detect an impact from advanced wastewater treatment and from stormwater and agricultural BMPs on the level of these pollutants in the river and other nearby water bodies.

Potomac River Water Quality in the Washington Region – Report and Summary

- COG staff has produced a technical report and an executive summary that have been reviewed by the WRTC
- Three key messages
 - Our region has made a lot of progress, but more needs to be done
 - Water quality data indicates a mixed picture of progress, with certain parameters showing signs of improvement while others have degraded

- Improving water quality does not follow a simple, linear path; estuaries are complex systems affected by lag times and other phenomena
- After CBPC review, staff proposed to present the report to the COG Board

WRTC recommendations for the CBPC

- The region may wish to comment on the states' draft Phase III WIPs during the official comment period in late spring.
- The Potomac River Water Quality Report is ready for CBPC review and input.

All of the presentations and meeting materials can be downloaded from the WRTC site:

https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/?F_committee=205

