

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING SUBCOMMITTEE (RWQMSc) MEETING**

**Thursday, August 9, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Room #1, First Floor**

**Webinar Link:**

<https://mwcog.webex.com/mwcog/j.php?ED=157624712&UID=492324367&PW=NOTA3YWZhMWZk&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>

**Password: Potomac**

**Conference Call Number: Dial 1 (866) 269-8952 and enter 3366 when prompted**

**AGENDA**

**I. Welcome, & Roll Call/Introductions – *Patty Dietz, Chair***

(10:00 – 10:05 a.m.)

**II. Committee Priorities and Focus for FY2012 – *Tanya Spano, COG staff***

(10:05 – 10:15 a.m.)

Ms. Spano will highlight the key activities planned for FY2013 and proposed efforts to enhance COG's regional water quality monitoring program, and improve coordination with COG's technical and policy committees (i.e., the Water Resources Technical Committee – WRTC, and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee – CBPC). This would include expanding our membership to create a formal Potomac algal bloom Work Group, and working with water quality experts in the region to provide input on regional factsheets and other documentation to characterize Potomac and local water quality improvements and challenges

**Feedback:** Members will be asked to provide feedback on the FY2013 goals and identify any additional issues that they feel the RWQMSc should focus on.

**III. Potomac River Algal Bloom Monitoring: Summer of 2011 & 2012 Activities and a Historical Context**

(10:15 – 11:30 a.m.)

**A. COG's Regional Role During 2011 and Member Recommendations – *Christine Howard, COG***

(10:15 – 10:20 a.m.)

Ms. Howard will highlight regional coordination during the 2011 Potomac algal blooms and discuss the type of work products produced (press releases, a comprehensive website) and those activities/work products that remain to be developed (e.g., additional data analysis, updating the algal encouragement index, etc.).

## **B. Overview of Potomac River Algal Bloom Monitoring**

(10:20 – 11:45 a.m.)

*Bruce Michael, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (MDDNR)*

*Cathy Wazniak, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR)*

*Dr. Chris Jones, George Mason University (GMU)*

*Lora Harris, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMDCES)*

*Members of the ad hoc Potomac algal workgroup will provide an overview of algal bloom monitoring events during 2011 and 2012 in the COG region and a historical context for these events.*

Collectively they will explain:

- Their individual monitoring programs and data collected;
- Differences between algal blooms observed this year compared to 2011;
- A historical context and overview of nutrient loads from the past – analysis of trends related to algal blooms

**Feedback:** RWQMSc will be asked to identify:

- a. Additional algal bloom monitoring activities in their jurisdiction
- b. Any comments on future analysis or recommendations for the algal work group to focus on

## **IV. Potomac River Water Quality – Assessment and Reporting**

(11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

*Tanya Spano, COG Staff*

*Dr. Tom Grizzard, Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML)*

### **A. COG Regional Factsheets: Use to Help Tell a Regional Story – T. Spano**

(11:45 – 12:00 a.m.)

Ms. Spano will highlight some recent publications and articles that convey incomplete and negative messages concerning water quality improvements in the Potomac. She will discuss plans to create a Regional Water Quality factsheet (note the Regional Stormwater Management factsheet as an example), which will focus on regional management actions that have resulted in significant improvements to local waters including the upper reaches of the Potomac River. She will also discuss our plans to work with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory to analyze fall line data at Chain Bridge.

### **B. The Chain Bridge Monitoring Program: Key Aspects & Proposed Analysis – Dr. Tom Grizzard**

(12:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Dr. Grizzard will provide a brief overview of the Chain bridge monitoring program and the rationale behind their sampling methodology. He will discuss the parameters that have been historically measured at the fall line, and outline plans to work with COG to conduct comprehensive analysis of the historical data. This information would ultimately provide input for COG's proposed Regional Water Quality factsheet.

**Feedback:** RWQMSc members will be asked to:

- a. Provide recommendations to COG staff on how to convey these water quality issues;
- b. Identify additional information that the water quality factsheet should address; and
- c. Identify any additional data analysis or issues that may need to be addressed in characterizing regional water quality.

**V. Working Lunch & Around the Room – RWQMSc Members**  
(12:30– 1:00 p.m.)

The RWQMSc members are asked to share any activities that may be of interest to the membership, and propose any additional topics or potential speakers for future RWQMSc meetings.

**VI. Adjourn Meeting**  
(1:00 p.m.)

**Upcoming RWQMSc - WRTC & CBPC Meetings & Events**

- **September RWQMSc conference call – TBD if needed**
- **September 13<sup>th</sup> - WRTC Meeting**
  - **WSSC's Proposed Water Reuse Assessment – Zohreh Movahed, WSSC**
  - **Characterizing Regional Water Quality – COG staff**
- **September 27<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting (tentative)**
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> - Bay Modeling Workshop - Gary Shenk, EPA/CBPO**

**Attachments:**

***Agenda item I:***

***Agenda***

***Agenda item II:***

***RWQM Subcommittee Priorities & Focus for FY 2012***

***Agenda item III:***

***Summary of COG's Regional Role in Addressing the 2011 Potomac River Algal Blooms  
Presentations from Bruce Michael, Cathy Wazniak, Chris Jones and Lora Harris***

***Agenda item IV:***

***COG's Regional Stormwater Management Factsheet (June 2012))  
Potomac Water Quality – Listing of recent reports/articles  
WRTC's Recommendations Re: Portraying Regional Water Quality  
Map of Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Modeling Segments  
Overview of Chainbridge Monitoring Program***