Partnership Recognized as Finalist for 2017 Best BMP Retrofit by Chesapeake Stormwater Network

by Bernard Devlin

Last month, the Chesapeake Stormwater Network selected its finalists for the BUBBA (Best Urban Best Management Practice in the Bay Award) program, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the Partnership received 3rd place for the *Anacostia River Watershed Smart Integrated Stormwater Management* project. The BUBBA contest was launched by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network a few years ago, to "recognize stormwater projects or practices that achieve substantial water quality improvement in a challenging urban environment."[1]

There are 8 categories in total, and COG's project was included in the Best BMP Retrofit category. This category recognizes projects that "improve the runoff reduction and pollutant removal capability of existing stormwater BMPs constructed in the last five years."[2] COG partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and OPtiRTC, a technology company that delivers solutions to challenging stormwater in urban environments.

Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

The project combines cellular communication, connected continuous monitoring devices, the cloud, and the internet to automatically control the water level in an existing wet pond at University Boulevard in the Anacostia River Watershed, based on real-time site conditions and weather forecast data. This project has provided the County and its partners with access to real-time data and insight into how their facilities function, optimizing the facilities for multiple environmental objectives and empowering stakeholders with the ability to adapt over time as regulations, land-use, and climate changes.

Similar automated decision-based technological retrofits for dry pond and bio-retention systems are being evaluated for performance, as part of a greater NFWF grant project.

Please direct any questions to Phong Trieu, at ptrieu@mwcog.org

[1]Morelli, Donna "Parking lot project catches the eye as well as stormwater." *Chesapeake Bay Journal* April 2017: Page 5-6. Print.

[2]2017 Best BMP Retrofit. Chesapeake Stormwater Network.

http://chesapeakestormwater.net/the-bubbas/2017-bubbas-2/2017-best-bmp-retrofit/