



FY 2026 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT WORK PROGRAM SUMMARY

KEY PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT, URBAN WATERSHED PROGRAMS, AND WATER SECURITY

Addresses regional water quality, stormwater, watershed restoration, water security and supply issues that are relevant COG members jurisdictions, and local drinking water and wastewater utilities. These are supported by the Regional Water Fund and overseen by the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) and the Blue Plains IMA Leadership Committee.

KEY INITIATIVES FOR FY 2026 Dialogue and Policy: Engage with the EPA, states, and stakeholders on the Chesapeake Bay Program to support local issues.

Partnerships: Foster partnerships to leverage resources and address technical, policy, workforce development, and economic issues.

Emerging Issues: Address emerging issues like PFAS regulation, freshwater salinization, regional water supply redundancy, and variability in weather patterns.

Chesapeake Bay Program Advocacy: Advocate for COG's members and provide local perspectives on issues such as Phase III WIP Implementation, the Bay Program Model, and relevant workgroups.

Communications: Represent the COG region and support COG Board initiatives by addressing pollution control efforts, challenges in wastewater and stormwater management, water infrastructure and workforce development, as well as the impacts of extreme weather.

MAJOR PRODUCTS

CBPC: Convene an annual Forum, tours for local officials, advocacy letters to support COG's legislative priorities, and the CBPC's bimonthly meetings.

Monitoring and Modeling: Support PFAS monitoring in the Potomac watershed, finalize results for the freshwater salinization project, ensure the most accurate data and forecasts are shared, update information on stormwater fees, and host webinars.

Resilience: Focus on best practices for flood mitigation and communicating flood risks.

Invasive Species: Through the National Capital Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Monitoring, work on collaboration with regional land managers to mitigate invasive species impacts.

Urban Stormwater: Facilitate the exchange of information among peers, monitor the Trash TMDL, create an inventory of forest cover, and coordinate with MS4 jurisdictions.

Water Resources Outreach and Water Supply Security: Implement a metropolitan Washington water supply resilience study. Conduct educational and social media campaigns around topics like pipes and salt management. Manage and coordinate drought and water supply monitoring and support regional exercises.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

COG's water resources programs are supported by funding from the Regional Water Fund, membership fees, federal grants, private foundations, and contributions from member utilities. The COG Board of Directors adopted the FY 2026 Member Dues and Regional Fees which included \$1,882,600 for the RWF.