

Runoff Review

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An official publication of the Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers



MAFSM Annual Conference

MAFSM recently hit a milestone and hosted our 10th annual conference. With over 25 speakers, 11 sponsors, 10 exhibitors, a workshop, a CFM refresher training, a field tour down the Potomac River in Washington, DC, and over 120 attendees, we keep this annual event chock full of new content each year.

Please **Save the Date** for our 11th annual conference, ***Snapshots of Floodplain and Stormwater Management, October 15, 2015 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD.*** This conference will have the same high level of content that you have grown accustomed to with a new twist. We will be introducing a **photo contest**. Be on the lookout for contest and conference details. For information, check out our website, www.MAFSM.org, or contact Garrett Skinner at Garrett.Skinner@atkinsglobal.com.

Call for abstracts:

Please submit a one-page abstract along with a brief speaker's biography for our 11th annual conference. Abstracts should deal with topics geared towards stormwater and floodplain management in Maryland or other areas within the United States. Presentations are selected at the discretion of the Program Committee.

Presentations will be accepted in the following subject areas:

- Floodplain Management/Mapping
- Stormwater Management
- Mitigation
- Climate Change
- Outreach
- Other

Please submit abstracts to https://dbinbox.com/MAFSM_Abtracts

Note: Please make sure to identify the subject area (listed above) for your abstract and include a brief biography or your abstract will not be considered. Deadline for submitting is July 3rd.

Let's Call it a Restoration Fund, Not a Rain Tax

By Whitney Thomas, CFM, AECOM



During the fall 2014 campaigns, many politicians promised to get rid of Maryland's "rain tax." Using the term "rain tax" infers that land owners are being taxed on weather patterns that they are not in control of. In reality, the fee required under House Bill 897, which was passed in 2012, refers to requiring a stormwater remediation fee for all Phase I National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit holders. Phase I NPDES MS4 permit holders consist of 10 counties/municipalities, generally centered around the Baltimore/Washington, DC corridor, and also the Maryland State Highway Administration. The revenue collected under this fee is set aside to implement, maintain, and upgrade programs and projects needed to remove pollutants from stormwater so that citizens can continue to use their rivers, streams, lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay for the many services they provide, including recreation, agricultural and industrial water supply, public water supply, and fish and shellfish spawning and harvesting. According to an April 20, 2015 article in the Baltimore Sun, Maryland tourism generated \$15.4 billion in 2013 with 139,000 Marylanders having jobs in the tourism industry. Much of this is generated in counties and municipalities surrounding the Bay and its tributaries (e.g., Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County). Protecting and restoring the Bay makes good sense for Marylanders.

MAFSM 10th Annual Conference Sponsors

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



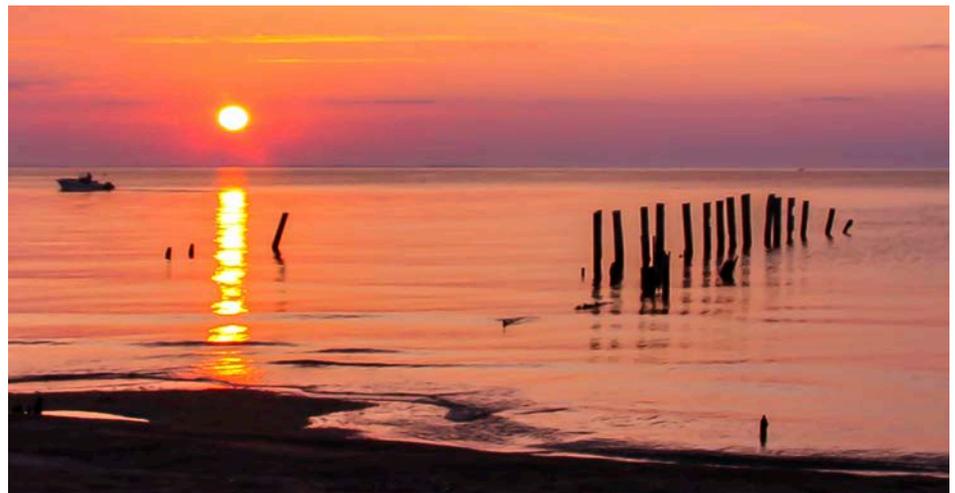
BRONZE LEVEL



Maryland House Bill 987 provides a legal right for Phase I NPDES MS4 municipalities and counties to initiate and maintain a watershed restoration and protection plan that will meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and NPDES MS4 permit requirements. The original wording of the bill required that the communities have a fee to support their respective watershed restoration and protection program. The recent attempt to repeal the bill was supported by only one delegate in the Senate; instead a compromise was achieved by changing the wording of the bill. The bill currently provides leeway to Phase I NPDES MS4 municipalities to either enact a fee or to use other revenue to fund their watershed restoration and protection programs. However, if a municipality opts to use other revenue to fund its program, the municipality must file and get approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment for a financial plan to support the watershed protection/restoration objectives. If a county chooses to fund its program using general revenues or bonds, the county must meet with each municipality within its jurisdiction to confirm the county's responsibility for the municipality's stormwater remediation requirements, and to either offset a municipality's established remediation fee by adjusting the county property tax rate within the municipality or negotiate a memorandum of understanding to agree on another action.

Maryland has been working quickly to try to meet the 2017 interim load reductions required by the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs. The Phase I NPDES MS4 permits have been finalized and issued, and the clock is ticking for individual permittees to implement programs, practices, and infrastructure to meet the interim pollutant reductions of the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs by 2017. The watershed restoration and protection program can only be effective if funds are set aside to support the needed infrastructure and programs. Phase I permittees now have the opportunity to use a combination of funds to support the program, as long as they can show that the funds will support the necessary actions to reduce pollutants. Harford and Carroll Counties are examples of counties that have opted to fund their restoration programs through means other than a restoration fee, whereas Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties are funding their restoration programs through county-based stormwater fees. Whatever the source of funding, the goal is to implement restoration programs that will help the State achieve its TMDL goals and improve conditions in the Chesapeake Bay. With only a year and a half to meet the 60 percent reduction in sediments and nutrients to the Bay, there is still much to do to help the State improve the Bay.

If you have any questions on the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs and MS4 NPDES compliance, please contact Whitney Thomas, CFM, at 301-820-3377 or Whitney.Thomas@AECOM.com or Mary Roman, PE, CFM, at 443-737-1290 or Mary.E.Roman@AECOM.com.



Message from the Chair

As I begin my term as Chair of Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM), I would like to recognize all the previous and new Board members. These individuals volunteer their time to make our group sustainable and to spread the word about sound floodplain and stormwater management within our communities and industry. I am encouraged by how many people—with busy professional and personal lives—

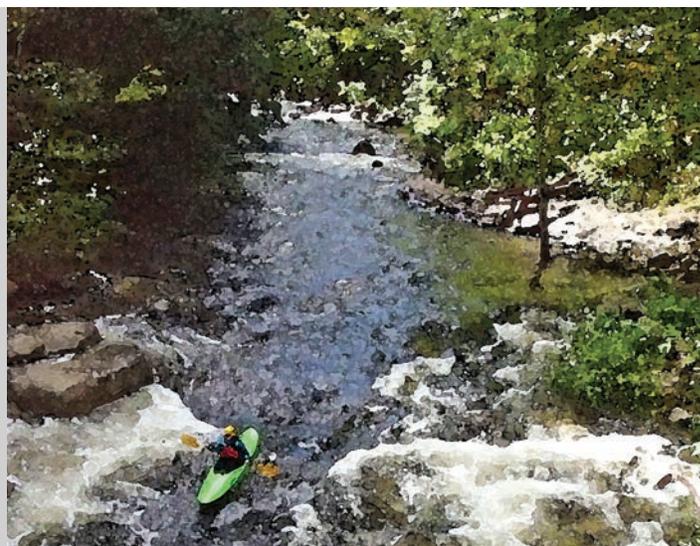


Necolle Maccherone

are willing to take time to volunteer and contribute to so many activities that make MAFSM the great organization that it is. Whether it's contributing to our newsletter, demonstrating our Floodplain Simulator Model to students, participating on the Board, helping maintain our website, posting to our LinkedIn site, attending or calling in to our board meetings, or speaking or moderating sessions at our conference, I offer my sincere thanks!

I'd like to specifically thank our returning board members:

- **Mike Gilliam** of Stantec who has taken on the role of Treasurer;
- **Amy Moredock** of Kent County who continues her role as Eastern Regional Representative;
- **Paul Slonac** of Michael Baker International who has taken on the role of Membership Chair;
- **Carver Struve** of Michael Baker International and **Mark James** of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency who both continue in their roles as Mitigation Co-Chairs;
- **Kevin Wagner** of the Maryland Department of the Environment and **Laura Chap** of Atkins who both continue in their roles as Mapping and Technology Co-Chairs; and
- **Mary Roman** of AECOM and **Rahul Kesarkar** of Dewberry who both continue in their roles as Stormwater Co-Chairs.



Their continued support is valued and appreciated!

I'd also like to welcome our new board members:

- **Benjamin Kaiser** of AECOM joins us as both Vice-Chair and Outreach and Public Relations Chair;
- **Jason Sevanick Durant** of AMEC Foster Wheeler joins us as Secretary;
- **Mark Stransky** of Washington County joins us as Western Regional Representative;
- **Kristin Baja** of the City of Baltimore joins us as Central Regional Representative; and
- **Garrett Skinner** of Atkins joins us as Programs Chair.

I'm excited and energized by all the new Board participants. Their fresh input is an asset to our organization.

Welcome!

Email me at necolle.maccherone@stantec.com with your suggestions for MAFSM activities, improvement suggestions, or opportunities for training/education. Your continued support of the MAFSM is greatly appreciated!

Treasurer's Report

The current balance in the Treasury is \$11,671.

Ideas for Articles

We welcome your input and ideas. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Ben Kaiser at benjamin.kaiser@aecom.com.

New Contact information?

It is important for us to update all of our members on our latest news and events. If your contact information has changed since last year, please email PSlonac@mbakerintl.com with your updates.

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