



Potomac Agenda—Immediate Actions for the Coming Year
November 11, 2008

- **Governor Kaine and Virginia’s Soil and Water Conservation Board should approve the state’s proposed new stormwater regulations.**
 - In last year’s Potomac Agenda we asked Joseph Maroon, Director of Virginia’s Department of Conservation and Recreation, to finalize his department’s proposed stormwater regulations. He has now done so, and the final decision is up to the Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Governor.
 - The proposed regulations represent a gigantic leap forward for Virginia’s stormwater management program, and if approved, would place Virginia firmly in the national stormwater management vanguard.

- **The incoming U.S. EPA Administrator and the states should require that all new or re-issued MS4 stormwater permits be at least as strong, and preferably stronger, than the new Montgomery County, MD and Washington D.C. permits.**
 - Municipal stormwater (MS4) permits have historically been weak and unenforceable, and have failed to prevent stormwater pollution.
 - Permits recently issued to Montgomery County, MD and Washington, DC, while not perfect, are a vast improvement. They contain enforceable standards and are linked to TMDLs – the Clean Water Act’s “pollution diet,” which all permits should be designed to meet.
 - Multiple MS4 permits are up for renewal or issuance in the near future—EPA must take advantage of this opportunity to make those permits the backbone of an effective and enforceable stormwater program.
 - Accountable agencies and key personnel
 - **VA:** Department of Conservation and Recreation: Joseph Maroon, Director
 - **MD:** Maryland Department of the Environment: Shari Wilson, Secretary of the Environment
 - **DC:** DC’s program is administered directly by EPA Region III
 - **WV:** West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection: Cabinet Secretary Randy C. Huffman

- **Grantmakers should actively seek to fund technical assistance and low impact development capacity building projects for local governments.**
 - A major barrier to comprehensive implementation of low impact development practices is a lack of technical capacity at the local government level. Local reviewing and permitting agencies need additional training to become effective promoters of, not barriers to, low impact development.
 - A focused campaign by grantmakers to create practical training and capacity-building programs for local governments would go a long way towards making low impact development standard practice.