

Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

Hampstead * Manchester * Mt. Airy * New Windsor
Carroll County Health Department



* Sykesville * Taneytown * Union Bridge * Westminster
Carroll County Government

WRCC/Guidance Team Work Session Summary February 1, 2012

Attendees:

Tom Devilbiss
Rosetta Mann
Matt Candland
Monika Weierbach
Scott Stranko
Gale Engles

Brad Plante
Jim Wieprecht
Ed Singer
Mark Eisner
Dave Stewart

Brenda Dinne
Dan Riley
Steve Miller
Kevin Hann
Hugh Murphy

Jeff Glass
Frank Schaeffer
Jon Richardson
Marge Wolf
Joe Barrington

The WRCC meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Matt Candland.

Hydro-Ecological Assessment for Fractured Rock Study: First on the agenda was a presentation from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representative Scott Stranko on the hydro-ecological assessment effort. Scott works for the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) section of DNR. MBSS's role is to perform statewide stream surveys through collecting stream data to assess streams' health. This data is used by various State agencies in their decision-making process and is also available on DNR's website under Stream Health.

The Governor set up a committee to look at management and protection of the state's water resources. A report was written in 2008 with the committee's recommendations and plan. As a result of this group report, the Fractured Rock Study and a Coastal Plain Study were initiated. The Fractured Rock Study will be assessing impacts to biological stream communities and water withdrawals (surface and ground water).

Scott gave an overview of MBSS's role in this study. He stated that the sampling locations were selected by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MBSS's role is to collect the data request by MDE, using MDE's methodology. MDE selected the streams that had the largest water withdrawals and if there was any influence on the ecology, because of the withdrawal, it was expected to be apparent at these sites. MBSS has requested that control sites also be sampled, but none have been added. MDE has also requested that the sampling take place at the point of withdrawal, which would represent the worst case scenario. At this point, MBSS will not be analyzing the data; MDE will be doing the analysis.

Three streams in Carroll County were selected for sampling: Copsps Branch, Little Pipe Creek, and a tributary to Piney Run.

Concerns were expressed over the design of the research effort related to data collection and the interpretation and analysis of the data. The methodology may not be based on sound, acceptable scientific methods or

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principles. It was suggested that a letter be drafted from the WRCC to Bob Summers stating these concerns. Tom will draft the letter for approval at the March 7th meeting.

Draft Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Update: The State's draft was released for public comment on January 26th. Public comments are due to MDE by March 9th. Brenda will draft a comment letter for discussion at the March 7th meeting. Tom requested that any comments be sent to Brenda before March 7th.

Several Phase II WIP meetings are scheduled throughout the State. Brenda will send information on the meeting location and dates if any is interested in attending.

Open Discussion: Once the Buildable Land Inventory demand data is updated, Brenda will be scheduling a meeting with each municipality to update the capacity management worksheets. She would also like to update the Water Resource Element (WRE) implementation tracking list and discuss the costs associated with Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrades.

Brenda briefed the Council on Senate Bill 240. It proposed to increase the fee for the Bay Restoration Fund, which would be based on the amount of water usage for sewer users. Usage of less than 2,000 gallons/month will result in a decrease in cost, but usage over 3,000 gallons/month will see an increase. Septic users would pay a flat fee, which would be increased from \$2.50/month to \$5.00/month.

A Planning Area Guidelines work session with the municipalities is scheduled for March 17 from 9:00 – 12:00 at Carroll Community College in Room M157. Brenda will be sending out maps and bulleted comments next Friday for everyone to review before the meeting. Chuck Boyd and Melissa Appler from Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) will be there to provide an overview and answer any questions. Tom urged people to attend to ask questions, voice concerns, and follow up with written comments.

The Commissioners approved funding for the first phase of the Union Mills water exploration and for looking at feasibility of the surface water intake, as identified in the Water Resources Element (WRE). Water exploration is planned to begin late spring to early summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2012 at 2:30 in Room 003.