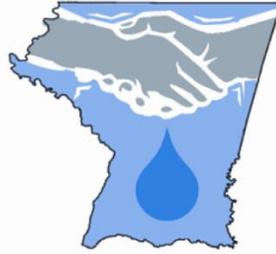


# Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

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



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

## WRCC Meeting Summary January 28, 2015

### **Attendees:**

Frank Schaeffer	Perry Jones	Tom Devilbiss	Ed Singer
Rose Mann	Monika Weierbach	Brenda Dinne	Dick Swanson
Janet O'Meara	Jim Wieprecht	Steve Miller	Byron Madigan
Sean Hartman	Gale Engles	Jeffrey Lindaw	Jeff Glass
Andrea Gerhard	Lynda Eisenberg	Virginia Siemer	Glenn Edwards
Nokomis Ford	Phil Hager	Christy Collins	

The meeting was called to order by Frank Schaeffer at 2:30.

December 3, 2014, minutes were approved as written.

### **Water & Sewer Plan Status**

Andrea Gerhard and Lynda Eisenberg gave an update on Carroll County's Water & Sewer Master Plan. Andrea said the Water & Sewer Master Plan update was started in 2010, following adoption of the Water Resources Element. The prior plan was approved in 2007. State law mandates the plan be updated every three (3) years. The 3-year cycle starts on the date the plan is approved. The Bureau of Comprehensive Planning has been discussing the Water & Sewer Master Plan with the municipalities over the last four (4) years. In the past, the water and sewer maps showed existing/final planning, priority, and future water and sewer service categories. While there was a general time frame associated with these categories, these time frames were not mandated. However, with this update, MDE wanted the plan and maps to only include areas that could be served within the next 10 years. With this approach, the calculations for the water service areas resulted in some municipalities experiencing water deficits. MDE wanted specific projects shown that would be needed to accommodate the demand within the 10 years, including addressing the projected deficits. Rather than shrinking designated growth areas to fit the capacity, a new service category was created, "Long Range" (10+ years). This would allow the municipalities to keep their current service area, but only need to show future projects associated with property in the service area within the next 10 years. If there was no project associated with properties, it would be bumped to the Long Range service area.

In December 2013, the plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and resubmitted to MDE. After a 90-day review period, and a MDE granted itself a 90-day extension. The County then received a 14-page response from MDE on July 2, 2014. The letter partially approved, partially denied, and partially modified the plan. Mr. Hager stated MDE does not have the authority to modify our plan. Staff has been trying unsuccessfully for several months to schedule a meeting to discuss the issues and concerns. With the change in administration, they are hopeful that a meeting might be scheduled by the end of February or the first part of

March. Staff would like to have a plan approved by MDE sometime this spring. Lynda gave out copies of a letter, which was mailed out today, to the town managers stating the progress of the plan over the past several months. She said any municipality needing a status on their portion of the plan should contact county staff. Staff will work with MDE to get a *letter of clarification* on issues with their plan. This can be used as an official letter of approval for their plan.

### **Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Work Plan**

Brenda Dinne said the County Code requires the EAC to provide an annual report to the BCC. Several years ago, the EAC started holding an annual joint meeting with the BCC to provide them with an overview of the prior year's activities and accomplishments. Each year, the EAC also develops a proposed work plan for the coming calendar year. The work plan is reviewed with the Board at the annual joint meeting. The Board can add any projects to the plan at any time during the year. She gave a summary of the following items on EAC's proposed work plan for 2015:

- Update to Environmental Stewardship Booklet
- Carroll County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase 1 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Public Education Requirements – Public Educational Workshop for Commercial and Industrial Business Community
- Carroll County NPDES Phase I MS4 Public Education Requirements – Work Plan to Develop Public Educational Workshop for General Public
- Feedback on Energy Audit by Johnson Controls
- 2016 Environmental Awareness Awards – Prep for January 2016 Public Launch

### **WIP Two-Year Milestones Interim Status Report**

Brenda Dinne reviewed the changes that we made to last year's status report to provide a current status.

- **Wastewater:** ENR upgrades were added. Mount Airy is the only municipality that has their ENR upgrade completed. The other major wastewater treatment plants are working toward completion.
- **Urban:** The information was updated to provide current numbers. Impervious area restored went from 16% to 23% of the total 30% required. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BCC and Mayors to cost share stormwater mitigation projects was added. Stream corridor assessments, 6 of the 9 major watershed basins have been completed. County BMP implementation tracking was moved from WRCC because it seemed more appropriate in this section. Added the EAC is working on a public workshop for education.
- **Septic:** Draft incorrectly provided a cumulative number of properties that were converted from conventional septic system to public sewer in 2014. The number was revised from 20 to 2. In 2014, one large private industrial system converted 4,570 gpd to a public wastewater treatment system.

Gale Engles will get Brenda new numbers for the impervious area since the towns have been added to the Phase I permit. Brenda will incorporate the revised numbers to reflect the addition of the municipalities. The WRCC approved the status report with these revisions. Brenda will send it to MDE before the January 30 deadline.

### **Permit Status**

The new Phase I NPDES MS4 Permit was issued on December 29 and included the municipalities. There was a 30-day window in which to file for judicial review of the permit. The BCC has been briefed, and they want to move ahead with filing before the January 29 deadline. The County can withdraw from the judicial review at any time. The judicial review requires that MDE provide the court system with all documentation from the permit process. No new information can be submitted; the review will cover what had been submitted during the review process. The judge will determine if the process was thorough and fair. The basis for our challenge was that MDE ignored comments sent from Carroll County. After the judicial review, it will go to the court system, where there will be an opportunity for input and testimony, starting at the local Carroll County courts. AquaLaw has been retained to represent Carroll County. Other jurisdictions have similar issues and have

already filed. Four other jurisdictions that received their permits when we did will also be filing. Each jurisdiction has to move through the local level before it goes to the state level where there might be an opportunity to join together. The BCC received a letter from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation stating they were also filing for judicial review because they don't think the permit was stringent enough. Tom Devilbiss will forward the letter to the WRCC members and will keep everyone informed on the progress of the judicial review.

Tom said the annual report is due on the anniversary of the issue date; therefore, it would be due December 29, 2015, instead of in July, as in previous years. He would like to have the report complete by early December to avoid the holidays. Information from the municipalities for the report then would be due the first of November 2015.

Staff has been working for the past three (3) years on reducing rural impervious areas to be treated. Analysis for this has been included in the annual reports since 2012. Verbal approval was given in 2014, and a letter received January 26 from Ray Bahr confirming their approval for this approach.

An internal staff NPDES team has been formed to formalize the approach for compliance with the permit. Each staff team member is assigned responsibilities for various sections of the permit. If an audit should be done, these people would be able to answer any questions regarding their sections.

### **Town Project Status**

Gale gave out the monthly status report along with a table that listed the municipal projects and their status of engineering and construction. She will be updating the table each month so everyone knows the progression of their projects. She will be adding another column to show the cost incurred thus far. Westminster Highlands was taken off the list of projects because it wouldn't be a cost effective project. Staff is conducting site visits at the end of this week to determine if the projects listed are viable projects to pursue.

She gave an update on the following municipal projects that are currently being worked on:

Eden Farm (Willow Ponds) – The City of Westminster is ready to move forward with Design/Build Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP will be advertised within the next several weeks. This project is being considered in lieu of The Sullivan Road Phases 2 & 3.

Langdon Property – Plans submitted in November and comments from SWM, Forestry, and Development Review were sent to CLSI. BRM met with City on January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss project. On January 22, the City and BRM met with Langdon's to discuss the project and the "Option to Purchase" contract. All parties are ready to move forward with executing this document. BRM will apply for the State/Federal Permits and the NOI when revised plans are received. Revised plans are due mid-February.

Manchester Skate Park – CLSI submitted a proposal for Option #5 at \$34,590.00 for the remaining engineering. Concept plan is due to BRM on January 30. Preliminary approval received on excess material being placed in right-of-way by SHA. BRM will apply for State and Federal Permits and the NOI. Forest Conservation approval is also needed. Project will be looked at for possible SHA-TAP funding. Direction on relocation of onsite historic monument to SHA park-and-ride has been received.

Blue Ridge Manor – Met with homeowners to discuss project on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff is working with the Center for Watershed Protection on a monitoring project for innovative practices. This project is being considered for some grant funding (monitoring and possible filter media component). This project is being designed in-house in order to be in line with CWP grant funding.

Shannon Run/Hawks Ridge Section

Staff will meet with the Town of Sykesville in February to discuss the option of turning Hawks Ridge into a wetland mitigation area and treating the entire drainage and impervious area of both in the Shannon Run facilities. The preliminary evaluation shows that the existing size of the facility should handle the increased runoff. The combined drainage area for both ponds would be 215.77 with an impervious area of 49.63.

Municipal Tree Plantings – The City of Westminster has provided BRM with two (2) possible sites, with approximately 20 acres, for tree plantings. The Town of New Windsor has one (1) site with approximately 2+ acres. These sites could be planted in the fall of 2015 to utilize remaining funds from DNR.

Gale let everyone know that Sadie Drescher will be at the February 26 meeting to go over grant opportunities the Chesapeake Bay Trust is offering.

Ed Singer said Commissioner Frazier met with him and Tom Devilbiss to discuss Water Reuse. Ed served on the Water Reuse Committee that was formed by MDE. He felt nothing productive came from the committee. A State Advisory Committee has formed a sub-committee that is looking at water reuse that Ed is now serving on. Ed said that if anyone from the municipalities would be interested in serving on the committee he could give them the contact information. They will keep Commissioner Frazier updated on the progress of this committee over the next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, in Room 105 at 2:30.**