

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 April 22, 2015

Attendees:

Frank Schaeffer	Monika Weierbach	Brenda Dinne	Ed Singer
Rose Mann	Dick Swanson	Sean Hartman	Perry Jones
Janet O'Meara	Jim Wieprecht	Glenn Edwards	Byron Madigan
Marge Wolf	Gale Engles	Marge Wolf	Donnie Nott
Christy Collins	Tammi Ledley	Pat Varga	Tom Devilbiss

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

March 25, 2015 minutes were approved as written.

Legislative Update

The only legislation that passed was SB 936 Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs Revisions and SB551/HB919; Land Use – Plans – Development and Adoption.

SB 863 Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs Revisions repeals mandatory requirement to collect a stormwater fee, but establishment of a stormwater fund is still required. The fee was repealed but in its place, the law now requires you to fully fund your program. Jurisdictions that don't use a fee still have to come up with the money somewhere.

Brenda created a table showing the changes and additions to HB 987 (2012).

- The most significant change was the financial assurance plan (FAP). The FAP requires proof of sufficient funding (projected annual and 5-year revenues used to meet requirements), source of funding, action plan to meet the permit requirements and previous years expenditures for impervious surface requirements. These items are already required in the Annual Report under the NPDES MS4 permit. However this establishes a separate process to evaluate the same information without a clear process to address differing outcomes.
- Local governments need to hold public hearings and approve the FAP before filing.
- Additional penalties for insufficient funding were established.
- The FAP will be posted on Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) web site within 14 days after filing.
- The first FAP is to be submitted to (MDE) before July 1, 2016. Beginning September 1, 2016 MDE will submit an annual report evaluating compliance of Counties to the Governor and General Assembly.

SB 551/HB919 – Land Use Plans – Development and Adoption authorizes the legislative body of a non-charter county or municipality to adopt, modify, remand, or disapprove all or part of a comprehensive plan submitted by

To serve as the lead intergovernmental agency for water resource planning, development and protection.

its planning commission. A public hearing is required before adopting or modifying of plans. The legislative body may extend the 90-day deadline for up to 60 additional days if there are exigent circumstances.

New Effective Floodplain Maps – Pat Varga

Pat gave out a copy of the proposed code changes for Chapter 153: Floodplain Management and a timeline for FEMA map modernization process. Pat said everyone should have received the letter of final determination (LFD) from FEMA. This process started in 2006 when LIDAR was flown to create 2-foot contour map; preliminary maps were received from FEMA in 2010; went through the appeals process with all issues resolved in January 2015 and now in April of 2015 the final letter of determination. October 2, 2015 is the effective date of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)/Flood Insurance Study (FIS). Codes and new FIRM maps must be adopted by this date.

County code has been amended to remove references to floodway because it has been removed from the maps. Hampstead, Manchester, Sykesville, Union Bridge and New Windsor have adopted the County's Floodplain Code. Westminster and Mount Airy have their own Floodplain Code and will need to remove any references to floodway from their codes. Taneytown is in the process of developing a floodplain code. Pat said he and Tom Devilbiss would be glad to meet with Westminster and Mount Airy and Taneytown to assist with code revisions. Tom said the County code has been revised and will be sent to Dave Guignet at MDE for his comments before sending to FEMA. Pat had given out copies of the code changes that will be sent to MDE and FEMA. FEMA reviewed the County Floodplain code six months ago, but would not allow the floodways to be changed because no final letter of determination had been issued. The code should be approved and new maps issued by October 2015.

Field Trip

Janet O'Meara reminded everyone of the field tour of Municipal/County stormwater mitigation projects on Wednesday May 27, 2015. Everyone is to meet on parking lot D at 9:45 we'll be leaving at 10:00 and will return at 4:00. Lunch will be provided. The tour will include Langdon Stormwater Management (SWM) facility in Westminster, Whispering Valley SWM retrofit in Manchester, Manchester Skate Park and Westminster Community Pond in the morning. Lunch will be provided at Westminster Community Pond location. The afternoon tour will include Blue Ridge Manor SWM retrofit in New Windsor, Locust Street possible SWM facility site in Union Bridge and Cherry Branch Tree Planting in Union Bridge. Anyone wishing to attending should contact Rose by May 13th.

Janet gave a brief update on Westminster Community Pond which was started in late summer 2014. Construction is almost complete. Final grading and seeding should be complete by the end of May; weather permitting. Mitigation for the Army Corp of Engineers and MDE will be a planting which will take place the fall of 2015. Landscaping and parking lot repaving will take place this spring. Half of the cost of the project was covered by Maryland State Highways Transportation Alternatives Program.

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.

Eden Farm (Willow Ponds) – A Request for Proposal (RFP) for design and construction of the pond was sent out to three (3) consulting firms. The proposals are due to the County on July 15th.

Merridale Gardens/Senior Center (Mt. Airy)

BRM staff is working with the Comptroller's office to establish ownership of this project. Once ownership is established a meeting will be scheduled with the owner to discuss the project.

Shannon Run/Hawks Ridge Estates

Letters were sent out to surrounding homeowners the first week in April. An RFP was sent to term contractors relating to the clearing at Shannon Run and Hawk Ridge Estates facilities. Cost associated with tree removal at two (2) Lexington Run facilities are for the Town's consideration. A site meeting has been scheduled with BRM and term contractors to go over the RFP; proposals are due May 12th.

Twin Ridge (Mt. Airy – Frederick County Side) – No Changes have occurred relating to this project.

BRM staff met with Mt. Airy to discuss retrofitting this facility. Staff is suggesting the two (2) existing ponds become one (1) facility to allow for increased storage needs. An engineering RFP is being prepared and will be sent out to our term contractors by the end of April.

Blue Ridge Manor (New Windsor)

Survey work completed by DPW and design work has started. Existing As-builts are incomplete and it was determined that additional drainage area/impervious area drains into this facility; therefore, the size of the facility will increase.

Locust Street Project (Union Bridge)

Chris Heyn met with Perry Jones on April 21st to discuss project. The Town is okay with the preliminary conceptual design. Due to an existing drainage problem associated with the site a change in the storm drain system will occur. Perry will contact the adjoining property owners to discuss options for the storm drain relocation.

Whispering Valley (Manchester)

DPW completed survey work and Chris Heyn is working on designing preliminary concept plan which should be complete in two (2) weeks. Once complete the design information will be forwarded to SHA for partial funding consideration. BRM staff is working with the Town to determine ownership of the property. A letter will be sent to the owners requesting a meeting to discuss the project.

Langdon Property

Revised plans were received from Carroll Land Services Incorporated (CLSI) on April 17; a copy was sent to the City for their review today. Staff is looking for fill sites within a 3–5 mile radius to reduce the cost of hauling. The engineer's cost estimate could be reduced by \$500,000.00 if fill sites are within 3-5 miles. A meeting is scheduled with the City and County staff to discuss the project on May 5th.

Manchester Skate Park

BRM submitted the preliminary plan (60% complete) to SHA for their review of the fill along Route 30. BRM staff is currently working on an application for TAP funding that will be submitted next month. A copy of the plan has been forwarded to the Town for their review.

Municipal Tree Plantings - No changes from last report.

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

Michaels Pond - Hampstead

Private pond, located behind the high school, that was designed as a in-stream farm pond that could treat a lot of drainage area and impervious area. Janet sent out letter to property owners about meeting to discuss a possible project.

Other

Frank asked the other municipalities if they had talked to their councils about the MOA amendment. He said his council felt unless there is a big consensus among the other municipalities to do something it should not be changed. AquaLaw said it had no implications on the MOA so they were somewhat indifferent to a change. All the other municipalities present agreed.

Tom said Montgomery County received an opinion from the courts on the challenge from Anacostia River Keepers on their permit. They requested counties to abide by MDE and EPA water quality standards the same as general industrial facilities. The courts decided that municipalities are to be held to a lesser standard (maximum extent practicable) than general industrial dischargers. Transparency and opportunity for public comment on the permits was also challenged. The courts remanded it back to MDE to fix it. This has put our challenges in a holding pattern until the MDE decides what they are doing with Montgomery County's permit. He said our permits are still in force as written.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, in Room 105 at 2:30.