

**Salisbury – Wicomico County 2012-2013 Programmatic Milestone
Progress Report
January 30, 2014
Amended June 5, 2014**

Stormwater Programmatic Milestone Progress

Programmatic Milestone	Status
<p>Identify State and Federal funding opportunities for the purpose of obtaining professional consulting services to prepare watershed management plans for the Wicomico and Pocomoke Rivers</p>	<p>Through assistance from the Wicomico Environmental Trust, Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury were able to obtain National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Chesapeake Bay Trust grants to contract with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) to perform field investigations and prepare a Watershed Management Plan. The next step is to achieve 319 A-I certification for the Plan, which will afford the aforementioned jurisdictions with an alternative source of WIP funding.</p> <p>In April 2013, CWP completed a Watershed Management Plan – Corrective Action Plan for two of the seven Wicomico River subwatersheds – the South Prong and Tony Tank. In November 2013, CWP began the Watershed Management Plan – Corrective Action Plan for the North Prong subwatershed of the Wicomico River. These three subwatersheds contain the majority of the Metro Core area surrounding the City of Salisbury, and represent the most densely populated urbanized areas in Wicomico County.</p> <p>During this reporting period, the City of Salisbury Publicly workshired 5 employees that have some level of interaction with the City’s WIP and stormwater management activities. Additionally, the County has established contracts with surveyors, as well as consultants to assist with our WIP related endeavors. In 2013, the County hired an additional Long Range Planner, which a portion of their work program supports WIP related activities.</p>

<p>Partner with non-profit organizations to identify funding sources to implement stormwater BMPs</p>	<p>The County, City of Salisbury, and WIP members have partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET), Wicomico Creekwatchers, and Friends of the Nanticoke River to identify and apply for WIP-related grants. Participation / partnership ranges from assisting with grant applications, conducting field surveys, review of preliminary and final watershed management-related plans, data development, and providing vendors with GIS data.</p>
<p>Consideration of preparing a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study</p>	<p>The City of Salisbury Public Works Department contracted with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland to prepare a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study. The results of the study recommended the City establish a Stormwater Utility to provide a dedicated funding source for stormwater infrastructure including improvements, retrofit with BMPs, and maintenance.</p> <p>EFC presented the report to the City Council on May 6, 2013. Since then Public Works has lead numerous discussions with the City Council during public work session to discuss the benefits and implementation of a Stormwater Utility.</p> <p>On January 27, 2014, at a City Council legislative meeting, the Council will hear the first reading of an Ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility for the City of Salisbury. If the first reading is successful, then the second reading will be scheduled for February 10, 2014. The effective date for creation of the Stormwater Utility is proposed for an undetermined date in FY 15. All City Council work sessions and legislative meetings are advertised and the public is encouraged to attend and provide public comments.</p>

<p>Consideration of establishing an urban tree canopy program</p>	<p>The County has retained professional consulting services from the University of Vermont to conduct a county-wide urban tree canopy assessment. The assessment is in the final stages of completion, which the data and accompanying reports are anticipated to be delivered by the Spring of 2014. Upon receipt, the County will embark on establishing an urban tree canopy program with assistance from our NGO partners and WIP Planning Team. Additionally, the County appointed Natural Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (NRCAC) is establishing policy considerations to create an Urban Tree Canopy Program from the recently completed assessment. The NRCAC meetings are advertised and the public is encouraged to attend and participate. In addition to the public engagement component of this milestone, this initiative represents a significant program enhancement because their policy recommendations will be considered by the County.</p>
<p>Continue street sweeping program</p>	<p>The City of Salisbury Public Works Department has continued the street sweeping program. Efforts are being made to sweep on a consistent basis. Contingent upon the creation of a Stormwater Utility, the street sweeping program will be moved to the Stormwater Utility Department to ensure a dedicated funding source.</p> <p>The Wicomico County Department of Public Works continues to sweep at a level consistent with MAST loadings decks contained in the County Phase II WIP document.</p> <p>In March, 2014, the County issued a press release to educate citizens about the street sweeping schedule and benefits.</p>

Septic Source Sector Programmatic Milestone Progress

Programmatic Milestone	Status
<p>Seek increased funding levels of the Bay Restoration Fund to facilitate a septic pumping program that is voucher based. Utilize additional funding to increase the number of septic systems upgraded annually</p>	<p>The Wicomico WIP Planning Team is in continued discussions with local elected leaders to gauge support for requesting amendments (by a member of the Eastern Shore Delegation) to State legislation about the uses of BRF funds.</p> <p>The WIP Planning Team will continue to research and coordinate with local elected officials to identify potential funding mechanisms to implement a voucher-based septic pumping program.</p> <p>As a result of increased funding levels of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF), the County received \$769,000 in BRF funds in FY 2014 as compared to \$355,000 apportionment in FY 2012. Based on the new funding level, the County anticipates upgrading approximately 70 systems in FY 2014. This represents an increase of 35 systems or about 50 percent more septic system upgrades as compared to implementation levels in FY 2012. These additional funds represent a considerable program enhancement to fund implementation efforts.</p>
<p>Continue discussions with municipalities to accept sewage from individual on-site septic systems</p>	<p>In 2014, the WIP Planning Team will begin discussions with member jurisdictions about the benefits of accepting sewage at their WWTPs from individual septic systems. Also, the WIP Planning Team will coordinate with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to determine if municipalities accepting sewage from individual systems will be eligible to claim a credit for the enhanced nutrient reduction level of treatment.</p>
<p>Continue discussions with municipalities to expand urban service districts or out-of-town customers</p>	<p>Discussions about providing out-of-town customers with public water have occurred out of necessity to mitigate a public health and safety concern (contaminated wells – Morris Mill area). Given the expense associated with providing public water and sewer, the overwhelming majority of municipalities no longer consider it economically feasible to create or expand urban service districts; therefore, service is primarily contingent upon petitioning for annexation.</p>

Wastewater Source Sector Programmatic Milestone Progress

Programmatic Milestone	Status
Consider preparing a study identifying the impacts of establishing a water and sewer authority	This programmatic recommendation has been included as an implementation strategy contained in the Draft <i>2014 Wicomico County Comprehensive Plan</i> . As a result of continued conversations with the County promoting the concept, the Greater Salisbury Committee retained professional consulting services to assist with the preparation of a water and sewer authority feasibility study. Currently, this study is in the final stages of completion.
Upgrade Fruitland and Delmar WWTP to ENR	WWTP upgrades to ENR are underway for the City of Fruitland and completed for the Town of Delmar.

Other:

Public Engagement: Although no commitments were made related to public participation / engagement as part of the 2012 – 2013 two-year milestones, significant efforts have taken place to encourage public outreach and education. Additionally, Staff will present the County WIP team with proposed amendment (s) to the 2014 – 2015 Two-Year milestones to include public participation and outreach efforts.

The public engagement efforts in 2012 – 2013 include the following:

1. City of Salisbury’s Wicomico River Project Team;
2. Advertising open WIP meetings;
3. WIP information on County website;
4. Press releases:
 - a. Market Street Inn Bioretention project in City Parking Lot #12;
 - b. Town of Delmar – WWTP upgrade;
 - c. City of Salisbury – Stormwater inlet filters (flogard);
 - d. Tree planting expo during the Salisbury Festival;
 - e. Coty Cox Branch clean-up effort; and
 - f. National Association of Counties month – staffed exhibit at Centre at Salisbury. Provided trees saplings and education about the importance of trees to interested citizens.