

BAY RESTORATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Maryland Department of the Environment

Aqua & Aeris Conference Room

1800 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

July 9, 2007

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Robert M. Summers, Acting Chair

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introduction:

- Dr. Summers welcomed the committee and other attendees.

Review of Minutes

- The Committee approved previous meeting minutes (April 18, 2007).
- The minutes and handouts from the meeting will be posted on MDE's website.

Discussion

I. Update on ENR Implementation and Upcoming Events – Bob Summers

- Dr. Summers provided an update on the status of the 66 plants targeted for ENR upgrade.
- To date, there are five facilities completed the construction and in ENR operation. Two facilities (Easton in Talbot County and Swan Point in Charles County) have been added to this category since the last Committee meeting.
- Construction for Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County, is almost complete, and it should be coming online shortly.
- A dedication ceremony for Easton was held on June 13th, and it was attended by Secretary Wilson.

II. Benefits of Cover Crops in Nutrient Removal and Update on the Cover Crops Program – Doug Scott, Department of Agriculture

- Mr. Scott named his presentation "Ag 101" and provided a short summary of the history of cover crops program and its benefits as a Best Management Practice (BMP). Mr. Scott also described a typical cover crops operation.
- Cover crops application is very effective in preventing erosion and reducing nitrogen

loading in stormwater runoff. On average, each acre of cover crops reduces nitrogen loading by 8.5 pounds of nitrogen per season. The Chesapeake Bay goal for Maryland is add 600,000 acres of cover crops.

- MDA provides a grant funding between \$20 and \$50 for each acre of cover crops, depending on the date of planting and the type of cover crops being used. The grants have been awarded on an average of \$38 per acre.
- To date, 340,000 acres have signed up for cover crops this season. Historically, 65% of the acres are implemented. MDA will provide an update of actual implementation at the next meeting.

III. MDE's Evaluation Process for BNR/ ENR Upgrades of WWTPs – Ta-Shon Yu

- Dr. Yu provided a brief history on the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) and Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) programs. He also summarized the goals of each program.
- Dr. Yu explained how MDE has defined the Approved Design Capacity for ENR projects.
- Dr. Yu also discussed the ENR/BNR design criteria, and how MDE approves new innovative ENR and BNR technologies.

IV. HB 893–Joint MDE & MDP Reporting Requirements for WWTPs using BRF to Upgrade – Larry Fogelson, Maryland Department of Planning

- House Bill 893 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Planning to work with local governments to provide a report regarding how the BRF is being used to directly or indirectly support growth.
- Specifically the report may include the number of residential and commercial hookups issued after the plants were upgraded with ENR.
- The first report is due on January 1, 2009 for the 2007 calendar year hookup permit activities.

V. Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) update – Jay Prager

- Mr. Prager provided a demonstration of the OSDS website, and showed different information available on the website including interactive map of OSDS ongoing activities.
- Mr. Prager reported to the Committee that MDE has received 225 individual applications for BRF funding.

- Mr. Prager explained the difference between OSDS and wastewater treatment plants as described by State laws and regulations. Any sub-surface system is considered an on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS), and therefore, it is eligible for funding under the BRF-OSDS program. To date, MDE received five applications from community systems or businesses that can be considered large OSDS.

VI. Next meeting

To be arranged around mid-September.

Materials Distributed at the Meeting

- 17th Meeting Minutes (April 18, 2007)
- Meeting Agenda
- Evaluation Process for BNR/ENR Upgrades of Wastewater Treatment Plants
- House Bill 893
- BRFAC Talking Points on HB 893
- Wastewater Treatment Plants ENR Upgrade Status (June 30, 2007)
- Program-to-Date BRF Fee Collection Report (through May 31, 2007)
- 2007 Tax Year Year-to-Date BRF Fee Collection Report (through May 31, 2007)
- 2007 Tax Year First Quarter BRF Fee Collection Report (through May 31, 2007)
- BRF Fee Distribution Report (as of May 31, 2007)

Attendance

Advisory Committee Members Attending:

Robert M. Summers	Maryland Department of the Environment
James L. Hearn	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Douglas Scott	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Michele Esch	Maryland Department of Agriculture
David Duree	The Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee
Gregory B. Murray	Washington County Department of Water Quality
Larry Fogelson	Maryland Department of Planning
Frank Dawson	Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Others in Attendance:

Leslie Cook	Department of Legislative Services
Jason Flanigan	The Baltimore Examiner
Hillary Bell	Maryland Department of Budget and Management
Sarah Broadwell	RK&K
Linda Hanifan Bonner	Maryland Onsite Association
Robert Waller	Straughan Environmental Service
John Leocha	Maryland Department of Planning
Mark Goldstein	Maryland Department of Planning
Nancy Mayer	Mayer Bros Inc.
Julie Pippel	Washington County Department of Water Quality
Robert Sheesley	Eco Sense, Inc.
Courtney Madea	

Maryland Dept. of the Environment (MDE) Attendees:

Jag Khuman
Andrew Sawyers
Ray Anderson
John Boris
Jay Prager
Ta-Shon Yu
Heather Barthel
Renee Mathew
Eric Dougherty
Shawn Abeywickrama