

**Salisbury – Wicomico County 2014-2015 Programmatic Milestone
Final Progress Report
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015**

Stormwater Programmatic Milestone Progress

Programmatic Milestone	Status
<p>Partner with agricultural community to reduce nutrients from entering our local water bodies.</p>	<p>Beginning in July, 2014, the County WIP Team worked on identify potential implementation projects to further assist the agricultural community reach their nutrient targets. Specifically, the Team has been coordinating with the Ag sector team and the County Farm Bureau to brainstorm innovative and creative implementation efforts. To date, several potential projects have been recommended; however, funding is a major challenge. Potential projects include on farm manure to energy facility (micro scale), woodchip bioreactor ditch retrofit, and installing phosphorus filter practice in ditches.</p> <p>The County has partnered with AMEC, to prepare a ditch retrofit study. The focus of this project is to create a template of stormwater retrofit projects for drainage ditches in the rural agrarian areas of Wicomico.</p> <p>Amec Foster Wheeler (formerly AMEC) Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. obtained a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (CBSF) provided the County with a conceptual design to retrofit an existing rural agricultural roadside ditch with a wet or dry swale. Through the retrofit, the County will increase the viability of roadside BMP implementation and will demonstrate that the cost per pound of nitrogen removed is favorable when compared to other options.</p>

<p>Establish a voluntary tree planting program</p>	<p>The County reviewed the recently enacted voluntary tree planning program in Alleghany County. During the next reporting year, the County will continue to monitor the progress of program to determine the possibility of implementing a similar initiative in Wicomico County.</p> <p>At this time, the County has not yet formally developed a voluntary tree planting program; however, through the Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee, the County is conducting tree plantings on public property and will continue to do so in the next two fiscal years.</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, Lower Shore Land Trust, and Friends of the Nanticoke River to identify and apply for WIP-related grants (NFWF Technical Capacity Grant and DNR / MDE / CBT Two-Year Milestones Grant). Participation / partnership ranges from assisting with grant applications, conducting field surveys, sea-level rise resiliency planning, review of preliminary and final watershed management-related plans, data development, and providing vendors with GIS data.</p> <p>Beginning in FY 2014, Wicomico County budgeted \$200,000 per year for the past three (3) fiscal years as part of their Capital Improvement Budget. Of which, the County, with technical assistance and support from our WIP partners (CWP, WET, CBT, FON, Wicomico River Creekwatchers and Center for Watershed Protection), have leveraged an additional \$651,053 from State and Non-Profit Organizations to assist with reducing nutrients and sediments from entering our local water bodies. Grant funding is being used to assist with the cost of design / engineering and implementation of 18 stormwater retrofits projects underway in the County.</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>In a regular meeting on November 24, 2014, the City Council unanimously approved the ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility Fee which aims to fund over \$5.7 million in stormwater management infrastructure improvements.</p>
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<p>Consideration of establishing an urban tree canopy program</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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>Utilizing the Tree Canopy Data, NRCAC will identify locations for public and private tree plantings.</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> <p>In 2015, the County street sweeping program removed over 350 tons of debris and sediment from entering into the Chesapeake Bay.</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</p>

	<p>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>In FY 2014, Wicomico County upgraded 86 systems. In FY 2015, the County upgraded 72 systems. The numbers of upgraded septic systems exceeds the number of units the County predicted. Grant funding was not awarded to conduct a feasibility study to determine funding sources to implement a voucher-based septic pumping program.</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>Wicomico County and municipalities are in ongoing discussions to establish urban service districts.</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> <p>Wicomico County and municipalities are in ongoing discussions to establish urban service districts.</p>
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Wastewater Source Sector Programmatic Milestone Progress

Programmatic Milestone	Status
<p>Consider preparing a study identifying the impacts of establishing a water and sewer authority</p>	<p>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 (GSC) 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.</p> <p>In 2015, the Greater Salisbury Committee completed a work product with information that will determine the feasibility of a water and sewer authority. A work group comprised of professional engineers at GSC has been created and is currently examining the study.</p>
<p>Upgrade Fruitland and Delmar WWTP to ENR</p>	<p>WWTP upgrades to ENR are underway for the City of Fruitland and completed for the Town of Delmar.</p> <p>The City of Fruitland WWTP upgrade is ongoing and will be completed in 2016.</p>

Other:

Although no commitments were made related to public participation / engagement as part of the 2014 – 2015 two-year milestones, significant efforts have taken place to encourage public outreach and education. Staff presented the County WIP progress to date at a County Council work session meeting on December 1, 2015.

In 2014 and 2015, several stormwater retrofit projects have been designed through Chesapeake Bay Trust grants and County funds. These projects are also fully funded for construction by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The projects include:

1. Upper Ferry on the Wicomico River (1 Practice) – Construction completed in Fall 2014.
2. Pemberton Historical Park (2 Practices)
3. Schumaker Pond (2 Practices)
4. Arthur Perdue Stadium (1 Practice)
5. Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport (1 Practice)
6. Wicomico County Solid Waste Complex Retrofit (1 Practice)
7. Wicomico County Tourism Center (1 Practice)

Other projects were fully funded for design in 2014 and 2015 and Wicomico County is currently seeking grant opportunities to assist with the cost of construction. Those projects include:

1. Wicomico County Public Safety Complex (1 Practice)
2. Wicomico County Roads Complex (1 Practice)
3. East Little League/Winterplace Park (1 Practice)
4. Wor-Wic Community College (1 Practice)

The purpose of selecting these projects is to maintain and improve existing facilities with cost saving measures designed to maximize opportunities for public education and outreach, reduce cost by utilizing publically owned land, select practices with reduced long term maintenance cost and to improve the appearance of existing facilities.