



Public Hearing on Watershed Restoration in Prince George's County

November 12, 2014 • Largo, MD



Hearing Summary

Introduction

A public hearing was held November 12, 2014, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the office of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment at 1801 McCormick Drive (Suite 140) in Largo, Maryland, to collect comments on the County's draft local total maximum daily load (TMDL) restoration plans during the 30-day public comment period which began November 1, 2014. The plans are designed to meet permit requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Under the permit, the County must control pollutant discharges to the storm drain system using a multi-faceted approach, including developing and implementing restoration plans to address pollutant reduction goals established under approved TMDLs. Draft plans for five watersheds were presented at the hearing. Members of the public were invited to comment orally or in writing. The draft plans were posted online for public review at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/Services/Streams-Watersheds/Restoration-Planning/Pages/default.aspx.

Presentation

Jerry Maldonado of Prince George's County Department of the Environment provided opening remarks, and then several staff from Tetra Tech, Inc. (the County's consultant) provided background and information on the restoration plans. A copy of the slide presentation shown at the hearing is provided as Appendix A.

Comments Received at the Hearing

One written comment was submitted via comment form at the hearing and is provided as Appendix B. In addition, several attendees provided oral comments. A summary of those comments and the responses given at the hearing are provided as Appendix C.

Attendees

Twenty-five members of the public (shown below) attended the hearing.

Name	Affiliation
Lori Baranoff	Anacostia Watershed Society
Bonnie Bick	Citizen
John Brown	Citizen
Cary Coppock	Citizen
Elizabeth Crittenden	Citizen
Steve Darcey	Citizen
Marian Dombroski	Citizen
Lunique Estime	Citizen
Jacqueline Goodall	Citizen



Public Hearing on Watershed Restoration in Prince George's County

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Name	Affiliation
Terri Hruby	Citizen
Bruce Gilmore	Anacostia Watershed Society
James Graham	Citizen
Jim Long	Citizen
Chancee Lundy	Nspiregreen
Rebecca Hammer	Natural Resources Defense Council
Sarah Pomerantz	Citizen
Jon Robinson	Citizen
Matt Robinson	District Department of Environment
Matt T. Salo	Citizen
Sheila Salo	Citizen
Dan Smith	Anacostia Watershed Society
Timothy X. Toohey	Citizen
Phong Trieu	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Bill Walmsley	Citizen
Christopher Williams	Citizen



**Public Hearing on Watershed
Restoration in Prince George's County**
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Appendix A: Slide Presentation

Welcome to your
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
 Watershed Restoration in Prince George's County
 November 12, 2014

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Prince George's County,
 Maryland

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Welcome
 from
Jerry Maldonado

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Purpose of Hearing

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- Review why watershed restoration plans are needed in Prince George's County.
- Inform the public of contents of the draft watershed restoration plans.
- Answer questions and collect comments on the draft plans.

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Speakers

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- Melissa DeSantis, Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech
- Mark Sievers, Environmental Engineer, Tetra Tech
- Sam Stribling, Biologist/Monitoring and Assessment Specialist, Tetra Tech

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Technical Panel

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- Jerry Maldonado, DoE
- Lilantha Tennekoon, DoE
- Mike Clar, Tetra Tech
- Mark Sievers, Tetra Tech
- Sam Stribling, Tetra Tech

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REGULATORY OVERVIEW

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Two Regulatory Drivers



Under the Clean Water Act

1. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit
2. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) = *Pollution Diet*



Water Quality Impairments



What is an MS4?



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) = Conveyance system owned by a state, city, town, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the United States.



County's MS4 Regulated Lands



Excluded Properties:

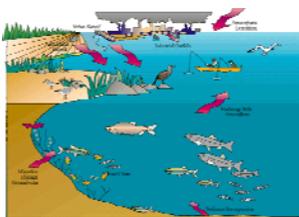
- Federal
- State
- SHA
- City of Bowie
- M-NCPPC
- Board of Education



Pollution Diet (TMDLs)



- Addresses a single pollutant or stressor.
- Allocations issued to natural, point, and nonpoint sources.



TMDLs can be viewed as a pollution diet.

Watershed Mechanics

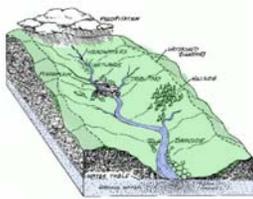


What Is a Watershed?



Watersheds are like sponges and drain like funnels . . .

- Land accumulates pollutants from urban, agricultural, and other areas.
- Whatever is on the land washes into the waterways directly or via storm drains.
- Appropriate land management practices can greatly reduce polluted runoff.



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County Watersheds



Five Restoration Plans

- Anacostia River
- Patuxent River Basin
- Mattawoman Creek
- Piscataway Creek
- PCB-Impacted Water Bodies

(PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl)

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Pollutant Types



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Pollutants and Sources



- Bacteria** from animal waste and sewer leaks and overflows
- Nutrients** and **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)** from sanitary waste, fertilizers, and organic material
- Sediment** from construction sites, bare soils, and eroding streambanks
- Trash** from littering
- Toxics** (polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs]) from legacy contaminated sites
- ALL** can be contributed from urban stormwater



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Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)



- Group of similar chemicals
 - Do not readily break down in environment
 - Tend to bioaccumulate and be associated with sediment
 - Are carcinogenic
 - Are man made



Map Credit: MDE 2011

- Uses**
 - Electrical insulation
 - Cooling applications
 - Hydraulic fluids
 - Heat transfer fluid
 - Lubricants
 - PCB fluorescent light ballasts
 - Caulk
 - Paints
 - Power transformers
- Sources**
 - Contaminated upland soils/sites
 - Contaminated stream sediments
 - Facility point sources
 - Aerial deposition

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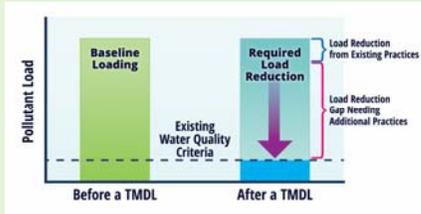
Pollution & Impairment Limits



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What Is a Pollution Diet/TMDL?

- TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load (Pollution Diet)
- The maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate and still meet water quality standards and designated uses.



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Maryland's TMDL Program



- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is the state's regulatory agency for TMDLs.
- Maryland is required under the Clean Water Act to list impaired waters and to take action to restore them.
- Impaired waters are identified every two years.
- A two-part process is used for restoration:
 1. Establish and submit a TMDL to EPA.
 2. Once TMDL is approved, develop a restoration plan.

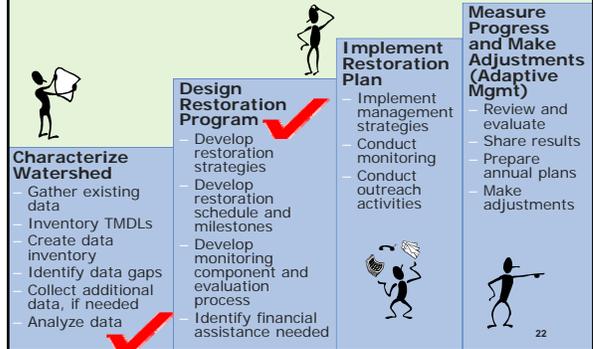
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Restoration Strategies



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How Will We Get There? Restoration Planning Steps



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Draft Watershed Restoration Plans

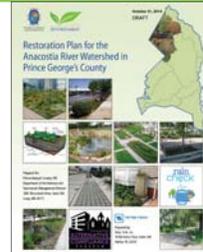


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Elements of Restoration Plans



- Introduction
- Watershed Characterization
- Restoration Plan Goals and Objectives
- Current Management Activities
- Strategy Development
- Implementation Process Discussion
- Tracking and Adaptive Management
- Other Sections: References, Best Management Practices (BMP) Examples, Funding Opportunities



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County Goals



- Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for healthier ecosystems.
- Conduct restoration efforts with a balanced approach.
- Support compliance with regional, state, and federal regulatory requirements.
- Increase awareness and stewardship by the public and policymakers.
- Protect human health, safety, and property.
- Improve quality of life and recreational opportunities.



Curb cuts shunt runoff from roads and parking lots to pervious areas.

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County Objectives



- Protect land with critical habitat.
- Implement BMPs and programmatic initiatives.
- Protect downstream aquatic habitat and designated uses.
- Comply with regulatory requirements.
- Educate stakeholders on how to prevent pollution and how to get involved.
- Integrate watershed protection/restoration into policy-making.



Swales and other bioretention practices filter runoff from roads and other impervious surfaces.

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Current County Programs and Activities Addressing Impairments



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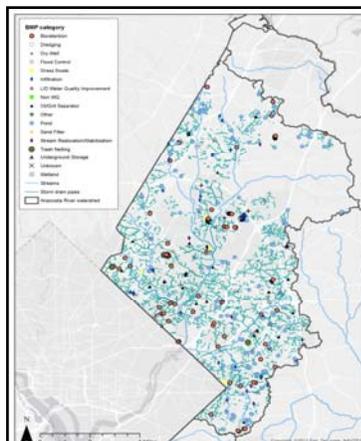
Current Management Activities and BMPs



- Reviewed practices and activities currently in place that can be credited to pollution reduction.
- Determined *how much* each activity or practice *contributes* to reducing pollutant loads.

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Existing BMP Locations in the Anacostia River Watershed



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Existing County Programs



- Stormwater-Specific Programs
 - Stormwater Management Program
 - P3 - Restoration
 - Rain Check Rebate and Grant Program
 - Alternative Compliance Program
 - Countywide Green/Complete Streets Program
 - Street sweeping, stormdrain stenciling, litter control, illicit discharge detection and elimination, cross-connections elimination
- Tree-Planting Programs
 - Tree ReLeaf, volunteer tree planting, Neighborhood Design Center, Arbor Day Every Day
- Public Education Programs
 - Master Gardeners, Transforming Neighborhood Initiative, flood awareness, animal management
- Transit/Transportation Programs
 - Commuter and carpool programs (e.g., Ride Smart Commuter, Park and Ride lots, Metrobus/rail, and TheBus)



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Load Reduction Targets



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Waste Load Reduction Needs

Water Treatment Model (WTM) used to determine the amount of reductions that still need to be achieved.

Load reductions from current BMPs compared to required load reductions for the County's MS4 area in the Anacostia Watershed. (Based on Current County Restoration Efforts.)

Parameter	Baseline	Percent Reduction	WLA	Required Reduction	Reduction from Current BMPs	Remaining Reduction or Cap	Percent of Required Load Reduction Satisfied by Current BMPs
Total nitrogen (lb/yr)	281,378	81.00%	53,462	227,917	4,759	223,157	2.09%
Total phosphorus (lb/yr)*	45,041	81.20%	8,467	36,573	1,366	35,208	3.73%
TSS (ton/yr)*	14,532	85.00%	2,180	12,352	2,600	9,752	21.05%
BOD (lb/yr)	1,151,816	58.00%	483,763	668,053	31,017	637,037	4.64%
Fecal coliform bacteria (MPN B/yr)	4,375,323	86.40%	594,281	3,781,042	39,756	3,741,286	1.05%

* Includes contributions from streambank erosion.

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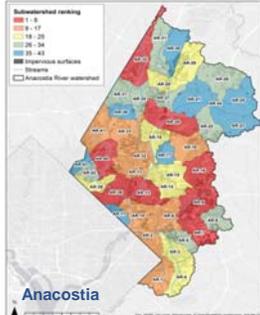
Prioritize Watersheds



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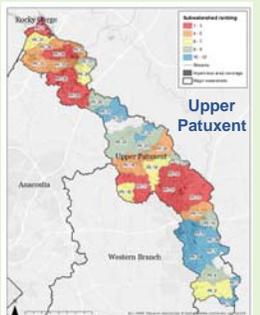

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Priority Subwatersheds



Anacostia

Priority Pollutants:
Nitrogen, Phosphorus, BOD, Bacteria, Sediment



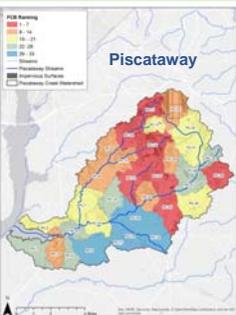
Upper Patuxent

Priority Pollutants:
Bacteria, Sediment, Phosphorus - Rocky Gorge only

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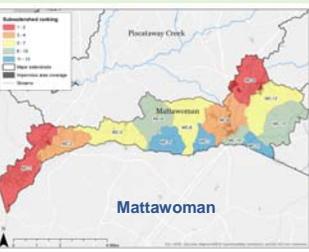

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Priority Subwatersheds



Piscataway

Priority Pollutant:
Bacteria



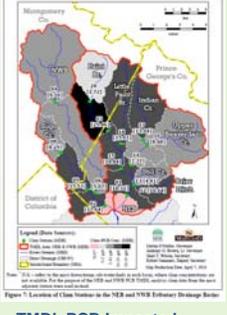
Mattawoman

Priority Pollutants:
Nitrogen and Phosphorus

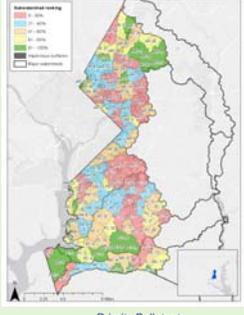
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Priority Subwatersheds



TMDL PCB Impacted Subwatersheds



Priority Pollutant:
PCBs -Due to TSS Transport

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Proposed Strategies & Activities



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Determine Restoration Strategies

- Keep effective current and planned BMPs and programmatic initiatives.
 - Rain Check Rebate Program, Alternative Compliance Program, Street Sweeping, etc.
- Add new activities to supplement.
- Physical BMPs vs. programmatic initiatives.



Redirecting downspouts from impervious areas to landscaped features can reduce runoff volume.



Rain Garden Signage

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Future BMP Activities

- Examples include:
 - Retrofit of existing County dry ponds.
 - New right-of-way BMPs through County programs.
 - New BMPs on County property.
 - Partner with schools, libraries, churches, fire and police stations, hospitals, etc. to install new BMPs.



Bioretention in a right-of-way makes this a green street.



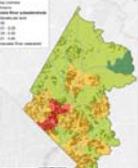
Alternative Compliance Kickoff Event at a Local Church.

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Potential Future Programmatic Activities

- Continue existing programmatic activities mentioned previously (Rain Check, Alternative Compliance, etc.)
- New outreach programs
 - Pet waste pickup
 - Lawn stewardship
 - Dumpster stewardship
 - Targeted reforestation
 - Municipal partnerships





Homeowners who install practices like rain gardens will help us meet our goals.

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What Can We Achieve from These Strategies & Activities?



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Impervious Acre Restoration Goals by Watershed

Year	Annual Available Impervious Acres	Anacostis River		Mattawoman Creek		Patuxent River		Piscataway Creek		Rocky Gorge Reservoir		PCB Watersheds*		Cost (\$M)
		Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	Acres	Est. TSS (tons)	
2015	1,000	750	140	9.1	1.6	29	3.9	47	8.1	0.2	0.05	165	20	\$60.02
2016	1,000	750	140	9.1	1.6	29	3.9	47	8.1	0.2	0.05	165	20	\$60.02
2017	1,000	750	140	9.1	1.6	29	3.9	47	8.1	0.2	0.05	165	20	\$60.02
2018	1,000	650	122	12.8	2.2	40	5.4	66	11.4	0.3	0.07	230	28	\$56.04
2019	1,000	500	94	18.3	3.2	57	7.7	95	16.4	0.4	0.09	329	39	\$56.04
2020	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2021	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2022	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2023	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2024	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2025	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2026	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2027	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2028	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2029	1,000	642	120	13.1	2.3	41	5.5	68	11.8	0.3	0.07	236	28	\$56.04
2030	215	136	25	2.9	0.5	9	1.2	15	2.6	0.1	0.02	52	6	\$12.05
Total	15,215	9,955	1,864	192	33.4	603	81.5	997	172.5	4.3	1.01	3,463	416	\$864.62

* The watershed acreage and the TSS tonnage have no relationship in this table to PCB loads.

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Timeline for Implementation



Target	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Public Outreach																
Increase public outreach for Rain Check Rebates, Alternative Compliance, and other programs. (Continuous outreach that spans throughout the County)	X	X														
Establish public outreach campaigns for pet waste and lawn care	X	X														
Public outreach (e.g. campaigns for pet waste and lawn care, education and outreach on Alternative Compliance and Rain Check Rebates)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BMP Implementation																
BMP planning and design	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BMP implementation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NPODES MS4 Permit and WIP (Countywide)																
MS4 treatment: 20% of untreated impervious cover	X	X	X	X												
Projected MS4 requirement: 20% of untreated impervious cover					X	X	X	X								
WIP goal: 30% of untreated impervious cover	X	X	X													
WIP goal: 20% of untreated impervious cover				X	X	X	X	X	X							
Monitoring																
Complete Round 3 of the biological monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Complete selection of water quality chemical monitoring stations	X															
Results of chemical monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tracking and Reporting																
Update County geodatabase with new BMP, programmatic, and monitoring information	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MS4 Annual Report	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Restoration Implementation Costs




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Cost Estimate for Restoration



- Approach (Programmatic & Structural BMPs)
 - Estimated costs to maintain current programs and to implement future activities and install/retrofit BMPs.
 - BMP costs were adapted from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science report *Costs of Stormwater Management Practices in Maryland Counties*, prepared for MDE (King and Hagan 2011).

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Estimated Cost to Implement Each Plan



- Anacostia River : \$681 million
- Piscataway Creek : \$43 million
- Mattawoman Creek : \$8 million
- Patuxent River : \$21 million
- Rocky Gorge Reservoir : \$0.2 million
- PCB-Impaired water bodies: \$112 million (Potomac River portion only)
- Chesapeake Bay WIP: \$727 million

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Covering Costs



- How will the County pay for this work?
 - Current funds include Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, Clean Water Act fee, and stormwater ad valorem tax.
 - Additional sources will include grants, watershed restoration partners, and the sale of municipal bonds.



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Tracking Progress




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Tracking Progress



Three Main Activities

1. Track with required annual MS4 report
 - Document restoration BMP installation and activities such as outreach
2. Environmental monitoring
 - Biological and water quality
3. Geo-referenced database
 - Project locations, type, amount of imperviousness surface treated, etc.

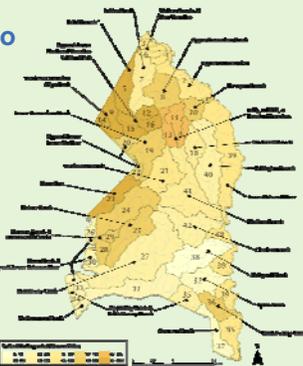


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How Will Biological Monitoring Be Used to Track Changes?

Watershed Status, Biological Condition (2013)

- Round 3 biological monitoring (2015-17)
- County will look for **substantial reductions** in "percent biological degradation"
 - Countywide scale
 - Subwatershed scale
- Can start to think about setting goals for reduced pct. degradation
- Interpret monitoring and assessment results in context of
 - Improved habitat and water chemistry conditions
 - Effectiveness of overall restoration activities (different from implementation effectiveness)



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Water Quality Monitoring



- Will be conducted in only one priority subwatershed.
 - County will ask permission from MDE to move the require NPDES monitoring locations in Bear Branch to the newly selected priority area in the Anacostia River watershed.
- Location will be selected within 6 months of plan finalization. Monitoring to begin within one year of plan finalization.
- Will monitor total nitrogen, total phosphorus, TSS, BOD, and fecal coliform bacteria.
- Monitoring assistance from MDE.

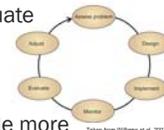


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Adaptive Management



- Learn and change as we go.
- After strategies are in place, evaluate changes in:
 - Pollutants relative to TMDL
 - Biological integrity
- Advances in technology will provide more effective, smaller, cheaper reduction measures.
- Multiple bottom-line benefits.
- Determine needs for additional controls.
- Continue monitoring and evaluation.



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What Is Next?



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Your Role in Restoration



- Become informed.
- Provide input.
- Support implementation by preventing stormwater pollution.
 - Pick up after pets, plant trees, install rain barrels, leave grass clippings on lawn, don't litter, etc.
- Use County Click (<http://countyclick.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>).



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30-Day Comment Period



- Public comments accepted Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.
- Submit Comments:

- Tonight:

- Comment forms
- Orally at hearing

- After Tonight:

- Email: L.Tennekoon@co.pg.md.us
- Regular mail:
Attn: Lilantha Tennekoon
Prince George's County Government
Stormwater Management Division
Department of the Environment
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774



Photo Credit: J. Anderson/ Canal Highway

Questions?



- Contact:
Mr. Lilantha Tennekoon
301-883-6198
L.Tennekoon@co.pg.md.us
- www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/stormwatermanagement
- Comments due November 30, 2014

Thank you for attending!
Please remember to sign in if you have not done so already and turn in your comment forms!





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Appendix B: Written Comment



Public Hearing on the Draft Watershed Restoration Plans for Prince George's County



November 12, 2014 • Largo, MD

Comment Form

Comments can also be submitted by email to Mr. Lilantha Tennekoon at: LTennekoon@co.pg.md.us

Or by regular mail to:

Attn: Lilantha Tennekoon
Prince George's County Government
Stormwater Management Division
Department of the Environment
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

For more information or to review the draft plans, visit:

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/Services/Streams-Watersheds/Restoration-Planning/Pages/default.aspx

Name: BILL WALMSLEY

Organization: _____

Address: 5915 Justina Drive, Lanham, MD 20786

Email: bwalmsley@gosps.com

Affiliation Type (please check a box):

- Private citizen
- Environmental organization
- Business/commercial
- Local government
- State government
- Federal government
- Other:

Comments:

Understand that county has taken steps to stream line development permitting process but a step should be added for an environmental review to insure that BMP's are being incorporated into that new development. Otherwise we will be spending time & money to fix ~~the~~ existing situations at some time as more new problems are being added. We don't want to necessarily curtail ~~limit~~ development but to insure it's done right.

lower care education may need to be strengthened to extent of literacy that allows much commercial firms ~~can~~ can apply ~~what~~ what, when & how. Getting to individual residence grows ever more difficult particularly when constantly bombarded with advertising promoting additional low care products.

Thank you for your participation!



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Appendix C: Summary of Oral Comments and Responses

Summary of Comments Provided Orally at the November 12, 2014, Public Hearing on the Draft Restoration Plans

Provided below is a brief summary of the comments given orally at the public hearing. Many comment summaries are a compilation of similar comments provided by different attendees.

Community Participation

Comment Summary: The plans should provide more information on how community organizations and citizens can participate in implementation. For example, local groups can tell the County about the breaking of ground in their areas so they can work with the County to ensure that proper stormwater controls are in place. In addition, some groups would like the County to provide them with tools to monitor progress and identify projects, plans, and priorities in local sub-watersheds. This could increase the public's confidence in the program in general and in terms of specific best management practices (BMPs). Community groups would like to be involved early on in project selection. Community groups would also like to receive professional advice or have access to an information clearinghouse and expert speakers.

Response Summary: Community organizations and citizen groups can participate in several ways in the restoration plans. One way is to get involved with local non-profit groups with which the County is currently partnering. The County will be using non-profits to help find grant opportunities so they do not have to wait for the County programs. This additional funding will allow quick upgrades or installation of BMPs throughout various municipalities. In addition, groups can help by identifying potential projects and assisting with public outreach on a variety of water quality topics such as the upcoming litter and pet waste campaigns. Groups can meet with homeowner associations and other civic leaders to relay the messages that will be pushed with the campaigns and participate in community trash pickups or the Rain Check Rebate Program. The County will add more details on these types of opportunities in the plans.

Enforceability

Comment Summary: There is no discussion of enforceability in the restoration plans. The County should specify how these plans will be enforced at the end of the 5-year term. The County should not wait until 2030 to raise the question about enforceability.

Response Summary: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will be holding the County accountable for what is in this plan when submitted on January 2, 2015. The County will have to show MDE how much of the BMP goals were accomplished.

Load Reductions from Programmatic Activities

Comment Summary: The County assumes that there will be load reductions resulting from several programmatic activities. However, there is not enough explanation for some of the programmatic activities on how the estimated load reductions were developed. For other programmatic activities, there is no explanation of expected load reductions. Several attendees voiced the opinion that the programmatic activities described in the plan are supplementary and will not get the County very far in terms of actual load reductions. They feel that the section on programmatic activities is a repackaging of existing programs that are not sufficient.

Response Summary: The programmatic goals will always have a risk associated with them since. For example, in the case of education and outreach, some outreach programs might be more successful and some less successful. The County must not toss these tools out. We have to see what reduction results they produce. It is too early in the game to know which programmatic goals will be successful and which will not, however, that should not stop us from hoping to have results from them. With adaptive management, we will be able to learn year by year whether these programs are producing or not. Programs like street sweeping can be a good tool. It is one of the tools in our toolbox. In the case of street sweeping, we used MDE's mass loading approach for estimating nutrient and sediment load reductions associated with this activity based on tons of dirt collected. Under this plan, the County is looking at whether it should alter the locations for street sweeping, increase sweeping frequency, or increase the number of streets swept. For other programmatic activities, the County relied on some research and judgment to determine reduction estimates. However, there are obviously activities that the County cannot quantify in terms of expected pollutant reduction amounts, such as repairs to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs). We know that WSSC is working to repair and replace many sewers but we do not yet know how those improvements are going to do for the entire system. Adaptive management will help us understand these impacts going forward.

The restoration plans do not rely on programmatic initiatives alone. Because the County owns the public streets, which have a very large percentage of impervious surfaces, the County is focusing on restoring all of the public streets that are not already treated. Secondly, we are focusing on publicly owned property which includes schools and libraries. The bulk of the restoration program will involve retrofitting streets and public areas. The final area we looked at was private residential land, which we hope to tackle with programmatic initiatives and structural practices.

Type and Location of Monitoring Sites

Comment Summary: You talk a lot about adaptive management, but with plans for only one water quality monitoring site in the County, how will you do that? How do you know that Piscataway Creek or Mattawoman Creek will respond to the BMPs if you do not monitor water quality there? You have stated that the adaptive management process is all about trial and error to get feedback. However, feedback comes from monitoring. How can one monitoring site collect data representative for the whole gamut of various BMPs, various types of specific land uses, etc.?

Response Summary: Monitoring is very expensive, and it takes a long time to get the results. We have many biological monitoring sites to help us get there. Although the County has proposed only one location for water quality monitoring, biological monitoring is distributed throughout the County. The County looks at the biological data for various watersheds and will be targeting the areas that have the largest biological challenges. We can consider for protection watersheds where biological conditions are rated as fair. The ones in poor condition would be addressed with on-the-ground BMPs. The County conducts its own biological monitoring program; it is separate from the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) program. Exact sites monitored can be found in separate monitoring reports that the

County can provide to anyone who wants a copy. In addition, the existing condition reports prepared as a precursor to the restoration plans provides more information on biological monitoring. Those existing conditions report are also available on the County's website.

Development Impacts

Comment Summary: In Prince George's County, it seems that politicians have been favoring development over the environment, and there is little oversight of what is allowed to be developed, where it occurs, and how it occurs. In these plans, is the County looking at the permitting process and how its permitted activities impact the environment?

Response Summary: It is not part of this plan; however, we do agree that this is a concern. Any change in land use has an impact on the watershed in the long-run. The County's goal through these plans is to address the existing damage. The assumption today is that new developments are providing controls to the maximum extent practicable to at least protect what is already in good condition. Any new development currently must go through a very rigorous process with the planning commission, and they must implement the MDE Environmental Site Design procedures for developing land. In addition, sediment and erosion control plans have to be developed to meet stormwater management requirements during construction. We are hopeful that this environmental design process will result in development that has little, if any, impact on streets.

Percent Reductions Required

Comment Summary: How did you come up with the 14 percent figure for Mattawoman Creek for nitrogen and phosphorus? There seems to be a disconnect between this 14 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus and the percentage that is listed in the actual TMDL, which gave an overall reduction of 40 percent (broken down into the annual average for storm water to a 50 percent reduction).

Response Summary: MDE developed all of these TMDLs. They also developed something called the Maryland *TMDL Data Center*. MDE has gone through excruciating detail to enter all the TMDLs they have completed into the data center and figure out the load reduction for entities like Prince George's County. In addition, as a result of a County inquiry about the data, MDE recently updated the data center to correct some inaccurate information. In these plans, the County used MDE's calculated percentages from the data center.

Load Reduction Contributions at the Municipal Level

Comment Summary: How have local municipalities' stormwater reduction activities like street sweeping been taken into account and credited? How will all the local efforts underway be reported and tracked?

Response Summary: The County hopes to develop a data center where all of these activities have to be reported. That may take about a year to build. Once completed, this tool will be centralized so that all the different partners—non-profits, community organizers, cities, and towns—would report on their progress in terms of BMPs they have installed, so we should be able to account for all activities this way.

Protection Versus Restoration

Comment Summary: Do the plans include plans to protect areas that are not yet very developed such as forested areas (particularly those that surround feeder streams)? It is better to protect an area from damage rather than fixing it after it has been damaged. Can the County use program dollars to acquire land to be

kept as undeveloped park land?

Response Summary: Although this is not in the restoration plan, we are definitely planning to look more at protection activities. Protection is one of the County's overall strategies that we will be looking at in the next few years.

Comment Summary: How will the County determine to what degree they need to seek a change in behavior from developers and others that are contributing to water quality problems?

Response Summary: Initially the reaction from all sides has been to fix degraded waterbodies, fix what is fixable, observe what happens once fixed, and then proceed from there. The County will be looking to see if changes we are making are fixing the problems and if not, do we have evidence of a need to push forward with purchasing lands in conjunction with restoration and move in that direction? The County has to compete with development. Developers find money to buy land and develop it. Therefore, the County should be doing the same thing in the long term. However, that is currently not part of the restoration plan. We have to consider timing, and during this economic downturn, now may not be the right time. What we can do is tied to the economy in our area.

Public Outreach

Comment Summary: One commenter mentioned that there was no discussion in terms of public outreach that acknowledges the diverse population that lives in the County. From a health education and behavior change perspective, it is important to consider the cultural appropriateness of any type campaign. Similarly, it should be addressed in this plan. In addition, one commenter mentioned that transparency is essential to success. Maps of current and completed stormwater projects would help citizens understand where we are and where we are going.

Response Summary: The County is going to be tackling some of those issues when it develops outreach campaigns for pet waste, lawn stewardship, and other topics in the future. We are going to be looking at different languages and cultures throughout the County trying to learn how those populations best receive information, what events they attend, etc. The County will be focusing on the best way to reach diverse groups with different messaging and methods to make sure that they are getting the message and acting on it.

Illegal Dumping

Comment Summary: There is a major issue with people dumping on Cold Spring Road. They dump everything from old batteries to mattresses.

Response Summary: These illegal dumping locations are scattered around the County. There are a couple of forums that the County has ongoing to try to tackle this issue. There has even been talk of perhaps putting cameras in different locations to prevent dumping.

Small Business Opportunities for Green Technology

Comment Summary: Has there been any attempt in the past, or plans for the future, to incentivize small businesses to adopt and incorporate green technology, especially where the environment is concerned?

Response Summary: There has been related discussions with respect to the County Jobs First Act. There will certainly be opportunities for businesses to participate with the programs we are going to be relying on, such as providing materials for training residents or businesses. This work is being conducted by

another group at the County.

Runoff from Roads

Comment Summary: Is there an effort being made to narrow some of the streets to make them greener?

Response Summary: Yes. It is one of our strategies for street restoration. Which streets are narrowed and how it is done will depend on the type of road and how much traffic that road gets.

Other Comments

Comment Summary: How much of this restoration work will be conducted by the public-private-partnership (P3)?

Response Summary: The P3 will accelerate the restoration effort and manage a bulk of it. The P3 should be able to have more flexibility than the County process currently provides our staff people. The County can only do so many projects a year because we are limited in staff.

Comment Summary: How often is this plan going to be updated, and how much will it change in the future?

Response Summary: This restoration plan will not be in concrete. MDE does not expect that from us, and we are going to go back to it with modifications and adjustments based on what we learn along the way. Therefore, we are looking at it as a starting point. We are not going to write a plan that gets shelved. It is going to be a living plan because a lot is going into it. Our citizens are spending money on it, and there is accountability involved. We will be modifying the plans to ensure that the programs that we know are effective will grow, and the ones that are not will be reduced.