



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Steven C. Horn, Division Director

TO: Frederick County Planning Commission

FROM: Jim Gugel

DATE: June 28, 2019

RE: Triennial Update of the Water and Sewerage Plan

ISSUE

The Planning Commission is requested to review the Final Draft of the Frederick County Water and Sewerage Plan for a finding of consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan and to forward to the County Council.

BACKGROUND

The State of Maryland requires a revision to the Water and Sewerage Plan every 3 years, referred to as the Triennial Update. The purpose of the Water and Sewerage Plan is to provide an overview of the planning policies, amendment procedures, and planned infrastructure related to community water and sewerage systems. The Water and Sewerage Plan is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1 – Policies and Procedures

- Definitions
- Goals for Water and Sewer Planning
- General Policies
- Water and Sewer Plan Amendment Procedures
- Water and Sewer Plan Classification System

Chapter 2 – Background

- Natural Features of the County including geology, topography, soils, water resources
- Protection of Water Resources
- Population and Land Use

Chapter 3 – Water Systems

- Source Water Protection and Supply
- County Managed Community Systems
- Municipal Community Systems
- Small Community Systems
- Multi-Use Water Systems
- Ground and Surface Water Permits

Chapter 4 – Sewerage Systems

- Water Quality Regulatory Framework
- County Regional Community Systems
- Municipal Community Systems
- Sub-Regional Community Systems
- Multi-Use Wastewater Systems

The County last updated and approved the Water and Sewerage Plan in November 2014. After review by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) additional comments to the County were made and a MDE Modified Plan was approved on September 24, 2014. The MDE modifications were then incorporated into a subsequent text amendment to the Plan in the Fall 2015 Cycle. These amendments were approved by MDE on July 18, 2016, which reset the 3-year triennial update cycle.

A Preliminary Draft Plan was prepared and sent to MDE in March 2019 for review and comments. This Final Draft incorporates revisions addressing the MDE comments and also incorporates additional updates from the municipalities.

After the Planning Commission's hearing, the Final Draft Water and Sewerage Plan will be presented to the County Council for a public hearing and approval. The approved plan will be then be transmitted to the MDE for final review and approval.

Below is a summary of the major revisions to the 2016 Water and Sewerage Plan in the Final Draft Plan.

Chapter 1 – Policies and Procedures

- Revision to Multi-Use Sewerage System definition, page 1-3
- Added language for Well and Septic System Policies to establish requirements for Best Available Technology (BAT) to address nitrogen discharges, page 1-16
- Added language under Multi-Use Sewerage System classification description to require additional analysis for surface application and groundwater discharge systems to address nitrogen discharges, page 1-27

Chapter 2 – Background

- Added and updated language describing the NPDES permits and the application of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) to streams in Frederick County, p. 2-29 & 30
- Updated current and projected population figures for the County and municipalities, p. 2-42 & 44
- Updated descriptions of current development activity, p. 2-43 to 46

Chapter 3 – Water Systems

- Update technical data and figures for County and municipal systems

Chapter 4 – Sewer Systems

- Update technical data and figures for County and municipal systems

RECOMMENDATION

Staff finds the Final Draft of the Water and Sewerage Plan to be consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan.