



Regional Water and Sewer Consolidated Functions Subcommittee Meeting

Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center, Salisbury, Maryland

December 2, 2019

Minutes

Persons Present:

Gregory Padgham, Executive Director, Tri-County Council; John Redden, Jr., Somerset County Engineer, Anthony Stockus, General Manager, Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc.; John Ross, Deputy Director, Public Works, Worcester County; David Bradford, Jr., Worcester County Deputy Director of DoE Programs; Brenda Howard, Executive Coordinator, Tri-County Council.

Gregory Padgham, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore opened and chaired the subcommittee meeting. Order was called at 12:15 p.m., followed by introductions around the room.

Mr. Padgham summarized to the subcommittee the role of the Tri-County Council as the Region's EDA designated Economic Development District (EDD) and the relationship of same to Lower Shore county and municipal applications for EDA funded infrastructure projects. As a funder, EDA strongly encourages regional cooperation of political subdivisions within the EDD. Mr. Padgham emphasized that EDA is specifically looking for a regional approach to economic development. He then highlighted the point that infrastructure projects associated with water & sewer, regardless of the specific location of a project within the Region, fall squarely within the EDA framework of regional economic development. He further emphasized that the Tri-County Council, as the EDA designated EDD, is in a position and has the capacity to assist in articulating the need for infrastructure funding within the context of economic development

Mr. Padgham stated the Tri-County Council is responding to requests from local elected and appointed county and municipal representatives to reconvene the Regional Water and Sewer Committee to address the challenges associated with water and sewer management throughout the Lower Eastern Shore. Each member of the Consolidated Functions Subcommittee was recommended by the full

Regional Water and Sewer Committee as subject matter experts to evaluate the Wicomico County Water and Sewer Master Plan (WWCWS Master Plan) in its current form for any regional application it may offer and report back to the Full Committee in the second week of January. That January meeting will be the first of four meetings and is expected to illicit robust discussion and further instructions to the sub-committee.

The subcommittee members readily acknowledged the expertise of Mr. Bozick and GMB Architects/Engineers has been utilized in the past for other water/sewer projects throughout the Lower Eastern Shore and that their work product associated with the WCWS Master Plan currently being developed would be a valuable resource in articulating a regional approach for purposes of utilizing EDA as a source of funding. They also reported that each county is required to have a comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan that establishes the provision of adequate water supply and sewerage systems to their residents. These other water & sewer plans as well as the WCWS Master Plan can be a resource to the team as it develops a regional approach.

For the purposes of the subcommittee's work product, Mr. Padgham suggested the subcommittee might condense the final analysis to a maximum of 20-30 pages. The final analysis would be developed over a period of months with substantial input and instructions from the full committee, as well as the assistance of the Tri-County Council as the Region's EDA designated EDD. This analysis would then be used to present to EDA after the Full Committee's review and endorsement. Additional utilization of the analysis would include at least partial incorporation into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which the Tri-County Council is required to submit to EDA on an annual basis as a condition of the Lower Shore retaining EDD status.

The subcommittee then mentioned the application of GIS technologies to the project. In response Mr. Padgham suggested additional leveraged resources could include the use of Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) monies to enlist the assistance of the Eastern Shore GIS Cooperative (ESRGC).

Although each county is unique in their design and approach to delivery of water and sewer services, the subcommittee recognized the value of a regionalized analysis to determine needs and best practices, with a focus on economic development as a strategy to improve the overall quality of services to the residents of the Lower Eastern Shore.

The Tri-County Council plans to establish the date of the next subcommittee meeting through use of a doodle poll after consulting with Chairman Larry Dodd.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

