



Regional Water and Sewer Consolidated Functions Subcommittee Meeting

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

December 23, 2019

Minutes

Persons Present:

Larry Dodd, Wicomico County Council, Gregory Padgham, Executive Director, Tri-County Council; John Redden, Jr., Somerset County Engineer, Anthony Stockus, General Manager, Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc.; Ralph D. Taylor, Somerset County Administrator, Charles Laird, Somerset County Commissioner, John Ross, Deputy Director, Public Works, Worcester County; David Bradford, Jr., Worcester County Deputy Director of DoE Programs; Pat Schrawder, District Representative for Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Joshua Taylor, Associate, Davis Bowen and Friedel, Inc., Brenda Howard, Executive Coordinator, Tri-County Council.

Introductions and First Order of Business

Gregory Padgham opened the subcommittee meeting. Order was called at 11:15 p.m., followed by introductions around the room. The following documents were distributed to the group:

- An Agenda which included an outline and detailed explanation of the items discussed at the previous Consolidated Functions Subcommittee meeting on 2 December, 2019, including a summarized version of the Priorities suggested by the Steering Committee and established by the Full Committee;
- A roster of the Full Committee (for informational purposes only);
- Minutes of the 13 November Full Committee meeting

- Original written recommendations and priorities of the Steering Committee and Full Committee to the Subcommittee;

Mr. Padgham then provided a detailed timeline of the period from 27 June through the present of the actions of the Steering Committee, the Full Committee and the Subcommittee. In referencing the priorities approved by the Full Committee, Mr. Padgham indicated these priorities provide a specific roadmap and outline of instructions to the Subcommittee and that they be referenced and followed as the Subcommittee prepares its 20-30 page report for presentation to the Full Committee in several months. *Mr. Padgham again stressed the general nature of the information to be provided, and that the final report to the Full Committee must be in the context of regional economic development rather than solving specific engineering, political or planning challenges. Further clarification by Mr. Padgham and the individual members of the Subcommittee underscored that the work of the Tri-County Council Regional Water & Sewer Committee has as its focus an attempt to coordinate efforts toward a regional initiative rather than homogenize efforts between the three counties of the Lower Shore. Mr. Padgham reiterated the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council will assist in the final preparation and editing of the report prior to its presentation to the Full Committee later in 2020.*

Mr. Padgham reminded the Subcommittee again that Priority One had been rolled into a Mission Statement. He suggested further that Priority Two and Priority Three should be addressed concurrently in preparation for the Subcommittee's January status update to the Full Committee. The remaining priorities will be addressed later in the process. Priority Two and Priority Three are summarized below:

- Priority Two: Identify and summarize the range of water and sewer systems with a brief inventory of the systems existing in each county;
- Priority Three: Identify and summarize agreements in place governing the operation, ownership and financing of each treatment system, sanitary district in the region, including the contractual/administrative aspects, terms of the agreement, terms of renewal, etc.

Having introduced the priorities in the form of tasks to be assigned, Mr. Padgham called for assistance from each county with regard to Priority Two. The members volunteered for the following:

- Tony Stockus, (General Manager of Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc.), having suggested the Maryland Department of Planning be brought into the group, will contact and invite Tracy Gordy, Regional Director to participate in the Subcommittee. Note, the Department of Planning is familiar with priority funding areas.

- Tony Stockus stated Somerset County has maps available in its Master Water & Sewer Plan which could be used for inventory. Josh Taylor, P.E. (Associate at Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc. will provide him with an electronic version to assist in its use;
- John Redden, Jr. (Somerset County Engineer) will compile an inventory of private well and septic systems in Somerset County;
- John Ross, (Deputy Director of Public Works Worcester County) and Josh Taylor will complete a brief inventory of water and sewer assets/infrastructure in Worcester County;
- David Bradford, Jr. (Worcester County Deputy Director of DoE Programs) will provide an inventory of private well and septic systems in Worcester County;

Wicomico County

Chairman Dodd (President, Wicomico County Council) will approach the members of the Subcommittee from Wicomico County not present at the Subcommittee meeting in order to initiate Priorities Two and Three. In addition to Chairman Dodd the Wicomico County members of the Subcommittee are Dallas Baker (Director of Public Works Wicomico County); Wayne Strausburg (Director of Administration Wicomico County); Weston Young (Assistant Director of Administration Wicomico County).

Other Business

In order to expedite the process of executing the Full Committee's priorities the Subcommittee may, in addition to other resources, access and consult the most recent existing water and sewer master plans currently on file for each of the three counties.

Other issues such as priority funding areas, EDU implementation, MDE requirements, etc. were briefly discussed within the context of the final report later in 2020.

Next Meeting

The Subcommittee suggested it meet again prior to Mr. Dodd giving a status report to the Full Committee in January. The Tri-County Council will put out a doodle poll to Subcommittee members to confirm a date.

There being no other business the Subcommittee adjourned at 12:30 p.m.