

## Queen Anne's County Phase II WIP 2012-2013 Milestones Update

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### Septic Systems

- The Department of Environmental Health will continue to upgrade septic systems within the County. An increase in funding from the Bay Restoration Fund would allow for an increase in the number of septic system upgrades each year.
  - *On-going.*
- All new, replacement or upgrades of existing septic tanks in the Critical Area are required to be nitrogen removing systems.
  - *On-going. QAC MWSP Section 5.2.4 requires BNR for all new septic systems in the Critical Area or within 100' of stream buffer.*
- Twenty percent (20%) of the septic systems in Queen Anne's County will be pumped out in each of the two years, for a total of forty percent (40%) over this milestone period. The County has an established and on-going program that requires all septic systems to be pumped out over a five (5) year period.
  - *On-going. County Code: Article XXVII Private Wastewater Systems, Section 24-166 Mandatory Septic Pump-outs.*
- Evaluate the impacts of providing community sewer and water service to areas of the county that have been identified by the Department of Environmental Health to have failing septic systems.
  - *Southern Kent Island Sanitary Project – The County Commissioners continue to explore options related to the idea of extending sewer to southern Kent Island. Staff members of Queen Anne's County, Maryland Dept. of Planning and Maryland Dept. of the Environment are working together to examine any and all issues regarding this potential project.*
- Number of systems hooked up to an advanced WWTP.
  - *There were no septic connections during this milestone period.*

### Stormwater Management

- Review the County's Stormwater Management Ordinance to find areas that have the possibility for amendment to assist in the facilitation of stormwater retrofits.
  - *Up to date.*
- Review the County's Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance to find areas that have the possibility for amendment to assist in the facilitation of the WIP.
  - *Up to date.*
- Complete approximately 1 to 3 projects per year that will provide stormwater quality management for approximately 5 to 20 acres of land. Retrofit projects typically include but are not limited to the designing and construction of rain gardens, bio-retention swales, installation of permeable pavement, wetland enhancements, living shorelines and/or stream restoration projects.
  - *QAC County Office Building –2012*

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- *SWM Retrofit - rebuild parking lot with new SWM*
  - *Bloomfield –2012*
    - *Permeable Pavement - Phase V Lots 1 & 2 south*
  - *Centreville Middle School – started in fall 2011 finished in spring 2012*
    - *Meadow creation*
    - *Rain garden*
    - *Tree planting*
  - *Conquest – 2012*
    - *Tree planting*
  - *Davidson Farm - 2012*
    - *Tree planting*
  - *Matapeake Business Park road construction – 2012*
    - *SWM designed into the new roadway (none existed before)*
  - *Millstream Park, Centreville Elementary School, & Chesterfield Cemetery – (started in 2011, Centreville Elem. planted in 2012)*
    - *Tree planting*
  - *Education and Outreach - 2012*
    - *Created a pamphlet highlighting projects within our communities, on our farms, in our towns, at our schools and in our parks that assist in our overall efforts to clean up our waterways.*
    - *Created a video further detailing a few projects highlighted within the pamphlet.*
- **Seek collaboration between the county and towns to create a program to plan and implement WIP strategies.**
  - *Council of Government (COG) Meetings*
  - *Maryland Department of Natural Resources –Watershed Service Unit Watershed Assistance Grant: Natural Vegetated Filters Grant: Queen Anne's County partnered with the Town of Centreville and the State of Maryland to construct three Natural Filters projects on local county/municipal lands.*
- **The Town of Centreville plans to do several projects within this milestone period. Projects may include, but are not limited to, Storm Drain Outfall Improvements, Stream Restoration Projects, Dam removal and Bio-swale creation.**
  - *WWTP Phase 1 Outfall Improvement - 2012*
  - *Stormwater Utility Ordinance - 2012*
  - *Dam Removal Feasibility Study – 2012*

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- *Town of Centreville continues a comprehensive outreach, education, and social marketing campaign to raise awareness about the Corsica River Watershed, focusing on the goals in the Corsica River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS).*
- *Banjo Lane Coastal Plain Outfall - 2012*
- Queen Anne's County is willing to work with the State, as needed, to refine the cost estimates and identifying potential funding options. The County expects that the combination of federal and State revenue sources as well as local "in-house" services will be needed.
  - *The County has been working with the State to determine possible funding options with regard to the potential sewer extension to southern Kent Island.*
- The County will actively pursue grants and additional revenue sources and the assistance of all interested in helping bring down the anticipated high costs of WIP related projects.
  - *Grant group – representatives from DPW, P&Z and P&R meet on a monthly basis to discuss on-going grants, upcoming grants and grants that are on the horizon that may be applicable to the county's needs.*

### **Waste Water Treatment Plants**

- The County will continue to work with the municipalities within the County that seek to upgrade current WWTP or expand the current service area.
- *Queenstown and Centreville are currently going through the process to permit an increase in the capacity of their WWTP's.*

### **Other**

- The County will continue to pursue funding to support its preservation programs.
  - *QAC Ag certification has been completed.*
  - *Applications are continuing to be accepted. Only 8 are allowed to be accepted at a time. Currently the Ag Specialist has a waiting list of approximately 115 farms interested in preservation (totaling 17,000+ acres).*
  - *FY 12-13 – Current applications are pending. Offers have been submitted and settlements are expected within the upcoming year.*
  - *As of May 2013, 74,077 acres of land has been permanently preserved. That is 74% of the county goal.*
- Evaluate the merits of creating a County program to purchase easements on farms with the intention of creating buffer strips along waterways and/or road front ditches that will absorb nitrogen and stabilize soils.
  - *Current County resources are not sufficient enough to create such a program. However, there are currently more than 10,000 acres of CREP lands within the Queen Anne's County.*
- Continue to work cooperatively with such agencies as Soil Conservation, Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Maryland Extension.
  - *On-going.*

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- The County will seek to establish a systematic structure for tracking projects within the county that assist in reducing the nutrients that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.
  - *Created a spreadsheet to track projects. The spreadsheet and tracking process may need some refinement in the future.*
- Inventory will be taken of what, if any, projects in the county or towns have been recently completed and mistakenly overlooked and not accounted for in the MAST tool.
  - *Completed. The tracking spreadsheet has accounted for projects back to 2007.*
- Work and partner with citizen and environmental groups to identify concerns and problems. Partnerships formed between the County, municipalities and citizens groups may improve the chances of winning grants.
  - *In 2012 starting working in partnership with the Wye Riverkeeper to do an assessment of the Wye River watershed that will serve to identify problem areas within the watershed and potential BMP's to address them.*
  - *In 2013 supported a grant proposal from the Chester River Association to explore the possibility of a nutrient trading program.*
- Continue to support the work done by the citizen and environmental groups, whose projects include wetland restoration, rain garden construction, storm water retrofits, water quality monitoring, education & outreach and more.
  - *On-going*
- Queen Anne's County will seek grant funding for various projects and programmatic changes that will assist the County with implementation of WIP strategies.
  - *Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Chesapeake & Coastal Program-Coastal Communities Initiative Grant (\$75K):*

*Queen Anne's County applied for/was awarded the CoastSmart Communities Initiative Grant in October 2011. This competitive grant program provides financial and technical assistance to local coastal governments to promote and incorporate natural resource and/or coastal management issues into local planning and permitting activities.*

*The grant objective as identified by Planning staff in the application was that of incorporating innovative measures to offset impacts to Critical Areas, while incorporating also the goals of the WIP, Stormwater Management, Environmental Site Design and Floodplain issues. The goal would be achieved specifically by completing a major overhaul of Chapter 14, QAC's Critical Area ordinance.*

*Queen Anne's County Chapter 14, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Regulations is currently undergoing a major update. Pursuant to State regulations the program is overdue for an update. This fact, coupled with recent major additions and revisions to Critical Area regulations per the 2008 legislation has led to a complete overhaul of Chapter 14.*

*The award of this grant has allowed Queen Anne's County funding to otherwise offset budget funding and allow for a fulltime staff person to complete the update of Chapter 14. In addition to providing much needed funding to perform this task, the CCI grant*

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*allows for a team consisting of Critical Area staff and DNR Coastal Communities staff to meet regularly with QAC planning staff in order to complete this objective.*

- *Phase II CoastSmart Community Initiative Grant 2012 – Floodplain Ordinance update*
- *Maryland Department of Natural Resources –Watershed Service Unit Watershed Assistance Grant: Natural Vegetated Filters Grant – 2011:*

*Queen Anne's County partnered with the Town of Centreville and the State of Maryland to construct three Natural Filters projects on local county/municipal lands. Each project involved the construction of riparian buffers on the Queen Anne's county park property of Davidson Farm Park and the Town of Centreville's Chesterfield Cemetery / Millstream Park Properties as well as a naturalized area on the Centreville Elementary School property. The subject properties are within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and establish natural vegetative buffers as a means to reduce nutrient loadings entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.*
- *Maryland Department of Natural Resources– Watershed Service Unit Watershed Assistance (Eco-Restoration) Grant: Wetland Creation & Restoration (\$35k) – 2011: Wetland creation at the Davidson Farm Park.*
- *319 Grant 2012 – Rain garden creation at the Board of Education building.*
- The County will establish a list of possible funding sources for those who may be interested in obtaining funding for restoration projects.
  - *Completed and posted on the County website.*
- Queen Anne's County aims to provide enhanced protection measures and management of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas by updating the Queen Anne's County Environmental Protection Code; Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program.
  - *Queen Anne's County Chapter 14, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Regulations is currently undergoing a major update.*
  - *Critical Area Mapping Update: For this mapping project, a team of professionals from the Critical Area Commission, the DNR, Salisbury University, the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, and Queen Anne's County Planning & GIS Staff are working together to complete this endeavor.*
- Queen Anne's County wishes to work closely with Critical Area Commission staff in developing innovative language and floodplain information, nutrient reduction, wetland and habitat protection and restoration, as well as an outreach and assessment program to educate the public about protection and management programs.
  - *In 2012 & 2013 Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning hosted a joint meeting with to educate local realtors about the basics of Critical Area and upcoming changes in the regulations.*
  - *In 2012 Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning attended the Bay Area Association of Realtors Expo to provide zoning & Critical Area training.*
  - *As a Critical Area Project Partner we review draft Critical Area regulations and provide input & alternative language to Critical Area resulting in revised draft regulations.*

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- *Planning & Zoning staff attend Critical Area quarterly meetings.*
- *Planning & Zoning hosts meetings with Critical Area staff on project specific items.*
- *County staff attended the Maryland Coastal Training Sessions focused on "Improving shoreline habitat & buffer functions."*
- The County seeks subject properties that are within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and establish natural vegetative buffers and create/restore wetlands as a means to reduce nutrient loadings entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
  - *DNR Natural Filter Tree Planting: Maryland Urban & Community Forest Committee of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards & Maryland DNR Forest Service awarded Queen Anne's County with a Community PLANT Award for the year 2011.*
  - *Maryland Department of Natural Resources –Watershed Service Unit Watershed Assistance Grant: Natural Vegetated Filters Grant:*

*Queen Anne's County partnered with the Town of Centreville and the State of Maryland to construct three Natural Filters projects on local county/municipal lands. Each project involved the construction of riparian buffers on the Queen Anne's county park property of Davidson Farm Park and the Town of Centreville's Chesterfield Cemetery / Millstream Park Properties as well as a naturalized area on the Centreville Elementary School property. The subject properties are within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and establish natural vegetative buffers as a means to reduce nutrient loadings entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.*
  - *Maryland Department of Natural Resources– Watershed Service Unit Watershed Assistance (Eco-Restoration) Grant: Wetland Creation & Restoration: Wetland creation at the Davidson Farm Park.*
- Through the use of the Council of Governments, Queen Anne's County will communicate with the towns to inform them about what the County is coordinating with respect to WIP implementation.
  - *On-going*
- Queen Anne's County will investigate alternative ways to manage and fund implementation of the WIP going into the future.
  - *Grant group – representatives from DPW, P&Z and P&R meet on a monthly basis to discuss on-going grants, upcoming grants and grants that are on the horizon that may be applicable to the county's needs.*
  - *Southern Kent Island Sanitary Project – The County Commissioners continue to explore options related to the idea of extending sewer to southern Kent Island. Staff members of Queen Anne's County, Maryland Dept. of Planning and Maryland Dept. of the Environment are working together to examine any and all issues regarding this potential project.*
  - *County staff is participating on the steering committee for the Watershed Stewardship Academy for the eastern shore.*