

Local Area 2012-2013 Milestones

Cecil County Milestones by Major Sector

Milestone Period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013

Urban Stormwater

Stormwater Retrofit Implementation Milestones

No significant implementation is anticipated in 2012 or 2013	Goals for milestone implementation will be expressed in the 2013-2015 milestones.
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Stormwater Retrofit Program Enhancement Milestones

We will continue to pursue additional revenue sources in coordination with the State. Given the anticipated high costs, we expect that a combination of Federal, State and local revenue sources will likely be needed. We will work with the State in 2012 and coming years, as needed, to refine cost estimates and identify funding options including the possible crafting of State legislation. If State and Federal funding is insufficient, we will conduct contingency planning beginning in 2013 for potential adoption of revenue sources as we deem necessary.	The county has pursued and continues to apply for grant opportunities available to fund the design and construction of water quality improvement projects. Departments are in the process of evaluating resource and budgetary requirements for inclusion in future budget requests in order to implement stormwater retrofit projects.
We will evaluate the local organizational structure to identify, and/or create, a division to manage a stormwater retrofit program.	A subcommittee of the Cecil County WIP Advisory Committee determined that no change to the organizational structure was required during the 2013 milestone development period. Divisions within the Department of Public Works will manage any stormwater retrofit projects; however, the need for reorganization will continue to be evaluated as stormwater retrofit projects are identified and pursued.
Pending results of the evaluation of the local organizational structure, we may hire, or re-structure staff to accommodate a stormwater retrofit program.	No additional staff has been hired and no organizational restructuring occurred during the 2013 milestone period.
We will evaluate potential changes in agreements between the county and municipal governments to facilitate a stormwater retrofit program.	Agreements between the county and local municipal governments will continue to be evaluated in order to provide the most cost effective stormwater retrofit projects.

We will evaluate new ordinances, rules and guidance to create a nutrient offset program for new development and redevelopment.	Evaluation of new local ordinances and rules will proceed when the state's accounting for growth policy is finalized.
We will evaluate the need for existing ordinance revisions in 2012 and may adopt the necessary revisions in early 2013.	No revisions were determined to be necessary at this time. Evaluations of existing ordinances and rules will be an ongoing process.
We will collaborate with local watershed associations to leverage existing watershed assessments in an effort to secure grant funding to hire consulting services to perform watershed assessments to identify restoration project opportunities.	A North East River Watershed Assessment which identified and prioritized potential water quality improvement projects within the watershed was completed during the milestone period. An assessment of potential projects within the Elk River Watershed began in the 2013 milestone period and will be completed within the 2015 milestone period.
If we are able to secure a grant in 2012, we will strive to hire consulting services to perform watershed assessments to identify restoration project opportunities. We will continue to investigate grant opportunities, but also consider other arrangements including developing staff expertise and identifying potential local revenue sources, loans, etc.	Although no grants were secured for watershed assessments, county general funds were allocated to complete the North East River Watershed Assessment and the Elk River Watershed Assessment. The assessments identify and prioritize potential water quality improvement projects within each watershed. The county will continue to pursue grants to complete additional watershed assessments throughout the county.
We will continue to evaluate urban pollutant load reduction strategies including urban nutrient management, community reforestation, stream restoration, and stormwater retrofit strategies	Various types of stormwater management best management practices were identified and recommended in the watershed assessments. The priorities identified in the watershed assessments will be used to evaluate the strategy to accomplish pollutant load reductions.

Waste Water Treatment Plants

Processed Water Implementation Milestones

We will continue to pursue the ENR upgrade at Northeast River Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.	The construction contract for the upgrade of the Northeast River Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant was awarded in October 2013 with completion projected for 2016.
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Processed Water Program Enhancement Milestones

We will continue to evaluate options to connect communities with septic systems to advanced wastewater treatment plants.	The evaluation of connecting communities with septic systems to wastewater treatment plants is a continuous and ongoing process.
We will refine cost estimates and associated connection fee increases, major utility fees and other revenue sources needed to capitalize projects that connect minor wastewater treatment plants and areas with failing septic systems to ENR wastewater treatment plants.	The Cecil County Council approved increases in wastewater user rates and the major facility fee which went into effect in July 2013 and October 2013, respectively.
We will consider local legislation to increase fees or other sources to fund projects that connect minor wastewater treatment plants and areas with septic systems to ENR wastewater treatment plants.	We will continue to assess and prioritize opportunities to connect minor wastewater treatment plants and areas with septic systems as the North East Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant is upgraded to ENR.
We will evaluate the creation of a local sewer authority, governed by a Board of Directors, in order to develop an economically self-sustaining organization to independently manage and grow sewer capacity within the County.	Funds to study the feasibility of creating a local sewer authority were included in the County's FY14 budget. Harford County is currently conducting a feasibility study regarding the creation of a Harford County Water & Sewer Authority. We (Cecil County) are collaborating with Harford County to garner lessons-learned from their experience to aid us in evaluating this issue.

Septic Systems

Septic System Implementation Milestones:

Based on historical best available technology septic system installation numbers and level Bay Restoration Fund financial support, we anticipate installing approximately forty best available technology (BAT) septic upgrades annually.	In Fiscal Year 2012, 42 BAT systems were installed in Cecil County. In Fiscal Year 2013, 61 BAT systems were installed in Cecil County. The Cecil County Health Department has requested additional funding from the state to accommodate additional applicants.
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Septic System Program Enhancement Milestones:

The County will continue to evaluate options to connect communities with septic systems to advanced wastewater treatment plants.	The evaluation of connecting communities with septic systems to wastewater treatment plants is a continuous and ongoing process.
We will evaluate potential agreements between the county and municipal governments to facilitate the connection of septic systems to advanced wastewater treatment plants.	Agreements between the county and local municipal governments will continue to be evaluated in order to provide the most cost effective options to connect septic systems to advanced wastewater treatment plants.
We will work in coordination with the State to consider State legislative requirements for property owners to upgrade their onsite septic disposal systems to best available technology systems with appropriate public support and waiver provisions to account for things like age of the system and other concerns that arise.	State law 26.04.02 requires new construction within the Chesapeake Bay watershed or for replacement systems within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area to utilize BAT septic systems.
We will explore options for a local program that would require property owners to upgrade their onsite septic disposal system to a best available technology system.	Local Health Department policies are consistent with state law requirements for BAT systems for new construction or replacement systems.
We will evaluate alternative solutions that will enable us to secure equivalent reductions of the septic load at a lower cost as compared to the cost to upgrade onsite septic disposal systems to a best available technology system.	Evaluations of alternative solutions are continuing & ongoing.
If the State is not in the process of adopting a similar program, we will assess the options for upgrade requirements and funding mechanisms developed in 2012.	State law 26.04.02 addressed the BAT upgrade requirements. The Cecil County Health Department has conducted public outreach events to promote the use of available Bay Restoration Funding to complete the BAT upgrades.

Land Use Change

Program Enhancement Milestones:

<p>We will consider developing a local accounting process for changes in land use and pollutant loading. This information could be used to track conversion to and from each land use classification (agriculture, forestry and urban) and to verify and provide accurate land use data to the Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model.</p>	<p>Local land use data has been provided to the state to assist in establishing the most accurate data for use in the Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Model.</p>
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Agriculture

Program Enhancement Milestones:

<p>We will support the agricultural community's efforts to implement the objectives of the Watershed Implementation Plan Phase II process and to explore opportunities for nutrient trading between sectors.</p>	<p>The County Government will continue to support the agricultural community's efforts. We will consider nutrient trading opportunities between sectors as the understanding of nutrient trading requirements and markets continues to develop and mature.</p>
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