



WRCC Meeting Summary April 24, 2024

Attendees:

Municipalities:

- Kevin Hann, Chair, Hampstead
- Jim Wieprecht, Vice Chair, Taneytown
- Gary Dye, New Windsor
- Delbert Green, Manchester
- Mayor Perry Jones, Union Bridge
- Rodney Kuhns, Manchester
- Alex Perricone, Manchester
- Mike Rawlings, Westminster
- Kevin Rubenstein, Sykesville
- Kevin Smeak, Taneytown
- Steve Strawsburg, Westminster
- Vance Summerhill, Westminster
- Dick Swanson, Mount Airy
- Zach Amoss, Westminster

CC PLM:

- Daphne Daly
- Brenda Dinne
- Glenn Edwards
- Andrew Gray
- Chris Heyn, Director
- Claire Hirt
- Byron Madigan
- Kelly Martin
- Mitch Masser
- Denise Mathias
- Zach Neal
- Janet O'Meara
- Pat Varga

Health Department:

- Richard Brace

CCG Others:

- Andy Watcher, CC DPW
- Bryan Bokey, CC DPW
- Lydia Rogers, CC M&B

Guest Speakers:

- Dylan Orr, DNR

1. Opening Statement

Chair – Kevin Hann

Mr. Hann opened the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Vice Chair – Jim Wieprecht

None.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary – March 27, 2024

Approval of the March meeting summary was discussed. No changes were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Jim Wieprecht and seconded by Mayor Perry Jones to approve the March 27, 2024, meeting summary. Motion carried.

3. Maryland's 5 Million Trees Initiative – Dylan Orr, DNR (Maryland Forest Service)

- Dylan Orr with the Maryland Forest Service shared information about the State's 5 Million Trees (5MT) initiative. The program was established as part of the 2021 Tree Solutions Now Act (House Bill 991). The statewide goal is to plant 5 million trees by 2031. The 5 million is in addition to trees planted to meet mitigation requirements, which most likely includes trees planted to meet NPDES MS4 requirements. This program also cannot be used to meet Forest Conservation Act requirements. The tree planting at Wakefield Valley is an example of a project completed through this program.

- Mr. Orr described focus areas and Priority Zones. Urban, underserved areas are a higher priority. Hampstead and parts of Westminster are the primary areas in Carroll County that are considered underserved.
- After summarizing how the program works, he talked about various opportunities to fund tree planting. He also discussed priority species and maintenance. The State is striving to plant all native trees, with a focus on afforestation rather than reforestation.
- Mr. Orr discussed several ways to support the 5MT initiative besides just planting trees. More information can be found in his PowerPoint.

Reference/Attachment:

- *PowerPoint: Maryland Forest Service: 5 Million Trees Initiative (2021-2031)*

4. Water Resources Element (WRE 2024) Update – Brenda Dinne

- Hazen Tasks: Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 5 are complete. The final reports for Task 6 – Update 2010 WRE Supporting Documents – should all be complete in May. A revised Technical Memo for Task 4 – MDE TIPP Spreadsheet Comparison – is still expected as well. Task 7 was incorporated to other tasks and will not result in a separate technical memo.
- Plan Document: Update of the actual plan document is underway. Results of the 2021 status update have been incorporated to the strategies. Ms. Dinne anticipates meeting with each municipality and Bureau of Utilities to review the individual System-Specific sections.

Reference/Attachment:

- *N/A*

5. Municipal Stormwater Projects Update – Janet O’Meara

- Ms. O’Meara provided an update on the municipal stormwater restoration projects.

Reference/Attachment:

- *Municipal Project Status, April 2024*

6. PFAS Discussion

- EPA finalized the maximum control limit (MCL) for PFAS on April 10, 2024. EPA will also be adding PFAS to the CERCLA requirements to allow the agency to use it for enforcement to compel polluters to pay or clean up.
- EPA has webinars available on their website, as well as a guide on PFAS.

Reference/Attachment:

- *N/A*

7. Other

- MDE Proposed Stormwater Regulations: Mr. Heyn drafted a comment letter to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the proposed regulations that were released to the Stakeholder Consulting Group. The amount of stormwater to treat is a big issue, essentially doubling from 2.7 inches to 5.0 inches of rainfall. Drywells could not be used for housing lots under this proposal. No additional comments were offered. The letter will be sent on May 3.
- Solar: Currently, 4 solar developers have submitted CPCN applications for solar projects in Carroll County. If the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) issues a CPCN, it will override local zoning, but the project will still go through the County’s site plan review process.
- MLS (Multiple Listing Service) Application: Mr. Heyn shared information about a new app developed for the County to use to identify when properties are for sale that the County may be interested in purchasing. The intent is to avoid missing opportunities to purchase land that may be needed for projects such as planned major streets. The municipalities are welcome to share properties of interest to them to be tracked as well.

- Legislative Update: The 2024 legislative session wrapped up on April 10. Ms. Dinne reviewed the status of the bills of interest to the WRCC. Mr. Heyn provided an overview of County actions and status for several pertinent bills.
- Water Conservation Public Outreach Piece: The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) developed a public outreach piece for water conservation. Each municipality received hardcopies to share. It is also available on the EAC's [Other EAC Publications & Topics](#) webpage.
- Stormwater Tour: MDE staff will be joining the WRCC for the stormwater tour on May 13, 2024, which will focus on sand filter facilities. This tour will take the place of the regular monthly meeting for May.
- Storm Drain Maps: Mr. Masser requested any remaining map updates to be turned in.

Reference/Attachment:

- *Draft Stormwater Regs Comment Letter: Carroll AStorm Stakeholder Comment_May032024 DRAFT*
- *WRCC Legislative Wrap-Up 2024: Final Status of General Assembly Proposed Water/Environmental Resource Legislation, April 24, 2024*
- *EAC's [Water Conservation Public Outreach](#) Publication*

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Mayor Perry Jones and seconded by Alex Perricone to adjourn the April 24, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ☐ *Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, June 26, 2024*



Maryland Forest Service: 5 Million Trees Initiative (2021-2031)

April 24, 2024



Why Plant Trees?

- Sequester carbon
- Counteract urban heat islands
- Reduce energy consumption
- Improve air and water quality
- Promote health
- Provide wildlife with food & habitat
- Strengthen communities



Overview



Statewide goal of planting 5 million trees by 2031

Established as part of the 2021 Tree Solutions Now Act (House Bill 991)

10%, or 500,000 trees must be planted in urban underserved areas

Expanded tree planting programs for Marylanders

What Can We Plant?

The 5MT Initiative will **ONLY** plant trees native to Maryland

5MT focuses on *afforestation* as opposed to *reforestation*

The 5MT Initiative will **NOT** fund legally mandated plantings

- Forest Conservation Act
- Reforestation Laws
- County & Municipal Regulations



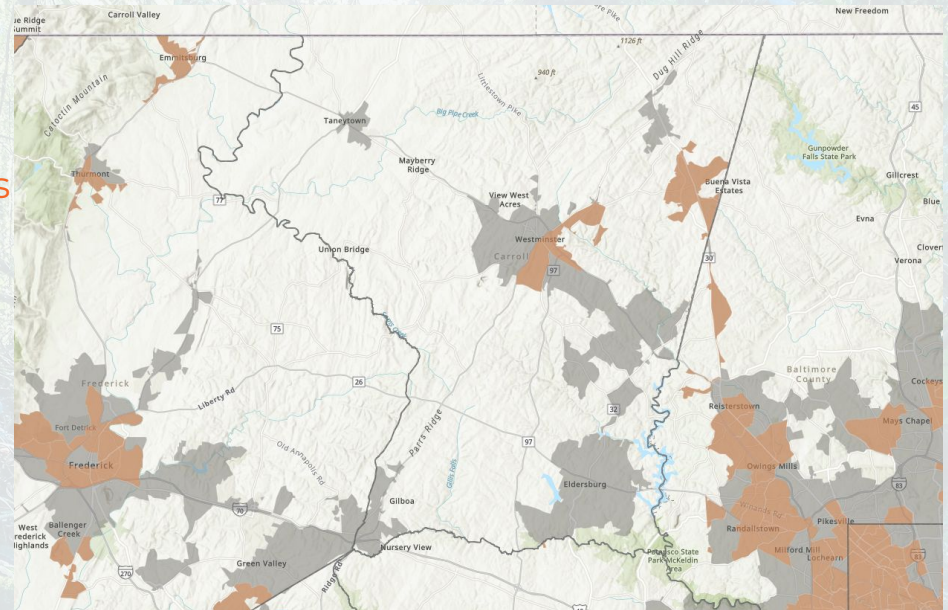
Focus Areas

- Projects geared toward addressing **Tree Equity**: 10% (500,000) trees must be planted in urban underserved areas
- **Riparian Forest Buffers**, or trees along waterways
- Connecting fragmented forests & habitats

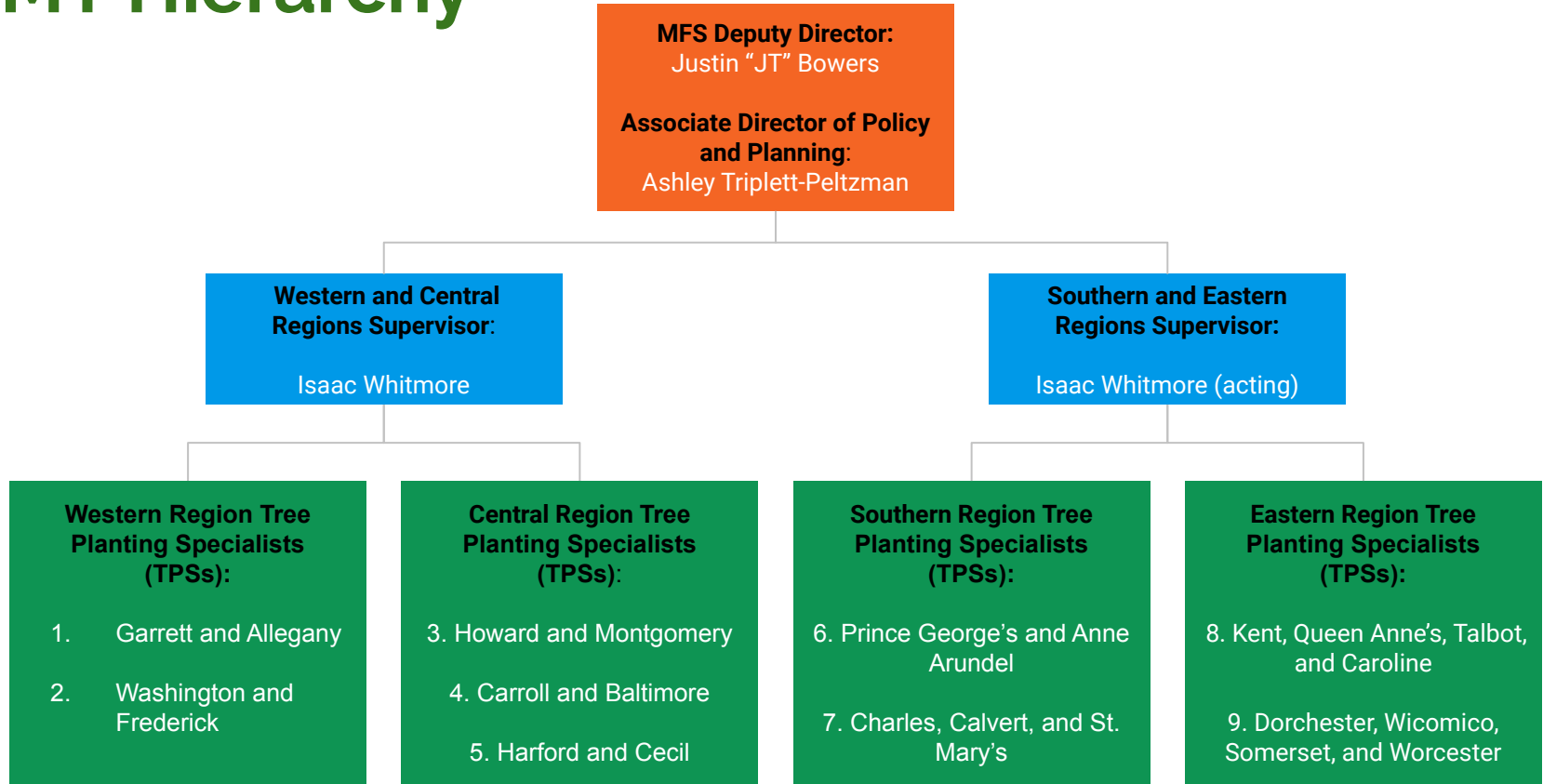
Priority Zones: Urban Underserved Areas

Orange Urban Underserved;
more eligible for funding opportunities

Grey Urban;
still eligible for some
funding opportunities



5MT Hierarchy



What is the Role of a 5MT Tree Planting Specialist (TPS)?



Outreach and Planning

- Table and present at events
- Connect residents with funding options
- Create planting maps and plans

Tree planting & Management

- Oversee plantings
- Ensure maintenance and survival
- Assist foresters

Seed collection

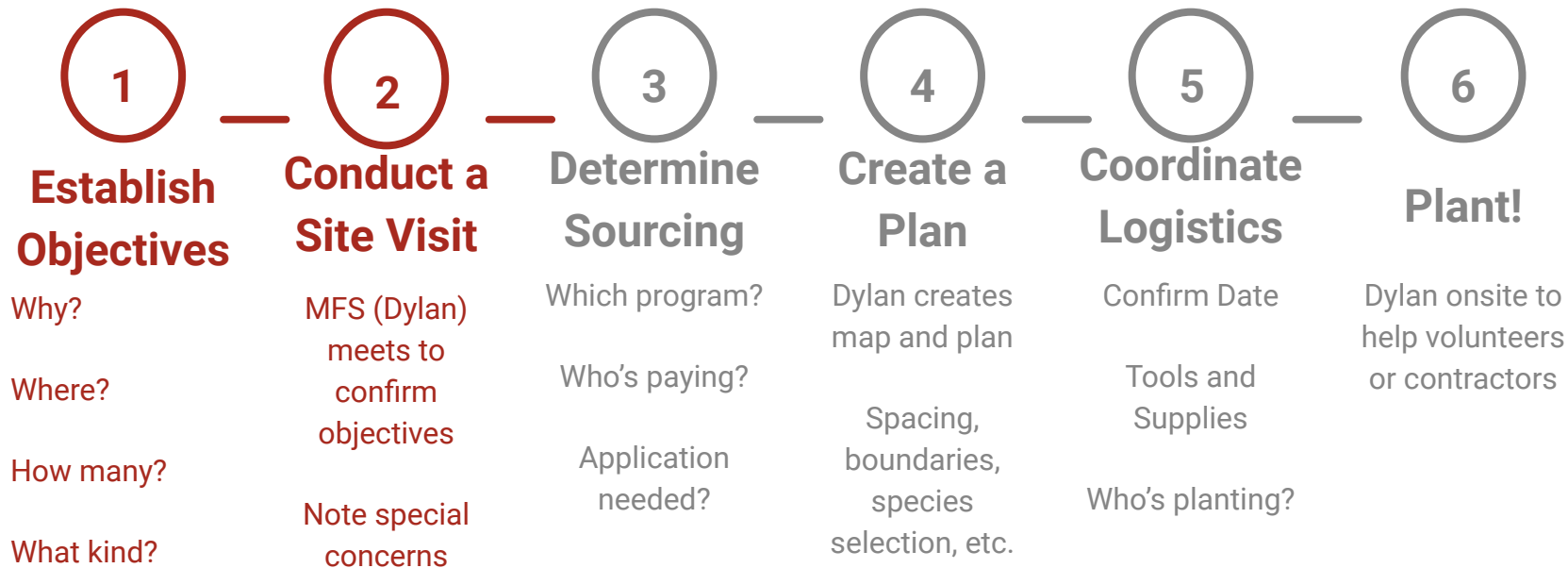
- Coordinate with tree owners and volunteers



General Steps for Any Planting

Red = steps driven by organization/landowner leads

Grey = steps driven by 5MT staff



Tree Planting

- **Smaller Scale** (usually <0.5 acres)
- **Volunteer-planted**
- **Great for small yards and shared spaces**
- **Containerized stock**
 - **Costlier**
 - **Better survival**
 - **Spring or fall**



Afforestation

- **Minimum 0.5 acres but no maximum!**
- **Contractor-planted**
- **Bareroot seedlings**
 - **Cheap**
 - **Faster/Easier to plant**
 - **Spring**



Tree Planting

- Tree-Mendous Program
 - Public land
 - \$25-50/unit
 - [Clear Ridge Nursery](#)

CLEAR RIDGE NURSERY, INC.

Quality Native and Ornamental Plants Since 1994



Afforestation

- [John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery](#)
 - Millions of seedlings annually
 - \$0.20-\$3.00/unit
 - Primary cost: tree shelters



How will we Fund 5 Million Trees?

5MT will receive \$15 million annually, \$10 million of which goes to Chesapeake Bay Trust. Otherwise, planting projects will be funded through a variety of grants and programs:

Tree Planting Opportunities:

- [Tree-Mendous](#)
- [Marylanders Plant Trees](#)
- [Gift of Trees](#)
- [Backyard Buffers](#)
- [Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee \(MUCFC\) Grant Programs](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Grant](#)
- [MDOT Urban Tree Programs Grant](#)

Afforestation Opportunities:

- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\)](#)
- [Healthy Forests, Healthy Waters \(HFHW\)](#)
- [Woodland Incentive Program \(WIP\)](#)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)

Hypothetical Tree Planting

Conditions:

- **Approximately 10 Trees**
- **Accessible area**
- **Memorial plaques**
- **Need additional labor/support**



Gift of Trees (GOT)

Eligibility:

- Public land
- Funding varies

Process:

- Confirm funding availability with MFS (Dylan)

What this covers:

- Trees



At left: Boy Scout Lochlan Batson poses in front of his recently completed Eagle project on 11/11/23. Lochlan received 38 container trees at no cost that he and other scouts planted at Othello Park in Frederick County.

Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC)



Eligibility:

- Public land
- Organization as applicant
- Preference to urban underserved and first time applicants

Process:

- Application with budget, basic info, basic map, and basic maintenance
- Deadlines 2/15 and 7/15

What this covers:

- Up to \$1000 in plants, supplies, signage, transportation, labor, and/or maintenance

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Grant Program



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Eligibility:

- Public or private land
- Organization as applicant
- Preference to urban underserved and first time applicants
- Within 1 mile of MDOT Project

Process:

- Application with budget, basic info, basic map, and basic maintenance
- Deadlines Feb. 15 and Jul. 15 annually

What this covers:

- Up to \$5000 in plants, supplies, signage, transportation, labor, and/or maintenance

Hypothetical Afforestation Project

Conditions:

- Private land
- Over 0.5 acres open land
- Want as many trees as possible



Healthy Forests Healthy Waters (HFHW)

Eligibility:

- At least 0.5 contiguous acres
- Willing to accept bareroot seedlings in shelters
- Agree not to remove trees for 15 years

Process:

- One-page agreement



What this covers:

- All planting costs
- Two years of mowing and spraying

Why do we need tree shelters?



At left: Fatal rodent damage to a baldcypress seedling at a CREP planting in Westminster, MD.



At right: Severe buck rub inflicted on a sapling behind the DNR Morgan Run field office in Westminster, MD.

Maintenance is Critical!

Bareroot:

- More susceptible
- Keep the shelter on...but not too long!
- Mow and spray at least twice annually



Container:

- Higher survival
- Water if needed
- Protect the trunk from deer and weedwhackers



BEYOND TREE PLANTING

There's more we can do to support the 5MT initiative than just plant trees!

- Stewardship Programs: leverage cost-share programs to improve the health of existing woodlands
- Seed Collection: plan a native tree seed collection event to get seeds for our state nursery.
- Become Tree Stewards: volunteer at tree planting sites and conduct health checks, perform shelter/stake maintenance, and more!
- Invasive Plant Control: Host an invasive plant removal event, teach the community about identification, prevention, and treatment

Forest Stewardship

How to care for your forested land, and which state programs can help

Step 1: Get a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP)

Have your local forester compile a long-term management plan specifically for your forest!

A FSP makes landowners eligible for forest stewardship assistance programs

Forest Stewardship Programs

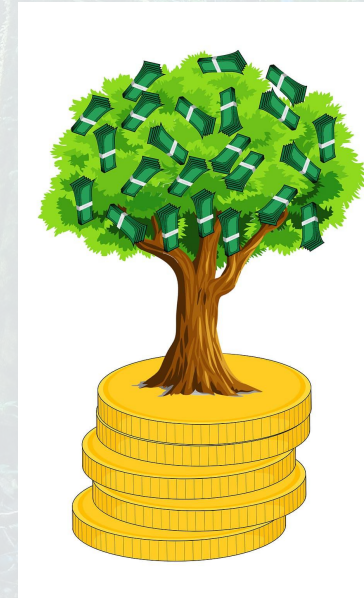
Cost Share Programs

WIP: Woodland Incentive Program

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Tax Incentive Program

WAP: Woodland Assessment Program



Native Tree & Shrub Seed Collection

To plant 5 million trees, we need to **GROW** 5 million trees!



- Fall seasonal activity
- Seeds are donated to the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery
- **MAKE IT FUN!** Host a seed scavenger hunt, compete for who can collect the most seed by weight, play seed bingo, you name it.

I will work with you to help with seed collection volunteer events and arrange transporting seeds to our state nursery.

Priority Species



- Allegheny Serviceberry
- Eastern Redbud
- White Oak
- Chestnut Oak
- Wild American Plum
- Elderberry

- Best season to collect is the fall and late summer
- Leave some fruit/nuts for wildlife
- Don't let seed sit too long- it will spoil!

Become a Tree Steward!

Young trees need some TLC to survive & thrive, and **YOU** can help make a newly established forest as strong as possible!

Volunteer at afforestation projects to...

- Adjust tree shelters and stakes
- Control invasive plants
- Perform selective pruning
- Conduct health checks and notify local foresters of any issues

Invasive Vegetation Control

Controlling invasive plant species is one of the **BEST** ways to make sure trees survive and thrive!

- Woody vines can strangle trees and outcompete them for sunshine
- Understory plants can hinder tree regeneration by shading out seedlings
- Best strategy for control is to remove and replace

Tip: Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Field guide is available online!



Every Tree Counts!

- Register your new tree to add it toward our count to 5 Million!
- Stay informed about upcoming events
- Explore resources about native trees and tree selection
- Learn about local resources and programs

<https://five-million-tree-tracking-tool-maryland.hub.arcgis.com/pages/about>



Thank you!



Dylan Orr

Tree Planting Specialist;
Howard & Montgomery
Counties

Maryland Forest Service
dylan.orr@maryland.gov

240-791-0559



MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROJECT STATUS

April 24, 2024

FUTURE PROJECTS:

Michael's Property (Hampstead) – Project is on hold until Town has obtained approval from property owners to move forward.

Hampstead Valley 2/3 (Hampstead) – Hampstead Valley facilities 2 and 3 will be retrofit as a stream restoration project to decommission Sycamore Drive as a roadway embankment. The design will include a stream restoration beginning immediately downstream of the proposed Hampstead Valley 1 facility and continue to Sycamore Drive.

CONCEPT DESIGN:

Hampstead Valley 1 (Hampstead) – Retrofit of existing detention basin to a surface sand filter. Site is located just south of Lower Beckleysville Road near a production well. Comments were returned to CLSI, the County is currently looking into how this project would impact a project at Hampstead Valley 2/3.

Manchester East (Manchester) – CLSI is working on the concept design of a new stormwater facility north of Manchester Valley High School, adjacent to the pump station. Comments were sent back to CLSI. Concept was reviewed by the property owner we are currently working to have an appraisal done of the parcels that will need to be acquired.

Meadow Ridge Basin 2 (Westminster) – Retrofit of existing facility to provide water quality through a surface sand filter. This site is adjacent to the pump station at the edge of the City limits. Kick off meeting was held with Century on April 15th. They will begin working on a design.

New Windsor Wetland (New Windsor) - A new wetland facility is proposed adjacent to the Maryland Midland Railroad tracks and Dickenson Run. The proposed improvements include removing the existing inlet adjacent to the intersection of Water St and Church St, replacing it with a diversion structure that will route the 1-year storm discharges to the proposed wetland facility. A concept plan was submitted on February 16th, it is currently being reviewed by staff.

Public Safety Training Center (Westminster Well)- A retrofit for the Public Safety Training Center pond is in progress for the facility design and PFAS remediation. WRA is finalizing the concept

plan for the surface sand filter. We are continuing to work with Building Construction to coordinate design efforts for erosion and sediment control.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN:

Hampstead Valley 4 (Hampstead) – A new surface sand filter and stream restoration project is proposed between Century Street and Downhill Trail. Culverts at Downhill Trail require realignment into the HOA parcel for dam breach approval. Soil borings were completed by KCI, the report was submitted to be reviewed by Stormwater Management. CLSI is moving forward with final plan design.

Roberts Field Wet Facility (Hampstead) – Retrofit of wet pond to new hybrid wet pond/submerged gravel wetland. The recent concept submittal was approved with comments from the Town and Stormwater Management. Wallace Montgomery & Associates (WMA) is working on the preliminary plans. A revised grading plan was provided this month to be submitted with the grant application to DNR Grants Gateway. Soil borings were completed by Kleinfelder, we are currently waiting for the report. A plan was submitted for review on March 12th.

FINAL DESIGN:

CONSTRUCTION:

PLANNING PROJECTS:

Georges/Murphy Run Restoration Opportunities –A grant application was submitted on April 2, 2024 for funding to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for planning and technical assistance funding.

TREE PLANTING PROJECTS:

All the municipal plantings have completed their maintenance period and are now the responsibility of the municipalities. Please make sure that these areas are being mowed at least three (3) times per season.