

Wicomico County 2012-2013 Milestones Evaluation

The County¹ received “High” ratings for most the categories of the 2012-2013 Milestones evaluation, as summarized in the following table. Progress on building stormwater management capacity via initial steps toward a system of fees is promising. Progress on modest commitments for the septic system sector is positive; however, more attention to this sector should be reflected in future milestone commitments. Upgrades are underway in the wastewater sector.

Summary Evaluation

Review Subject	Original Commitment	Commitment Progress	Overall Rating, Comments/Notes
Resource Enhancements	• High	• High	• High Original commitments to contractor support and funding have been achieved. Although not identified as a milestone, staffing increases have been realized.
Legal Authority Enhancements (e.g., new ordinances)	• None	• Medium	• Medium Efforts made to pursue amendments to State statute governing the Bay Restoration Fund uses.
Organizational Enhancements	• High	• High	• High There has been a strong commitment to internal and external coordination. Development of an urban tree program shows good progress. More attention could be given to program enhancements and tracking/reporting.
Planning/Studies	• High	• High	• High The County has engaged in numerous planning projects to meet the original milestones.
Public Engagement	• Low	• Medium	• Medium Although no commitment to public engagement was made, there have been efforts to encourage outreach and education.

¹ Although we routinely make reference to “the County” as if it’s a single entity, it is often shorthand for an amalgam of the county and municipal governments as well as other partners.

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Review Subject	Original Commitment	Commitment Progress	Overall Rating, Comments/Notes
Addresses Appropriate Sectors? (Comprehensiveness)	• Medium	• High	• High The rating reflects important efforts in all three urban/suburban sectors.
BMP Implementation			Street sweeping programs and upgrades to ENR for wastewater treatment plants in Fruitland and Delmar are implementation activities cited in the Wicomico County Programmatic Milestones report .

Detailed Evaluation

Review Subject	Original Commitment	Commitment Progress	Overall Rating, Comments/Notes
<p>Resource Enhancements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Original commitments to contractor support and funding have been achieved. Although not identified as a milestone, staffing increases have been realized.
<p>Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify State and Federal funding opportunities for the purpose of obtaining professional consulting services to prepare watershed management plans for the Wicomico and Pocomoke Rivers. • Partner with non-profit organizations to identify funding sources to implement stormwater BMPs. • Seek increased funding levels of the Bay Restoration Fund to facilitate a septic pumping program that is voucher based. Utilize additional funding to increase the number of septic systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through assistance from the Wicomico Environmental Trust, Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury were able to obtain National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Chesapeake Bay Trust grants to contract with the Center for Watershed Protection to perform field investigations and prepare a Watershed Management Plan. • The County, City of Salisbury, and WIP members have partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET), Wicomico Creekwatchers, and Friends of the Nanticoke River to identify and apply for WIP-related grants. • The Wicomico WIP Planning Team is in continued discussions with local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High

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	<p>upgraded annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<p>elected leaders to gauge support for requesting amendments (by a member of the Eastern Shore Delegation) to State legislation about the uses of BRF funds. The WIP Planning Team will continue to research and coordinate with local elected officials to identify potential funding mechanisms to implement a voucher based septic pumping program. As a result of increased funding levels of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF), the County received \$769,000 in BRF funds in FY 2014 as compared to \$355,000 apportionment in FY 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	
<p>Staff: New or re-assigned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<p><i>Programmatic initiatives not included in County's original milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this reporting period, the City of Salisbury Public Works hired 5 employees that have some level of interaction with the City's WIP and stormwater management activities. • In 2013, the County hired an additional Long Range Planner, whose work program supports WIP related activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High

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<p>Contractor Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify State and Federal funding opportunities for the purpose of obtaining professional consulting services to prepare watershed management plans for the Wicomico and Pocomoke Rivers. • Consideration of preparing a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study. • Consideration of establishing an urban tree canopy program. • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury were able to contract with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) to perform field investigations and prepare a Watershed Management Plan. • The City of Salisbury Public Works Department contracted with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of MD to prepare a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study. • The County has retained professional consulting services from University of Vermont to conduct a county-wide urban tree canopy assessment. <p><i>Programmatic initiatives not included in County's original milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County has established contracts with surveyors, as well as consultants to assist with WIP related endeavors. • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High
<p>Legal Authority Enhancements (e.g., new ordinances)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wicomico WIP Planning Team is in continued discussions with local elected leaders to gauge support for requesting amendments (by a member of the Eastern Shore Delegation) to State legislation about the uses of BRF funds. • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium <p>Efforts made to pursue amendments to State statute governing the Bay Restoration Fund uses.</p>

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<p>Organizational Enhancements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High <p>There has been a strong commitment to internal and external coordination. Development of an urban tree program shows good progress. More attention could be given to program enhancements and tracking/reporting.</p>
<p>Internal and External Coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with non-profit organizations to identify funding sources to implement stormwater BMPs. • Consideration of preparing a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study (Salisbury). • Seek increased funding levels of the Bay Restoration Fund to facilitate a septic pumping program that is voucher based. Utilize additional funding to increase the number of septic systems upgraded annually. • Continue discussions with municipalities to accept sewage from individual on-site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County, City of Salisbury, and WIP members have partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET), Wicomico Creekwatchers, and Friends of the Nanticoke River to identify and apply for WIP-related grants. Participation / partnership ranges from assisting with grant applications, conducting field surveys, review of preliminary and final watershed management – related plans, data development, and providing vendors with GIS data. • The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) presented a report of the study to the City Council on May 6, 2013. Since then Public Works has led 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High

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	<p>septic systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussions with municipalities to expand urban service districts or out-of-town customers. • High 	<p>numerous discussions with the City Council during public work session to discuss the benefits and implementation of a Stormwater Utility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wicomico WIP Planning Team is in continued discussions with local elected leaders to gauge support for requesting amendments (by a member of the Eastern Shore Delegation) to State legislation about the uses of BRF funds. The WIP Planning Team will continue to research and coordinate with local elected officials to identify potential funding mechanisms to implement a voucher based septic pumping program. • In 2014, the WIP Planning Team will begin discussions with member jurisdictions about the benefits of accepting sewage at their WWTPs from individual septic systems. Also, the WIP Planning Team will coordinate with MDE to determine if municipalities accepting sewage from individual systems will be eligible to claim a credit for the enhanced nutrient reduction level of treatment. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about providing out-of-town customers with public water have occurred out of necessity to mitigate a public health and safety concern (contaminated wells – Morris Mill area). Given the expense associated with providing public water and sewer, the overwhelming majority of municipalities no longer consider it economically feasible to create or expand urban service districts; therefore, service is primarily contingent upon petitioning for annexation. • High 	
Tracking/Reporting	• Low	• Low	• Low
New Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of establishing an urban tree canopy program. • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment is in the final stages of completion, which the data and accompanying reports are anticipated to be delivered by the Spring of 2014. Upon receipt, the County will embark on establishing an urban tree canopy program with assistance from our NGO partners and WIP Planning Team. • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Good initial steps toward development of a new program.
Program Enhancements	• Low	• Low	• Low

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<p>Planning/Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High The County has engaged in numerous planning projects to meet the original milestones.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify State and Federal funding opportunities for the purpose of obtaining professional consulting services to prepare watershed management plans for the Wicomico and Pocomoke Rivers. • Consideration of preparing a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study (Salisbury). • Consideration of establishing an urban tree canopy program. • Consider preparing a study identifying the impacts of establishing a water and sewer authority • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through assistance from the Wicomico Environmental Trust, Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury were able to obtain National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Chesapeake Bay Trust grants to contract with the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) to perform field investigations and prepare a Watershed Management Plan. The next step is to achieve 319 A-I certification for the Plan, which will afford the aforementioned jurisdictions with an alternative source of WIP funding. In April 2013, CWP completed a Watershed Management Plan - Corrective Action Plan for two of the seven Wicomico River subwatersheds. In November 2013, CWP began the Watershed Management Plan. • The City of Salisbury Public Works Department contracted with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High

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		<p>the University of Maryland to prepare a Stormwater Financing Feasibility Study. On January 27, 2014, at a City Council legislative meeting, the Council will hear the first reading of an Ordinance to establish a Stormwater Utility for the City of Salisbury. If the first reading is successful, then the second reading will be scheduled for February 10, 2014. The effective date for creation of the Stormwater Utility is proposed for an undetermined date in FY 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County has retained professional consulting services from the University of Vermont to conduct a county-wide urban tree canopy assessment. Upon receipt of the assessment, the County will embark on establishing an urban tree canopy program with assistance from our NGO partners, the WIP Planning Team and the Natural Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (NRCAC). • This programmatic recommendation has been included as an implementation strategy contained in the Draft 2014 Wicomico County 	

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		<p>Comprehensive Plan. As a result of continued conversations with the County promoting the concept, the Greater Salisbury Committee retained professional consulting services to assist with the preparation of a water and sewer authority feasibility study. Currently, this study is in the final stages of completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	
Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium <p>Although no commitment to public engagement was made, there have been efforts to encourage outreach and education.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<p><i>Programmatic initiatives not included in County's original milestones:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of open WIP meetings. • WIP information on County website. • Several press releases for implementation projects. • Open public meetings of Salisbury City Council including those involving development of Stormwater Utility. • Public involvement in City of Salisbury's Wicomico River Project Team. • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium

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Addresses Appropriate Sectors? (Comprehensiveness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High <p>The rating reflects important efforts in all three urban/suburban sectors.</p>
Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestones in the areas of funding, and program development represent moderate commitments. • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress exceeds the original commitments in the area of staffing. • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High
Septic Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate commitments were made to seek funding for upgrades through the BRF and to continue coordination efforts. • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress is consistent with original commitment. • Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
Wastewater Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments were made to upgrade Fruitland and Delmar WWTPs to ENR • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWTP upgrades to ENR are underway for Fruitland and completed for Delmar • High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High
BMP Implementation			<p>Street sweeping programs and upgrades to ENR for wastewater treatment plants in Fruitland and Delmar are implementation activities cited in the Wicomico County Programmatic Milestones report.</p>

