

The Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan

Draft Now Available for Public Comment

An important milestone in the development of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed "Pollution Diet" has just been reached, with the release of Maryland's updated draft Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The WIP describes the actions that the State will take to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment going into Maryland's streams, rivers and the Bay, by major Basin (e.g. Susquehanna, Eastern Shore) and Source Sector (e.g. Agriculture, Wastewater, Stormwater, Septics).

The updated draft available [here](http://tinyurl.com/MDWIPII). <http://tinyurl.com/MDWIPII>

You have an opportunity to provide input in the form of formal Public Comment from now until Friday March 9. The preferred vehicle for public comment is by email to MDE's Tom Thornton at wipcoordinator@mde.state.md.us

If you have questions, and want to learn more, regional public informational meetings on the draft Phase II WIP are also scheduled. Public comments will not be taken at these meetings, but questions will be answered.

Public Informational Meeting Schedule:

Monday, February 6, 1:00–3:30 PM Washington College, Chestertown
Tuesday, February 7, 6:30–9:00 PM Videoconferencing from the 4H Center in College Park to the following sites: College of Southern Maryland, Frostburg University, and Salisbury University
Wednesday, February 29, 1:00–3:30 PM Hagerstown Community College
Thursday, March 1, 6:30–9:00 PM Baltimore County Agricultural Center
Monday, March 5, 2:00–4:00 PM MDE, Baltimore

Why is the State level WIP important to us? The State Plan provides the framework within which Cecil County will make its own plans for local reductions, and these will have both direct and indirect impact on all of us. Both the State and local plans will change the ways we deal with wastewater; how and where we install and maintain septic; how we manage stormwater from our rooftops, parking lots, and roads; how we conserve and protect our forests and trees; and how we control fertilizer and run-off from our lawns and agricultural lands. And it will all have to be paid for, one way or another.

The State-level Plan is necessarily broad in nature, but it does set the frame within which we will do our local plans - and it is those local plans that will "hit home" for Cecil Countians. We expect that there will be some public informational sessions and public hearings in the second quarter of 2012. In the meantime, the State level Plan and Meetings give us an opportunity to get better educated on the issues and actions.

Why is the "pollution diet" important? Without it, the health of the Bay will continue to decline, threatening not only the local and regional economy, but also our own health and welfare, and that of the oysters, crabs, and rockfish that make the Bay their home! Continuing what we're doing now means more losses — natural, recreational, and economic. Fortunately, recent polls indicate that many Marylanders understand this, and a majority of people say they are willing to pay more to clean up the Bay. For poll results follow this link <http://tinyurl.com/7s9hok3>

More detailed information on the State level Public Meetings is below:

2012 Phase II WIP Public Meetings

Monday, February 6, 2012

1:00 – 3:30 pm

General Public Meeting for the Eastern Shore

Washington College

Hodson Hall, Hynson Lounge

300 Washington Avenue

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

(Participants should park in lot next to Kirby Stadium or behind the Gibson Center for the Arts.)

For directions and campus map, visit <http://www.washcoll.edu>

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

6:30 – 9:00 pm

General Public Meeting: Meeting to be held at the 4-H Center in College Park and videoconferenced to the Frostburg University, Salisbury University, and College of Southern Maryland

The Maryland 4-H Center

8020 Greenmead Drive

College Park, Maryland 20740

For directions, visit <http://www.maryland4h.org>

Videoconference sites:

College of Southern Maryland

Center for Business and Industry, Room # BI113

8730 Mitchell Road

La Plata, Maryland 20646

For directions and campus map, visit www.csmd.edu

Please park in Lot #6.

Frostburg University

Lane Center, Atkinson Room

101 Braddock Road

Frostburg, Maryland 21532-2303

For directions and campus map, visit <http://www.frostburg.edu/fsumap/>

Please park in PAC lot.

Salisbury University

Perdue Hall Auditorium

1101 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland 21801

For directions and campus map, visit <http://www.salisbury.edu>

Participants should park in parking lots A & B. Parking permits are required and can be obtained at http://www.salisbury.edu/police/parking/visitor_parking.asp

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

1:00 – 3:30 pm

General Public Meeting for Western Maryland
Hagerstown Community College
Career Programs Building, Classrooms 210 and 212
11400 Robinwood Drive
Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

For directions and campus map, visit <http://www.hagerstowncc.edu>

Thursday, March 1, 2012

6:30 – 9:00 pm

General Public Meeting for Central Maryland
Baltimore County Agricultural Center
1114 Shawan Road
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

For directions, visit <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation>
Please carpool if possible.

Monday, March 5, 2012

2:00 – 4:00 pm

General Public Meeting for All
Maryland Department of Environment
First Floor Aeris, Aqua, and Terra Conference Rooms located behind MDE
reception desk

(Participants need to register at reception desk)

1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1718

For directions and parking instructions, please visit
<http://www.mde.state.md.us/aboutmde/DirectionstoMDE/Pages/AboutMDE/Directions/index.aspx>

Please call (410) 827-6202 or email nunn@umd.edu regarding weather related questions. Information regarding cancellations or weather delayed events will be posted on <http://www.agroecol.umd.edu>

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