

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE MINUTES (WPTF)
Metropolitan Commission Conference Room
Minutes of May 13, 2008

WPTF Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Steve King, MetCom; Cannon Morse, PNAS; Dennis Roth; David Kelsey; and, Bob Currie. Members absent were Michael Wayman; Rebecca Schofield; and Sheryl Skrabacz, SMHD.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. **Discussion & Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The February 2008 Meeting Minutes were approved.
3. **Continuing Business:**
 - 3.1. Discussion of Sen. Dyson & MDE Replies to Aug '07 BOCC Letter on Water Concerns.
 - 3.1.1. Mr. Wheeler indicated that the Commission on the Environment wanted the WPTF to follow up on areas not fully answered in previous replies: management level definitions and better definition and understanding of recharge areas. Mr. Wheeler also indicated that, according to Mr. Shreve who is working with Charles County, the MD Dept. of Environment is not providing much guidance on how to deal with problems in the LaPlata area where the management level has been reached. Mr. Wheeler also indicated that Mr. Daryl Calvano, Dir. SMHD, stated that, as far as Charles County's Health Dept. is aware, no changes have been made to their well appropriations/approval process. It does appear, however, that MDE is not readily forthcoming with guidance on how to handle management level problems.
 - 3.1.2. The group decided that a Tri-County effort directed at getting more action from MDE would be more effective. Steve King agreed to host a meeting with his counterparts in Charles & Calvert Counties to see if they were having the same frustrations and wanted to undertake a consolidated front at MDE.
 - 3.2. Discussion on Potable Aquifer Water Use by Large Commercial/Industrial Activities.
 - 3.2.1. Apparently the plan to use gray water at the Morgantown Power Plant fell through; and the approach now is to desalinate the cooling water needed. Steve King indicated that he was concerned about a test well that had been drilled at the planned Calvert Consolidated Natural Gas facility. He was concerned that the test well would be used to supply the 1.0 mgd CNG requirement, despite MDE assurances that potable water would be used for industrial/commercial purposes only as a last resort.
 - 3.2.2. An assessment of this situation would be discussed at the Tri-County meeting.
 - 3.3. Discussion of Gray Water Initiative. The group was told that a letter to the Commissioners was being prepared supporting use of gray water in the County. The previous letter forwarded to the Plumbing & Gas Board would be included as an attachment. However, the major potential use of gray water (watering lawns, washing cars & other outdoor uses) is still prohibited.
 - 3.3.1. The group agreed that this subject, too, would be included in the Tri-County discussion.
4. **New Business:**
 - 4.1. Table of Equivalent Dwelling Units Study (TEDUS). David Kelsey indicated that the study to better refine the TEDUS was progressing. The original list of facilities has been expanded using information from other localities. The new TEDUS will be both more accurate and more extensive and thus form a better basis for both the planning for and billing of commercial establishments.
 - 4.2. House Bill 1423 & its potential impacts. Steve King stated that he was concerned that this bill, which gives MDE authority to grant water appropriations permits in Carroll, Frederick or Washington Counties to Municipal Corporations or priority-funding areas established prior to Jan 1, 2000, might be used to deny appropriation permits in other areas. Specifically, he is concerned that MDE might use this law to deny appropriations permits to subdivision of greater than 24 dwelling units in the RPD, when there are clear benefits to doing so.
 - 4.2.1. The group agreed to monitor this situation closely to see if it's extension to St. Mary's County was suggested during review and approval of the County's CWSP update or its later Water Management Plan.
 - 4.3. Water Management Plan. Not discussed
 - 4.4. Conservation Initiatives. Not discussed
5. **Announcements:**
6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.