

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE MINUTES (WPTF)
Metropolitan Commission Conference Room
Minutes of June 23, 2009

WPTF Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Jacki Meiser, MetCom; Dennis Roth; David Kelsey; Sheryl Skrabacz, SMHD; Cannon Morse, PNAS; Bill Shreve. Members absent Rebecca Schofield.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
 2. **Discussion & Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The April 2009 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.
 3. **Continuing Business:**
 - 3.1. **Habitat for Humanity Rainwater Initiative.** Mr. Wheeler indicated that he had contacted Gary Williams from Habitat and that he had indicated that the current plan is to only use a rain barrel system, as other concepts were more costly. He provided a paper which listed all the 'green' initiatives currently under consideration/implementation for their current 5 home project. After discussion, the WPTF agreed that a more extensive system should be explored. This system would collect rainwater for use in watering, car washing, toilet flushing. Mr. Williams has contacted Larry Hartwick, green building coordinator for the project, and asked him to explore how this might be incorporated and what would be required to do so.
 - 3.2. **Other Water Conservation Measures:** Not discussed.
 - 3.3. **Trip to MDE.** After discussion, it was decided that a trip to MDE to reiterate some of our water concerns would not be worthwhile at this point. However, the following observations should be formally entered in the minutes.
 - 3.3.1. **Large Commercial/Industrial Water Appropriations.** Mr. Wheeler indicated that MDE had indicated that they were largely implementing previous letters sent by MetCom and the Commission on the Environment concerning prerequisites needed before appropriations are approved permitting use of potable aquifer water for these purposes. Mr. Kelsey also agree to find out how requests for water appropriations by commercial/industrial users can be identified before MDE approval is secured, so community input, if needed, can be provided before the project approval is given.
 - 3.3.2. **Management Level.** Despite continued concerns about the lack of a definitive definition of the Management Level, and a Maryland Geological Survey study that said that the Management Level had been reached in northern Calvert County, the WPTF agreed that visiting MDE and prodding for a resolution would be pointless at this time. Instead, the group agreed to carefully monitor the ongoing situation in Charles County vic. LaPlata and Indian Head, where the management level has been reached and actions must be taken before additional appropriation permits can be issued.
 - 3.3.3. **Alternate Potable Water Sources.** Mr. Wheeler indicated that this issue too might be moot. He indicated that previous studies and paperwork had indicated three potential alternative water sources had been discussed: desalinization, reservoirs and the deeper and unexplored Patuxent aquifer. Considering the remaining alternative of moving new well sites away from areas of maximum draw down and piping water to those areas seems less costly and immediately executable, pressuring MDE for other alternatives seems unprofitable. If the Patapsco aquifer were used for major users and the shallower Aquia and PineyPoint aquifers left for individual and other small users, adequate water supplies should be available. A new 'facilities' study planned by MetCom should validate this concept and the WPTF should be involved in examining the study findings and making comment as appropriate.
 - 3.4. **Table of Equivalent Dwelling Units.** Ms. Meiser indicated that this project has been completed and integrated into MetCom's procedures
4. **New Business:**
 - 4.1. **WPTF Membership:** The group agreed that Ms. Schofield's continued absence from meetings was grounds for her being removed from the Task Force.
 - 4.2. **Additional Areas for WPTF Investigation:** Not discussed.

5. **Announcements:** The group agreed that September was appropriate for the next meeting.
6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.