

## Minutes – Drinking Water PFAS Task Force Meeting

**October 31, 2024 – Harford County Water & Sewer Administration Bldg.**

Present in the room:

- Bill Bettin – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Patti Jo Beard – Harford County Public Schools
- Mike Turner – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Dan Pazdersky – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Ronya Nassar – Harford County Health Department
- John Resline – Harford County Health Department
- Matthew Lapinsky – Maryland Environmental Service
- Jeff Schoenberger – Bureau of Solid Waste Management
- Larry Slattery – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Chris Morton – Harford County Public Schools

Participating via Teams:

- Johnathon Ely – City of Aberdeen DPW
- EJ Millisor – Havre de Grace DPW
- Bill Smith – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Joe Siemek – Harford County DPW
- Jeffrey Barton – Maryland America Water
- Erin Schafer – Harford County Facilities and Ops
- Steve Klein – Bel Air DPW
- Rob McCord – Harford County Government

Welcome all.

Purpose and why we're here:

- 1) Coordinate to align efforts of PFAS response
- 2) Share knowledge and expertise
- 3) Foster public information
- 4) Identify public funding to help our efforts

Switching the order from our Agenda to allow for Mr. Lapinsky to go first.

### **Update from Maryland Environmental Services (MES)**

Matt Lapinsky:

**\*(copy of presentation incorporated by reference)**

- PFAS sources are everywhere in everything from dental floss to popcorn.
- PFAS began to be used in the 1940's
- Long chains of PFAS chemicals are easier to deal with (dispose of)
- EPA monitoring begins in 2027
- PFAS will outlast all of us
- It may be a very long time before we develop a 100% solution

- Right now we're targeting 93-98% removal
- Ion exchange regenerated resins. Single use resins are the way to go
- Goal is delivering breakthrough technology
- No quick and dirty way to know what's coming through. We can only rely on using a sampling method

EPA never designated a particular testing system

- 1) POV
- 2) POE

No longer requires pilot study – only demo study

Explanation of what they do:

- 1) Bidding and procurement process with them is faster
- 2) Plat apps and support
- 3) Asst most DNR system in the state
- 4) Under contract already with Harford County Schools

WATECH – indirect resource for city of Westminster.

Own the system in the Town of Darlington

Grant funds for MDE due in January

Question?

Bill Bettin: Are we sharing information?

Yes, will forward any other information as it becomes available.

Chris HdG

2 systems?

Have you made a decision on schools? Howard County or others?

Matt:

Just went out to Howard. All answers have some element of activated carbon. With schools having limited space you'll start to see little bldgs at each school to store materials and complete the filtration process. How big a space will be required? Will need to be larger than a utility room – closer to the size of a large shed.

Disposal of carbon will be an issue. Will need a service to both deliver carbon but to take away spent carbon as well.

Larry: What is the destruction disposal option? Incineration.

Matt:

I can talk about destruction techniques if you like?

Biosolids have always been an issue. Lawsuits are becoming an issue. Land application could be problematic with elevated levels of PFAS in waste.

Robust teams of grant writers will be happy to assist.

## **Review Previous Minutes**

Comments? Corrections?

Amend to include Jeff Schoenberger as an attendee.

## **Request for Member Input**

Bill Bettin: Thanks Patti Joe for input from schools. Maryland American Water also for providing information.

Latest annual water quality report.

- Will dig up numbers for inventory
- Tool target to be able to update the CE
- Update for Harford County Task Force

## **Update on Harford County Testing Capacity**

Bill Smith:

Bought LCMS a few years ago.

Detects PFAS in parts per trillion.

Precision in accuracy study.

The blue lines are regulated. (Referring to report)

Precision on the right column – all within 20% of RSD. We can be accurate and precise with this instrument.

Studies T-score calculator.

MRL – will be able to see between .1 - .2.

All studies will be turned into MDE with the application for lab certification.

January 2025 MDE begins accepting applications for lab certifications. See MDE PFAS links that are new.

What is MDE requiring:

- 1) Application itself
- 2) Staff qualifications
- 3) Testing methods
- 4) Standard operating procedures
- 5) Insurance plan (batching and QC).
- 6) Unknown performance test. They send you test sample that they already know what's in it and you test it. Results go directly back to the state.

Will be looking at the Susquehanna River – should be of interest to HdG.

- Interested in studying trends over time. Does PFAS reduce over time.

- Trends in Loch Raven. Does weather effect PFAS levels.
- Can we change dosage of charcoal and start to effect PFAS using our normal processes.
- Will be willing to share information to other local utilities.

Questions?

Ronya- Harford County Health Dept – How much did the LCMS cost?

Bill Smith: It came with a 5 year service plan – the total cost is \$370,000.

We plan on measuring trends. There is an intangible benefit to being able to collect data so you can predict seasonal or weather-related variance.

John Resline: Seems reasonable for what it delivers.

Bill Smith: There was a competitive bid process for the equipment. We had 5 vendors participate.

Note: Suburban testing has agreed to extend the \$225 cost per sample analysis with schools, etc.

#### **Member Issues and Concerns:**

City of Aberdeen: Nothing to add

Town of Bel Air: Nothing to add. Appreciate being included in these meetings.

Havre de Grace: Nothing to add

HCPS: Appreciate all the information. MES presentation was excellent.

MDE grant funding:

- Priority funding area grants w application.
- Will forward when received.
- Treatment only grant.

Harford Comm Coll: Nothing

MD American H2O: Nothing

Larry Slattery: Cyclopure could also do a presentation on their DEXSORB product/technology. Pricing seems reasonable.

Bill Bettin: Interest? Yes – agreed. Always welcome to learn about other solutions.

John Resline: Guide from the State of MA listing products with PFAS content – will share link.

Bill Bettin: Anyone else?

For the next task force meeting hoping to have an MDE Water Infrastructure Financing Administration official come in to address the group. Couldn't make it today – hope to schedule for the next meeting.

4 weeks out puts us at Thanksgiving so we'll push the meeting to the following week. Tentative date is:

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am.

Any further comments?

Hearing none, meeting is adjourned.

Thanks for joining the meeting and have a good rest of the day.

References:

- EPA Fact Sheet: PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting  
[https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr\\_fact-sheet\\_monitoring\\_4.8.24\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_monitoring_4.8.24_0.pdf)
- MDE: PFAS in Private Drinking Water Wells  
[https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Documents/PFAS%20Private%20Well%20Factsheet\\_March2023.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Documents/PFAS%20Private%20Well%20Factsheet_March2023.pdf)
- EPA SDWIS Search <https://enviro.epa.gov/envirofacts/sdwis/search>  
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- MDE – Consumer Confidence Reports, Harford County  
[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water\\_supply/ConsumerConfidenceReports/Pages/harford.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/ConsumerConfidenceReports/Pages/harford.aspx)
- Harford County Task Force Site <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3781/Drinking-Water-PFAS-Task-Force>
- Harford County PFAS letter to customers  
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26650/PFAS-letter-to-Harford-Co-water-customers>