



## Drinking Water PFAS Task Force

### Minutes

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Harford County Water & Sewer Administration Building**

### Introductions:

#### Present in the Room:

- Curtis Ball – City of Aberdeen
- Richard Hanzevack – Harford County Public Schools
- Parley Hess – City of Aberdeen
- Chris Morton – Harford County Public Schools
- Ronya Nassar – Harford County Health Department
- Dan Pazdersky – Harford County Water & Sewer
- John Resline – Harford County Health Department
- Jeff Schoenberger – Administrator, Harford County Environmental Services
- Bill Bettin – Chief, Harford County Water & Sewer
- Carole Coakley – Harford County Water & Sewer

#### Teams Participants:

- Patti Jo Beard – Harford County Public Schools
- Catherine Boston – Harford County Public Schools
- Jennifer Egan – U of MD, Environmental Finance Center (presenter)
- Stephen Kline – Town of Bel Air
- Michelle Kokolis – U of MD, Environmental Finance Center (presenter)
- Ezgi Kurdoglu – Maryland Environmental Service
- Matthew Lapinsky – Maryland Environmental Service
- Robert McCord, Director of Administration, Harford County Government
- Kelly Ryan – Maryland American Water
- Larry Slattery – Chief Operations, Harford County Water & Sewer
- Bill Smith – Lab Superintendent, Harford County Water & Sewer
- Mike Turner – Superintendent, Harford County Water & Sewer

#### Welcome:

Task force formed by the County Executive.

Why are we here?

Objectives:

- Coordinate government outreach and align efforts
- Share knowledge and expertise
- Establish web page (exists)
- Identify sources of public funding

### **University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center – Water TA Program**

Presentation from University of Maryland Finance Center

Jennifer Egan

Michelle Kokolis

Covers: How to access public money.

EFC – Environmental Finance Center

- nationwide and subdivided into regions. We are region III.

Includes:

- Capacity building
- Policy resources
- Community Outreach and Facilitation

Region III – Tech assistance Center

Offers assistance in many areas (see slide)

- Planning
- Funding and financing
- Program management

Priority in serving underserved communities but open to all.

Assistance obtained by many other agencies – technical service providers

Jennifer:

Awards for service now entering year no. 3. Lead service lines had been the prior primary function and now leaning into PFAS. MES is contracted to assist. Engineering assistance is available. Tech assistance also available – both important aspects of any project. Assistance can come directly through the EPA – better to go directly through EFC.

PFAS is a problem and in an evolving landscape. Networking, staying ahead with the latest of what's happening with regulation and requirements.

Small entity assistance covers both water and wastewater.

Re: Lead – residential letters have gone out for Harford County but with many smaller entities they haven't even gotten that far yet.

PFAS feasibility study in Delaware. Have not interacted yet for PFAS across the entire region III. Concentration had been lead line compliance.

Michelle: How to reach us?

Complete the intake form one of two ways:

- a) EPA website
- b) Their intake form (EFC).

Would recommend using their form because it comes direct. If you go through EPA the information travels around the agency and might take longer for response.

Questions?

Larry: Have tried to apply for funding from LCMCS for reimbursement of monies spent on equipment purchased to meet EPA PFAS requirements. We spent 450K. Can you help assist with this?

Michelle: New to PFAS but happy to look into it. Reimbursement might be tough. MD is the only entity that would repay for purchases already made.

- Partners – will take you through the SRF process.
- Can help walk you through the process of resubmission if you've been denied. Can't write it for you, but can guide you.

Bill: Would that offer extend to small, private utilities? We've got a couple of them in Harford County.

Michelle: Yes, the size of the entity doesn't matter.

Bill: Any other questions?

Michelle: MDE not great about returning information quickly or returning information about reasons for a decline. They will offer assistance for reevaluating your submission and resubmission.

Bill verified that any materials they send to us can be made public.

**Update from members:**

Public Schools (Richard Hanzevack)

Started working with MES on proposal process to do system from start to finish.

Begin with Harford Tech because it's due for renovation anyway. Parties have already met on site to go over proposal with suggestions. Decided upon carbon filter technology. They'll need to contract someone to install and pick up spent carbon since after use it will be considered hazardous waste.

Egzi Kurdoglu: Drafting proposal using space inside the building. It will be a pilot plan and if it works will be rolled out to other locations.

Schools will provide maintenance for the facility – someone else to change out carbon filters.

John Resline: Jeff Fretwell no longer with MDE. Have been trying to reach the replacement and haven't heard back but it's only been a day. As soon as he hears back and gets that new contact will share with the group.

Had attending Fallston Advisory Board meeting – PFAS was discussed.

Interesting question was asked – if you have a school fed by multiple wells could a single contaminated well be redirected for non-potable use? Not sure how practical that would be or other problems it might create? Impractical for systems already in place because it would be too complicated to retrofit. Would it be practical for new construction? It's a good question but the pitfalls could turn out badly. Would a PFAS well start to bleed into other wells as water levels fluctuate, etc – one well bleeding into another. Often we don't really know the recharge area for these wells. Could be drawing from a contaminated area. There's a question of land application of bio-solids should it be near rural schools.

Pay attention to State Bills:

#732

#909

Larry Slattery: Health Department concerned about wells. Will wait to see what those bills do in the Senate. There's a new technology that has found a bacteria that consumes PFAS.

Matt Lapinsky: Biosolids - can't use in Texas, concerned about PFAS contamination. The Texas lawsuit with Cenagro is being tried in Baltimore.

Esgi Kurdoglu: Question about contact person with MDE: Elaine Dia and Kent ?

**Review Previous Minutes:**

Bill: Please take a moment to review prior minutes. Any objections or changes? Hearing none minutes from prior meeting are adopted.

**Next Task Force Meeting:**

Next task meeting to be tentatively scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> which would put us near a quarterly schedule.

Side note: Discussion that EPA limits for biosolids were created through biased sources. They are the fringe of possibility and not based upon practical reality. Egregious examples used.

Adjourned.

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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\\_March\\_2023.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Documents/PFAS%20Private%20Well%20Factsheet_March_2023.pdf)
- Harford County Task Force Site <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3781/Drinking-Water-PFAS-Task-Force>
- MDE's PFAS Public Water System Study [https://mddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE\\_PFAS\\_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/](https://mddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE_PFAS_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/)
- UMD Environmental Finance Center WaterTA Program <https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>

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