

**Howard County, Maryland**  
**Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund**  
**Annual Report to the County Council**  
**March 1, 2018**



**Office of Community Sustainability**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**Department of Finance**

[www.cleanwaterhoward.com](http://www.cleanwaterhoward.com)

## **FY 17 Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund Report**

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## 1. Background

Efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been underway for the better part of the last 35 years. For most of that time the activities were undertaken on a voluntary basis; however, over the last 15 years the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) stepped up the effort by mandating clean up goals in the form of Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permits and more recently with the adoption of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) and corresponding Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP). Each jurisdiction has been charged with implementing programs that, based on science and modeling projections, will meet clean-up goals by 2025. These new MS4 mandates could not be met with historic program expenditures and therefore a significant infusion of new funds was necessary to reach the goals in the required timeframe.

Before these latest mandates, Howard County, like most jurisdictions in Maryland, had a respectable stormwater management program underway. However, the level of effort fell short of the activity necessary to meet the new permit requirements. Recognizing the need for increased funding, the County considered implementing a stormwater fee as part of the FY 12 budget. However, after reviewing the complexity of the effort and the limited timeframe in which to do it, the County Executive instead chose to jump-start the program with an increase of capital program funding from \$3 million to \$10 million while also setting aside funding to hire a consultant to assist in the development of a comprehensive stormwater service fee.

In the late summer of 2011, AMEC, Inc was hired to assist the County in the creation of a stormwater fee. Soon after, a new position of Stormwater Manager was added to the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES, now Office of Community Sustainability, OCS) to guide policies and practices associated with an expanded stormwater program. Research, data collection and stormwater program assessment began in earnest in Fall 2011 and continued through the winter with the expectation that a stormwater fee proposal would be presented to the County Executive for consideration in the FY 14 budget.

Midway through the County's fee program effort, the Maryland Legislature passed HB 987, which required the ten Phase 1 MS4 Stormwater Permit jurisdictions to adopt a funding mechanism no later than July 1, 2013. Fortunately, Howard County was well along the way in the development of a fee and despite some necessary changes in direction due to the requirements of HB 987, county staff, with the assistance of a resident-based Stormwater Advisory Committee, evaluated all the program needs, calculated anticipated costs, and developed a utility fee structure to meet our financial obligations in a manner that was believed to be fair and equitable to all community sectors.

In January 2013, legislation was introduced that defined the mechanisms to charge a watershed protection fee to all property owners in Howard County. After considerable discussion, in March 2013, the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund (WPRF) was adopted by the County Council. However, based on a subsequent concern about the impact on the residential sector, in May 2013, at the request of the County Executive, amendments were introduced to modify the charge to the residential parcels. In July 2013, amendments to the fee were adopted by the County Council that reduced the charges from the residential sector. The first billing was included on the December 2013 property tax bill to both residential and non-residential property owners. The fee amounts remained consistent, however, billing moved to July 1 in 2014, and subsequent years, for accounting ease.

In May 2015, SB 863 Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs – Revisions repealed the mandate that local jurisdictions collect a watershed protection and restoration fee. SB 863 authorizes jurisdictions to implement a fee should they choose this method to pay for the required stormwater remediation. SB 863 requires that a county or jurisdiction submit a financial assurance plan demonstrating funding capacity every 2 years to the Department of the Environment beginning July 2016.

In April 2016, the County Executive signed Executive Order 2016-02 creating the Commercial Stormwater Solutions Work Group. The objective of the group was to provide recommendations to the Executive and Council on cost-effective strategies to motivate commercial property owners to better manage stormwater run-off and assist the County in reaching their MS4 permit requirements. The group of 11 met from May, 2016 – September, 2017 and compiled a series of 7 major recommendations for the County in a Final Report. The Report can be viewed on the website [www.cleanwaterhoward.com](http://www.cleanwaterhoward.com).



## **Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee Program Fundamentals**

### **Fee Calculation**

#### ***Residential Fee***

Condo and Townhome -\$15 per unit  
Single Family Home .25 acres or less - \$45  
Single Family Home greater than .25 acre - \$90  
Apartment Complex - \$15 per unit  
Mobile home park - \$15 per unit

#### ***Residential Hardship***

60% credit if household income is less than 2.5 times the poverty level.

#### ***Commercial Fee***

Calculated based on impervious surface area in units of 500 square feet.

Fee = Number of Units x \$15

#### ***Commercial Cap***

Per CR37-2016, the percentage of the total tax bill that deems the fee a hardship in FY17 is 15%.

If the fee is greater than 15% of total tax bill then pay 15% of tax bill.

If after the 15% adjustment the fee is greater than \$1,000 and owner proves financial hardship then fee maximum is \$1,000.

#### ***Non-Profit Partnership***

If an organization enters into the partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County agreeing to allow the County to assess treatment options to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), and agrees to implement the identified practices, then 100% of the fee is credited.

Need-based grants are available to assist with, or fully cover, the cost of implementing practices.

If an organization does not agree to MOU or later opts out of the partnership, then the fee is calculated at the regular commercial rate.

### ***Agricultural Assessments***

Billed at the residential rate of \$90 if property has a Howard County Soil Conservation District (HCSCD) Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan or owner has signed MOU agreeing to pursue Conservation Plan or a Forest Conservation Management Plan through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Without a Conservation Plan, agricultural property is billed at the \$15/500 ft<sup>2</sup> commercial rate. The commercial cap is applicable to agricultural properties.

## **Credits**

***The credit program was revised per CR 37-2016***

### ***Residential***

Credits are calculated as a percentage of the fee equivalent to the percentage of impervious area treated by the stormwater practice up to a maximum of 100%. Credit is awarded provided minimum impervious area is treated as follows:

\$15 fee – 250 ft<sup>2</sup>      \$45 fee – 500 ft<sup>2</sup>      \$90 fee – 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

### ***Commercial***

Credits are calculated as a percentage of the fee equivalent to the percentage of impervious area treated by the stormwater practice up to a maximum of 100%.

Parcels with SDPs of 2003 or newer must certify that all stormwater management systems are in place and functional as designed according to the MDE design manual and approved plans.

Older parcels are eligible for a credit as a percentage of the fee equivalent to the percentage of impervious area treated to current standards in the MDE design manual, typically above what was required at the time of development.

### ***Non-profit***

For nonprofit properties that do not participate in the MOU program, the percentage credit is awarded equivalent to the stormwater treated on-site according to the commercial crediting guidelines above.

## **Reimbursements**

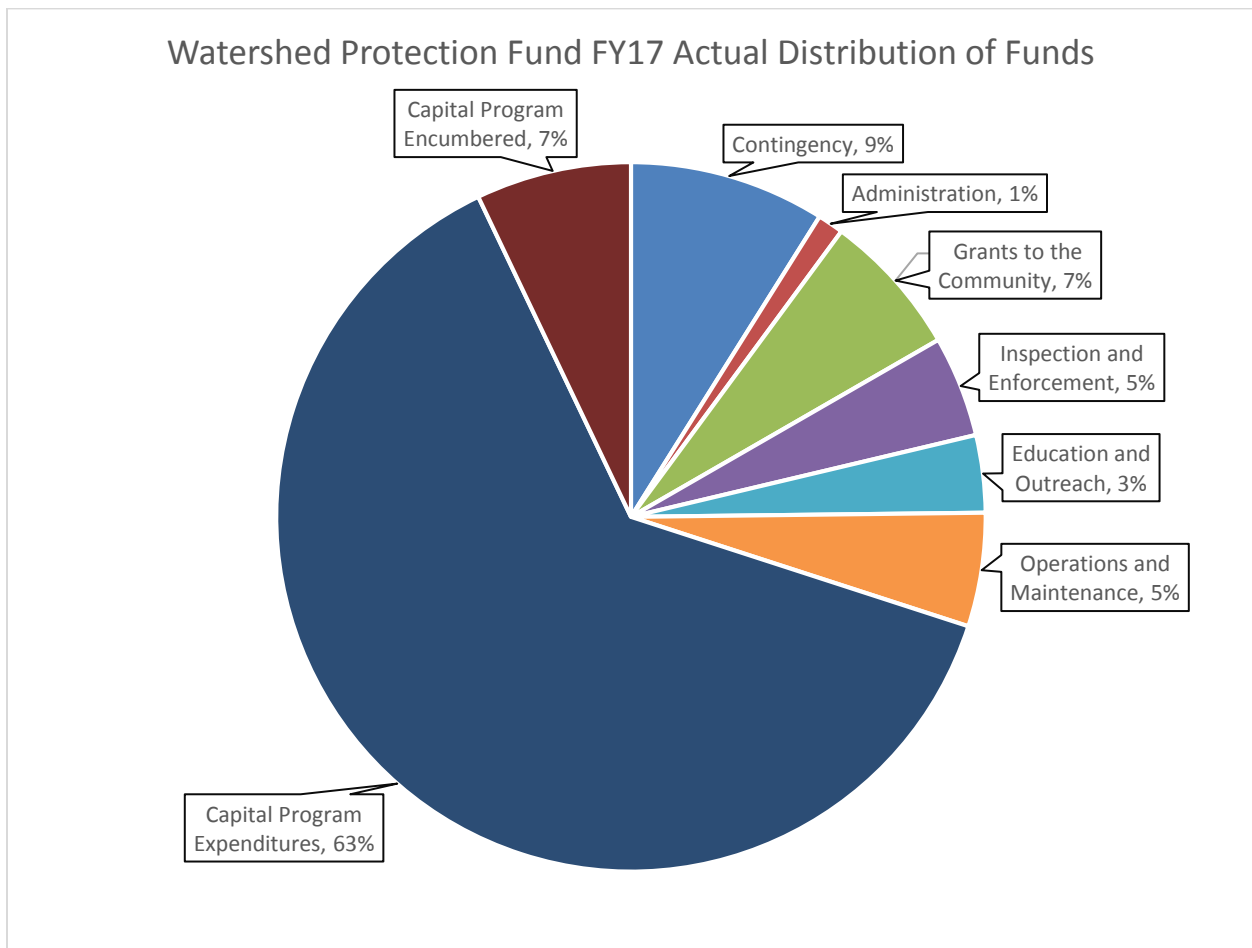
One-time reimbursements for costs incurred for the construction or implementation of additional stormwater practices are available for all properties. The practices accepted, the minimum criteria required, and the reimbursement rates will vary and are defined by County Council Resolution.

CR 16-2017 allowed for the addition of Septic Pumping to the approved reimbursement options. The Septic Savers program was established, incentivizing homeowners to engage in regular septic maintenance. Since the program began in spring of 2017, 269 residents participated and each received \$100 reimbursements for their septic pumping before the end of FY17.

## 2. Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund Report as required by Environment Article of the Maryland Code, subsection 4-202.1 (i)

The information provided below is the actual distribution of funds of the Howard County WPRF required under the Maryland Environmental Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

The fiscal reporting year ended on June 30, 2017. For Fiscal Year 2017, 95,552 properties were subject to WPRF. The amount deposited to the fund was \$11,591,215.07.



### 3. Financial Data

**Fee Collection** – provided by Howard County’s Department of Finance

**\$11,591,215.07** - Imposed overall fee for FY 2017

**\$549,975.00** - Total of 655 Credits for FY 17

**\$7,478.50** - Amount still due for the FY 17 billings

### **Personnel Complement Funded by the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund FY17**

Office of Community Sustainability – 2 positions

- Planning Supervisor
- Planning Specialist I

Department of Public Works, Stormwater Management Division – 4 positions (2 vacancies)

- Engineering Specialist III
- Engineering Specialist II
- Regulation Inspector II
- Regulation Inspector I

Department of Public Works, Highways – 4 positions

- Motor Equipment Operator II
- Motor Equipment Operator I (x3)



# Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year 2017

**Howard County, Maryland**  
**Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**Non-Major Enterprise Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	Broadband	Special Recreation Facility	Watershed Protection and Restoration	Total
<b>Operating revenues:</b>				
User charges	\$ 1,582,113	\$ —	\$ 11,032,847	\$ 12,614,960
Greens and cart fees	—	859,900	—	859,900
Range fees	—	80,554	—	80,554
Merchandise	—	85,390	—	85,390
Food and beverage	—	212,587	—	212,587
Miscellaneous sales and services	13,959	22,389	16,830	53,178
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>1,596,072</b>	<b>1,260,820</b>	<b>11,049,677</b>	<b>13,906,569</b>
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Salaries and employee benefits	581,301	—	830,286	1,411,587
Contractual services	161,864	2,728,803	935,423	3,826,090
Supplies and materials	34,364	—	27,860	62,224
Business and travel	2,120	—	79	2,199
Share of county administrative expenses	—	—	1,094,181	1,094,181
Other administrative	—	—	82,293	82,293
Depreciation expense	681,729	47,932	76,529	806,190
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>1,461,378</b>	<b>2,776,735</b>	<b>3,046,651</b>	<b>7,284,764</b>
<b>Operating income (loss)</b>	<b>134,694</b>	<b>(1,515,915)</b>	<b>8,003,026</b>	<b>6,621,805</b>
<b>Nonoperating revenues (expenses):</b>				
Interest on investments	5,707	—	65,295	71,002
Interest expense	—	(85,688)	—	(85,688)
Capital contribution, disbursed	—	—	—	—
Other, net	—	(51,824)	—	(51,824)
<b>Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)</b>	<b>5,707</b>	<b>(137,512)</b>	<b>65,295</b>	<b>(66,510)</b>
<b>Net income (loss) before contributions and transfers</b>	<b>140,401</b>	<b>(1,653,427)</b>	<b>8,068,321</b>	<b>6,555,295</b>
Capital contribution	435,147	2,220,915	—	2,656,062
Transfers in	563,072	—	—	563,072
Transfers out	—	(4,526)	(5,947,945)	(5,952,471)
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>1,138,620</b>	<b>562,962</b>	<b>2,120,376</b>	<b>3,821,958</b>
<b>Net position - beginning</b>	<b>12,658,457</b>	<b>6,080,682</b>	<b>12,505,497</b>	<b>31,244,636</b>
<b>Net position - ending</b>	<b>\$ 13,797,077</b>	<b>\$ 6,643,644</b>	<b>\$ 14,625,873</b>	<b>\$ 35,066,594</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

<b>SWM Division Projects Charged to Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund</b>			
<b>Purchase Order Date</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>FY17 WPR Fund Spent</b>
5/28/2014	Woodlot Road Stream Design	Stream restoration design	\$10,978.02
1/8/2015	Pinehurst Court Stream Restoration Construction Management Services	Stream restoration construction management	\$137.31
10/19/2015	Davis Branch Design	Stream restoration design	\$28,513.40
12/17/2015	Bonnie Branch Stream Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$115,006.09
12/28/2015	Longmeadow Pond 1 - Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$15,550.44
1/28/2016	Twin Oaks Repair Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$113,708.45
1/28/2016	Garand Drive Retrofit Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$31,953.67
2/18/2016	JHU-APL Stream Tributary Design	Stream restoration design	\$-
3/1/2016	Char Lil Ct (SR48/SR47) Design	Stream restoration design	\$12,628.24
3/17/2016	Bonnie Branch - Construction Management	Stream restoration construction management	\$33,755.75
3/21/2016	Linden Chapel Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$256,812.65
4/11/2016	Woodmark Community Pond Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
5/23/2016	Ellicott City Retaining Wall 9A & B Design	Retaining wall design	\$117,456.42
5/23/2016	Ellicott City Retaining Wall 8A & B Design	Retaining wall design	\$105,666.61
5/26/2016	Cherry Creek Repair Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$41,912.08
6/1/2016	Dunloggin-Plumtree (SR49) Design	Stream restoration design	\$-
6/1/2016	Database Deployment and Templates	Deployment for state-required database	\$88,803.83
6/9/2016	Long Meadow II Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$54,127.89

	Management	management	
6/19/2016	Velvet Path Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$24,701.27
6/28/2016	Long Meadow II Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$582,251.59
7/19/2016	READY FY17 - Invoice #1	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
7/25/2016	Murray Hill 2 Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$45,727.46
7/27/2016	Garand Drive Constructability Review	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – constructability review	\$1,510.00
7/28/2016	Deep Earth Lane Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$482,629.00
8/2/2016	Murray Hill 2 Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$631,060.21
8/9/2016	Portfolio Task Management	Database development for project management tracking	\$49,691.75
8/9/2016	Deep Earth Lane Retrofit Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$42,927.06
8/23/2016	Velvet Path Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$578,385.04
8/23/2016	Patuxent/Patapsco Watershed Assessments - KCI Concepts	Conceptual design of projects in watershed assessments	\$172,055.50
8/23/2016	Patuxent/Patapsco Watershed Assessments - Biohabitats Concepts	Conceptual design of projects in watershed assessments	\$41,944.43
9/6/2016	Lynwood Manor Retrofit Construction (F94-029)	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$318,872.99
9/30/2016	Diversified Lane Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$90,420.28
9/30/2016	Red Hill 2 Restoration Design	Stream restoration design	\$84,810.99
10/1/2016	Corps Flood Proofing Study	Flood proofing study for Ellicott City	\$149,981.68

10/31/2016	Longview Drive Stream Design	Stream restoration design	\$93,298.01
10/31/2016	Woodstock Park (Davis Branch) Construction Management	Stream restoration design	\$45,150.21
11/15/2016	Ellicott City Retaining Wall 1A Design	Retaining wall design	\$38,833.43
11/16/2016	Ellicott City Wall Design - Precious Gifts	Retaining wall design	\$65,067.03
11/21/2016	Ellicott City Wall Design - Lot E NE Corner	Retaining wall design	\$46,040.85
11/29/2016	Dobbin Road Construction	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
11/29/2016	Rockburn Branch Park Construction Management	Stream restoration construction management	\$40,263.90
12/1/2016	Linden Chapel Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$23,007.62
12/2/2016	Rockburn Branch Park Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$232,990.16
12/2/2016	Woodstock Park (Davis Br) Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$74,630.98
12/9/2016	Timbers of Troy Stream - Design	Stream restoration design	\$95,469.31
12/14/2016	Howard Community College Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$702,533.02
12/14/2016	Park Drive Stream - Design	Stream restoration design	\$88,933.03
12/14/2016	Howard Community College Stream Construction Management	Stream restoration construction management	\$48,370.21
12/15/2016	CIS Update - Patapsco/Patuxent Results	Updates to the Countywide Implementation Strategy	\$70,213.21
1/11/2017	Mellen Court Stream and Outfall Stabilization Design	Stream restoration design	\$135,374.06
1/18/2017	READY FY17 - Invoice #2	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$16,836.99
1/23/2017	Golden Star 2 Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$342,302.65

1/23/2017	Parking Lot E - Corner Wall - Construction	Retaining wall construction	\$129,254.19
2/1/2017	Murray Hill 2 Constructability Review	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – constructability review	\$4,450.00
2/3/2017	Garand Drive Retrofit Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
2/10/2017	Deep Earth Final Payment - PO previously closed	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
2/15/2017	Lot E/Lot F Wall - Construction	Retaining wall construction	\$154,570.37
2/15/2017	Lot E/Lot F Wall - Construction Management	Retaining wall construction management	\$10,922.32
2/21/2017	Dunloggin - Plumtree - Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$-
2/21/2017	Dunloggin-Plumtree - Construction Management	Stream restoration construction management	\$-
2/21/2017	Hi Ho Silver Wall Construction	Retaining wall construction	\$10,594.88
2/24/2017	Woodlot Stream Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$-
3/2/2017	Heatherland Construction	Stream restoration construction	\$-
3/22/2017	READY FY17 - Invoice #3	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
4/26/2017	Red Hill 2 Printing	Stream restoration printing	\$130.88
5/3/2017	Precious Gifts Construction	Retaining wall construction	\$-
5/4/2017	Garand Road Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
5/15/2017	8659 Main St (Sexton) - Design	Retaining wall design	\$8,685.00
6/1/2017	READY FY17 - Invoice #4	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$50,695.53
6/2/2017	Heatherland Construction Management	Stream restoration construction management	\$-
6/26/2017	Gerwig Lane - Extra Geotechnical Work	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-

7/3/2017	READY FY18 - Invoice #1	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
7/24/2017	Brentwood Manor Retrofit Design	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
8/1/2017	Font Hill Design-Build Project	Stream restoration design-build project	\$-
8/9/2017	Woodcrest Drive (LNB-BC-D004, F-91-002, 510) - Design	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
			\$-
8/15/2017	Cherry Tree Farms Stream Design	Stream restoration design	\$-
8/15/2017	Davis Branch Year 1 Monitoring	Stream restoration monitoring	\$-
8/16/2017	3505 Font Hill Construction (Pumparound)	Stream restoration construction	\$-
8/16/2017	Garand - Verizon Work	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
8/16/2017	West End Diversion Pipe Design	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
8/18/2017	Rockburn Branch Park Year 1 Monitoring	Stream restoration monitoring	\$-
8/18/2017	Pond T1 Design	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
8/23/2017	Golden Star 1 Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
8/28/2017	Nottingham-Village Huntshire Drive Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
8/29/2017	READY FY17 - Invoice #6	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
9/1/2017	Woodcrest Drive Stream (LNB-SR-F513) Design	Stream restoration design	\$-
9/8/2017	Dunloggin Middle School Stream As-Built	Stream restoration As-Built plans	\$-
9/15/2017	Ellicott View Pond - Opti - Design	Stormwater retrofit design	\$-
9/19/2017	Courthouse Drive Roadway Protection Design	Slope protection design	\$-
9/22/2017	Mayfield Manor Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-

9/28/2017	READY FY18 (cover D1164)	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
9/28/2017	READY FY18 - Invoice 2	Payment to READY program/Howard EcoWorks	\$-
10/3/2017	POI Pilot and DAs	Stormwater data management of Points of Investigation (POIs) and Drainage Areas (DAs) for stormwater facilities	\$-
10/6/2017	Stonehouse Drive Plat Revision	Outfall Stabilization Plat Revision	\$-
10/6/2017	Governor Martin Outfall Final Design	Outfall stabilization design	\$-
10/6/2017	Patapsco Park Estates - Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
10/17/2017	Beech Creek Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
10/20/2017	Terra Maria Pond Repair Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
10/20/2017	Terra Maria Pond Repair - Engineering Oversight	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
11/20/2017	Churchill Way Outfall Construction	Outfall stabilization construction	\$-
11/21/2017	Waiting Springs- Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
12/21/2017	Woodlot Road Stream Construction Management	Stream restoration construction	\$-
1/2/2018	Greenway-Southview Grant of Easement Plats	Drainage improvement plats	\$-
1/5/2018	Kings Meade 2 Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
1/17/2018	Centennial Dam Riser Repair	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
1/27/2018	Kings Meade 2 Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
2/1/2018	EC Walls 8 and 9 Phase II	Retaining wall design	\$-
2/20/2018	Proudfoot Place Concept Study	Stream restoration concept study	\$-
3/19/2018	READY FY18 - Invoice 3	Payment to READY	\$-

		program/Howard EcoWorks	
3/27/2018	Manors of Oakwood Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
4/11/2018	Montgomery Run Pond 1 Design	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – design	\$-
5/9/2018	Blue River Court Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
5/15/2018	Patapsco/Trinity Bioretentions	Water quality improvements design	\$-
6/5/2018	Blue River Court Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
6/7/2018	Diversified Lane Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
6/15/2018	Woodland Park Construction	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction	\$-
6/18/2018	Ellicott Woods Pond Repair (Post Flood)	Pond repair – construction	\$-
6/18/2018	Woodland Park Construction Management	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – construction management	\$-
6/27/2018	Governor Martin-Forest Conservation Funds	Repair/replace existing pond riser/barrel – forest conservation payment	\$-
		TOTAL	\$6,852,597.94
<b>NOTES:</b>			
This table represents WPRF expenditures and breaks out the values by fiscal years. No value means no money from the Watershed Fund was spent on the project in FY 17.			
Some purchase orders also have money allocated from the General Fund and other funding sources. This table is reporting solely the WPRF.			





#### **4. Incentive Reimbursements and Credits**

If stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are constructed on a property and meet the design criteria outlined by MDE, a reimbursement for costs up to 50% of the total (with a maximum amount) is given to the owner. An owner must fill out an application and the site is inspected for validation of design. There is a reimbursement program for both residential and non-residential property owners.

In addition, any property owner that has installed a BMP is eligible for a credit against the fee. For both residential and non-residential parcels this amounts to a credit as a percentage of the fee equivalent to the percentage of the impervious surface treated, according to the strictest MDE design standards.

Two residential credit programs exist – CleanScapes and Rain Gardens for Clean Water (RG4CW). The first RG4CW garden was installed in FY17 using a County hired contractor. RG4CW participants pay only 25% of the cost of the garden installation and materials and the County pays 75% through the contractor. RG4CW participants cannot receive additional reimbursement, but are eligible for credit. Their impervious acres treated is noted under credits, not reimbursements. Also, important to note is, these participants do not actually “apply” for credit so the total number of credit applications will no longer increase in parallel to the number of credits granted.

Triennial inspections began in 2017 on the gardens installed at onset of the CleanScapes program in 2014. Participants who applied originally only for reimbursement were notified that they could add credit if they wished and many opted to be reassessed for credit as well, however these participants also did not “apply” and were not added to the number of applications received.

(Below data is for calendar year 2017.)

2017 Residential Reimbursements / Total To Date (TTD)

- 32 reimbursement applications received / 242 TTD
- 26 reimbursements were granted (81.25%) / 220 TTD
- \$14,439.23 total issued to property owners / \$115,888 TTD
- 0.68 impervious acres treated / 4.48 TTD

2017 Residential Credits

- 9 Credit Applications received / 85 TTD
- 6 Credits granted (66.6%) / 140 TTD
- \$1,900.55 in credit issued / \$2,929.55 TTD
- 0.45 impervious acres treated / 0.72 TTD

2017 Non-residential Reimbursements

- No applications were received / 0 TTD

2017 Non-residential Credits

Pre-2003 SDP

- 0 Applied / 22 TTD
- 0 Approved / 14 TTD

Post-2003 SDP

- 2 Applied / 60 TTD
- 2 Approved / 55 TTD
- \$2,985 in credit issued / not previously calculated

For agriculturally assessed properties a credit is awarded for any parcel that is managed by a Water Quality and Conservation Plan, prepared by the HCSCD; or a Forest Conservation Plan approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- 963 Agricultural Properties are credited with Conservation Plans

Non-profit parcel owners are offered the opportunity to join in partnership with the County allowing the County to assess the potential for on-site impervious area treatment. If a property owner joins the partnership the fee is credited 100% beginning on the next billing cycle while they continue to participate in the Partnership and work toward implementing stormwater treatment and outreach. If the non-profit, at some point in the future, opts out of the partnership they will be charged the non-residential rate, currently \$15/500 ft<sup>2</sup> of impervious area.

- 200 non-profit partners are currently in the partnership, totaling 238 parcels (not counting individual Columbia Association parcels).
- 13 parcels require no further action as they are post-2003 SDP.
- READY crews built rain gardens on 6 nonprofit properties in FY 15 treating 0.74 impervious acres and hold a fee for service agreement to perform maintenance at 7 of the nonprofit properties with rain gardens.
- The Center for Watershed Protection through a DNR grant constructed BMPs on 3 parcels.
- \$2 million in contracts was awarded to two firms in early 2016 to design and build BMP's on non-profit partner properties.



## 5. Adjustments

As defined by the County Code, all parcel owners are entitled to submit a request for adjustment to the WPRF for one or more of the following reasons:

- Identification of the owner invoiced is in error
- Error regarding the impervious surface measurement for non-residential parcels
- Mathematical error in calculating residential lot size
- Mathematical error in calculating the fee on non-residential properties

There was 1 request for adjustment in FY17.

- 0 request granted
- 1 request denied (claimed no impervious surface, but house and driveway on site)
- 0 appealed to the Board of Appeals

As expected, the number of adjustment requests remains low as community education increased and billing data errors were addressed.

## 6. Fee Assistance and Hardship

The Department of Finance administers a fee assistance program to aid residential property owners. Currently there are 293 Hardship Credits totaling \$9,774.

Hardship Credits criteria for non-residential property owners are defined under Section 20.1109 9(c).

## **7. Two-year Projections**

For information regarding projections to show expenses, fee revenue, other revenue and fee adjustments, please see the Financial Assurance Plan.

## **8. Recommendations**

- Consider a greater incentive program for commercial properties and implement strategies recommended by the Commercial Stormwater Solutions Work Group.
- Adjust the annual report to reflect fiscal year, rather than requesting calendar year which is not possible for most of the financial data.