

# Clarksburg Ten-Mile Creek Sewer Study – Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

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Date: March 25, 2015

Place: Room A, Upcounty Regional Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 100, Germantown, MD 20874

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Attendees: See sign-in sheet

Agenda: See attached

Other attachments: WSSC PowerPoint presentation

## **Meeting Summary**

- Ken Dixon of WSSC welcomed everyone for coming and went over the agenda for the evening.
- The “Ground Rules” for these CAC meetings were reviewed and clarified and are included in the attached PowerPoint presentation.
- Some members of the CAC expressed concern that their comments and concerns were not adequately reflected in the meeting summary. Ms. James requested that future meetings be recorded.
- Some CAC members had questioned the suitability of soils in Ten Mile Creek for gravity sewer construction. Mr. Dixon reviewed WSSC’s investigation using available USGS maps and experience in constructing sewers in adjacent areas. Ms. Wiss suggested a review of USDA maps pointing out that the 1994 Master Plan indicated that the soils in Ten Mile Creek were different than those in Cabin Branch and Little Seneca Creek.
- In response to CAC members who suggested pursuing sewer service for the Historic District independent of the rest of the sewer study area, Mr. Dixon indicated that WSSC desired to take a more holistic view of all of the areas to be served and would only recommend pursuing sewer service for the Historic District independently if it was logical, economical and efficient in the context of the entire area to be served.
- Ms. Wiss had previously expressed concern of flooding and flood damage to any wastewater pumping stations. Mr. Dixon indicated that any WSSC pumping stations would be constructed outside of the 100-year flood plain. Ms. Wiss indicated that she had personally experienced shallow water tables and floods in the area and was still concerned about their impact on a wastewater pumping station.
- In response to CAC members who have requested that WSSC retain an independent expert to assist with this study, Mr. Dixon indicated that WSSC felt a wide range of expertise was available at the County, M-NP&PC and WSSC but welcome any

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suggestions. Some CAC members suggested that representatives of Environment One grinder pumps address the CAC.

- Mr. Dixon and Mr. Fricke then presented WSSC's opinion regarding the pros and cons of grinder pumps versus centralized pumping stations. Several CAC members expressed their opinions that grinder pumps were more advanced technology, more environmentally friendly and suitable for use in developments such as those being proposed in Ten Mile Creek.
- Mr. Dixon and Mr. Fricke then discussed how different types of capital projects are funded by WSSC (i.e. who pays for what). Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Buffington expressed their concern that extension of sewer to areas with failing septic continues to be unaffordable and their frustration that nothing is being done about this issue. Mr. Fricke explained that this issue is widespread in both counties and is not the focus of the Ten Mile Creek Sewer Study. Mr. Levchenko indicated that the County Councils and their staffs are taking this issue up in the near future and hope to make recommendations by the Fall.
- Mr. Dixon explained why it was not possible or necessary to determine how to serve the Pulte property based on the information currently available. Pulte and the other Ten-Mile Creek (Miles Coppola, Egan) properties have no hydraulic connection or dependency since alternatives 1 and 2 were eliminated.
- Mr. Dixon and Mr. Fricke then presented two new alternatives developed by WSSC in response to comments from the CAC to date and a comparison of these new alternatives to the alternatives previously developed.
- There was good deal of discussion on these alternatives and, in particular, the pros, cons, desirability, applicability of using grinder pumps versus centralized pumping stations.
- A number of CAC members requested better maps of the new alternatives. WSSC agreed to post these on their website.
- It was decided that, for the next meeting, WSSC would verify and/or refine cost estimates for Alternatives 3-7 without the Pulte property infrastructure included. Similarly the various tables and charts comparing the alternatives would be revised to eliminate any consideration of the Pulte property.
- A couple of CAC members also requested that a grinder pump representative, specifically an Environment One representative, be invited to address the group and answer questions at the next meeting. WSSC agreed to try to arrange that.
- Mr. Dixon and Mr. Fricke indicated that WSSC needed some time to pull together the new information and that a date and time for the next meeting would be sought after they determined how long that would take.