

Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

Hampstead * Manchester * Mt. Airy * New Windsor
Carroll County Health Department



* Sykesville * Taneytown * Union Bridge * Westminster
Carroll County Government

WRCC Meeting Summary April 22, 2026

Attendees:

Municipalities:

- Kevin Hann, Chair, Hampstead
- Jim Wieprecht, Vice Chair, Taneytown
- Zac Amoss, Westminster
- John Breeding, Mount Airy
- Peck Burmeister, Manchester
- Gary Dye, New Windsor
- Greg Howell, Westminster
- Mayor Perry Jones, Union Bridge
- Rodney Kuhns, Manchester
- Matt Leister, Manchester
- Jim Roark, Hampstead
- Kevin Rubenstein, Sykesville
- Dick Swanson, Mount Airy

CC PLM:

- Brenda Dinne
- Glenn Edwards
- Chris Heyn, PLM Director
- Claire Hirt
- Byron Madigan
- Mitch Masser
- Denise Mathias
- Zach Neal
- Janet O'Meara
- Ethan Strickler
- Nick Totushek

Health Department:

- Richard Brace
- Nicole Bowman

CCG Others:

- Andy Watcher, CC DPW
- Bryan Bokey, CC DPW
- Lexi Biondo, CC M&B

Guest Speakers:

Others:

1. Opening Statement

Chair

- Mr. Hann called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Vice Chair

- Nothing additional.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary – March 25, 2026

Approval of the March meeting summary was discussed. No changes were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Dick Swanson and seconded by Matt Leister to approve the March 25, 2026, meeting summary. Motion carried.

3. Forest Conservation Code Updates – Janet O'Meara

- Jon Bowman, Forest Conservation specialist with Carroll County Resource Management Division, presented an overview of the State-required updates to the Carroll County Code, [Chapter 150 Forest Conservation Code](#).
- The Forest Conservation Act (FCA) was originally adopted by the State in 1991. At that time, the philosophy was to reduce development-related loss of forest land. Since that time, it has

shifted to a “no net loss” philosophy and then again most recently to increasing the amount of forest land.

- As a result of Senate Bill 526, adopted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2023, the County’s Forest Conservation Code will necessitate changes to the County’s stream buffer definition as it applies to forest conservation. This will move the stream buffer from a variable width to a fixed width. Upon development of a property, unforested streams will be required to be forested.
- The updates will also expand Priority Forest Retention Areas, which will result in roughly 60% of the county being subject to the requirements for those areas.
- Additional public notification requirements are included, and staff will now need to provide written findings for approval of any clearing in a Priority Forest Retention Area. Both result in a significant additional burden on staff.
- Maintenance requirements will be loosened somewhat.
- Solar will no longer be subject to afforestation.

Reference/Attachment:

- [PowerPoint: Forest Conservation \(Chapter 150\) Code Revisions](#)

4. 2026 Legislative Wrap-Up – Brenda Dinne

- Sine Die was April 13. Ms. Dinne reviewed the final status of bills the WRCC was following.
- Most of the proposed housing bills did not pass. Only the Maryland Housing Certainty Act passed, which vests developers earlier in the process.
- SB 197/HB 243 restructures comprehensive plan elements to align more closely with the eight Planning Principles previously adopted. It also created additional plan elements to incorporate. The WRE and Sensitive Areas elements will be moved under Resilience.
- The most impactful environmental bill to pass was Mason’s Law. The municipalities will need to evaluate their systems to determine where work needs to be done and when. Mr. Hann suggested bringing in a guest speaker on this topic once some of the new requirements are ironed out.

Reference/Attachment:

- [WRCC Legislative Wrap-Up – April 22, 2026](#)

5. Water Resource Element (WRE 2024) Update – Brenda Dinne

- All Planning Commissions, with the possible exception of Westminster, have approved the WRE and are in the process of forwarding it to their elected officials. It will be introduced, a public hearing scheduled, and adoption then considered.
- Ms. Dinne will update the document summary as well as prepare a PowerPoint presentation that the WRCC members can use, if they choose, when introducing the WRE to their Councils. Councils will need to sign an adoption resolution when they adopt the WRE. Ms. Dinne requested a copy of the signed resolutions.

Reference/Attachment:

- *n/a*

6. Municipal Stormwater Projects Update – Janet O’Meara

- Ms. O’Meara reviewed the status of the projects.

Reference/Attachment:

- [Municipal Project Status, April 2026](#)

7. PFAS Discussion

- Manchester is moving forward with relocating the PFAS treatment to Manchester Valley High School treatment station to gather eight wells rather than five.

- It is hard to distinguish whether drought conditions impact PFAS testing results.
- UCMR-6 will address pharmaceuticals.

Reference/Attachment:

- n/a

8. Other

- New Flooding Requirements: Changes to COMAR were made regarding flooding, low-pressure, pipes, and fixing water mains, which will create additional workload for operators. The notification requirements are very strict. These changes are effective July 1, 2026.
- Annual Stormwater Tour: The JotForm to RSVP for the tour and lunch selection was sent out and is due by April 29. The tour will be held on Friday, May 8. A regular meeting will not be held in May.
- Hampstead Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades: Mr. Watcher indicated that the WWTP upgrades are going nicely. A second sludge press is being added and should be online in the fall 2026. The overall project should be completed in January 2027.
- Delbert Green Retiring: Delbert Green will be retiring at the end of August. Peck Burmeister will be taking his place, starting July 1.
- Glenn Edwards Retiring: Glenn Edwards will be retiring in June. He offered to review 20 SW permits before then with any municipality interested.
- Earth Day Event on April 18, 2026: Staff participated in the Master Gardeners' Earth Day event on April 18 at Bear Branch Nature Center. They will also have a booth at the Westminster Flower & Jazz Festival on May 9. Outreach materials are available to the municipalities upon request.
- Ethan Strickler Introduction: Ethan Strickler joined the Comprehensive Planning staff. He will take on the *Water & Sewer Master Plan* responsibility, as well as act as the liaison planner for New Windsor, Union Bridge, and Taneytown. Hampstead will reach out to Mr. Strickler with an amendment for the *Water & Sewer Master Plan*.
- Drought Declared: Due to reservoir water levels, communication is expected from Baltimore City regarding water usage. In addition, the US Department of Agriculture declared Maryland a drought area for purposes of disaster assistance.

Reference/Attachment:

- n/a

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Jim Wieprecht and seconded by Dick Swanson to adjourn the April 22, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ☐ *Regular Monthly Meeting – June 24, 2026*