



Environmental Restoration Quarterly • Fall 2025

1 & 2 Distinguished Engineer, Innovator, and Mentor in Stormwater and Floodplain Management

3 Resource Management in the Community

4 Restoration News



Distinguished Engineer, Innovator, and Mentor in Stormwater and Floodplain Management

Martin B. Covington III, PE, CFM, BC.WRE, M.ASCE, Life Member

By: Patrick Varga, CFM, Environmental Review Manager

Martin B. Covington III is a respected civil engineer with a career spanning more than four decades in the fields of water resources, stormwater management, and floodplain safety. A licensed Professional Engineer in five states—Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, and West Virginia—Martin has devoted his professional life to improving public safety, environmental protection, and engineering standards at both local and statewide levels. His legacy is defined not just by technical achievements, but also by a deep commitment to mentorship, collaboration, and public service.

Martin earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering from Virginia Tech. Early in his career, he joined Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani (WBCM) in Baltimore, Maryland, where he rose to Project Manager of the Highway Department's Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Group. He became recognized as an expert witness in hydrology and hydraulics and has remained a thought leader in the industry throughout his career.

For over 30 years, Martin served as Program Engineer for Carroll County, Maryland, overseeing the

(Continued, page 2)



Resource Management Division
• 225 N. Center St., Westminster, MD 21157 • 410.386.2712

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/planning-land-management/resource-management/>

Protecting and managing Carroll County's natural resources for the pleasure and enjoyment of its Citizens

Martin B. Covington III, cont'd

Stormwater Management and Dam Safety Program. His technical leadership in this role resulted in the development of critical policies, manuals, and checklists that shaped regional and state practices. He is the principal author of the Carroll County Stormwater Ordinance and original Floodplain Management Ordinance and the adopted Supplement to the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual.

Martin played a pivotal role in identifying and solving critical engineering issues related to storm drain and stormwater management integration. Recognizing the risks associated with improperly conveyed peak flows, he spearheaded revisions to design criteria that significantly improved downstream safety. His work, published and presented since 2006, is now under review by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for inclusion in the 2025 statewide stormwater regulations.

Another landmark achievement is Martin's contribution to the development of improved sand filter designs in collaboration with colleagues David Herring and Myron Frock. First published in 1999, these innovative facilities demonstrated a capacity to reduce peak stream flows and stabilize stream channels for extended distances downstream. These designs are now in wide use across Maryland and are being studied for their long-term streambank restoration potential.



Martin is a founding board member of both the Maryland Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (MASFM) and the ASCE Water Resources Institutes Board Certification Program. His efforts helped to professionalize and standardize the water resources engineering field at a national level. In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Martin was named "Engineer of the Year" by the County Engineers Association of Maryland in 2022.

He has frequently represented the field to the public, speaking on topics such as stormwater management, groundwater recharge, and wellhead protection. A seasoned conference speaker, his presentations have influenced a generation of engineers and public officials. His final professional presentation, scheduled for the Fall 2025 MASFM Conference, will revisit nearly 40 years of case studies and lessons learned in "Stormwater Management: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly, Part II."

Martin has remained committed to advancing Carroll County's capabilities. Before his retirement, he was engaged in the County's stormwater retrofit program and worked closely with the AStoRM process to prepare for the forthcoming 2025 MDE regulations. He worked to transition his responsibilities to Chad Wasileski, PE; Gianni Assi, PE; and Sarah Kowalski, ensuring a seamless handoff to the next generation of leaders. Throughout his career, Martin has emphasized collaboration and credited his success to the outstanding professionals around him.

Above all, Martin is a devoted family man. He has been married to his wife, Barbara T. Covington, for 43 years. Together, they have raised three sons and welcomed three daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren into their lives—his proudest accomplishment. His legacy, both professional and personal, is marked by integrity, dedication, and a lifelong commitment to building a better, safer world.

CARROLL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Carroll EnviroFest

- Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Giveaway
- Recycled Art Contest
- UMD Insect Zoo
- Plant Cutting Swap
- House Plant BINGO
- Demonstrations



Robert Moton Center
October 25, 2025
9 am - Noon



THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Resource Management in the Community

By: Mitch Masser, NPDES Environmental Coordinator

Each new season brings new opportunities to increase public awareness about pollution prevention, stormwater science, and water quality work here in Carroll County. General awareness is a “first-line” defense in preventing pollution incidents that contaminate storm drain systems, groundwater, and local waterways, and harm downstream neighbors.

Public Events

Resource Management staff regularly participate in public events with their Water Resource Booth, most recently at the Taneytown Harvest Festival. Offering something for everyone, the booth emphasizes watershed awareness and pollution prevention. Kids magnetize to the Watershed Model and enjoy using spray bottles to “make it rain,” visualizing how pollutants in the environment move rapidly with stormwater, getting into nearby waterways if we aren’t careful. Adults enjoy investigating large storm drain maps, following the journey of rainwater that falls on their homes as it moves through complex drainage systems. Stop by at Carroll EnviroFest on Saturday, October 25th from 9am to 12pm at the Robert Moton Center (300 S Center St, Westminster).

School Events

Resource Management staff also host field visits and give classroom presentations to schools and clubs. Engaging with all grade levels, we teach students how water quality impacts aquatic insects and different ecosystems within Carroll County. Most recently, we welcomed McDaniel’s Restoration Ecology class to the Woodsyde restoration project, where we looked at a real-life example of how structural stormwater management and stream restoration work together. With a focus on hands-on learning, this work is always fun and rewarding.

Don’t be shy, stop by & say “hi” ☺

Between County and municipal outreach events, over 25 public education efforts are conducted every year! Keep an eye out for us at the awesome events around Carroll County, and stop by to discuss stormwater, water resources, and what you can do to make a positive impact on our County’s environment.



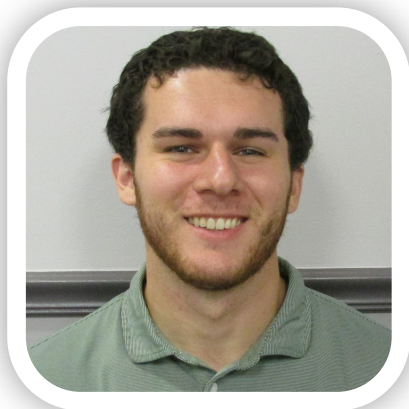
Taneytown Harvest Festival at Memorial Park. Claire discusses aquatic insects and water quality with an interested pupil.



McDaniel Field Trip to Woodsyde Restoration Projects. Restoration Ecology students visiting a stormwater facility that was upgraded to better treat stormwater and improve water quality.

Meet the Staff

Nick Totushek
Environmental Engineer, Watershed



Nick has joined the Resource Management Division as a Watershed Restoration Engineer having previously worked as a Design Engineer for a private civil engineering company specializing in residential and commercial/mixed-use construction. He attended Carroll Community College before transferring to University of Maryland to complete his degree in Civil Engineering within the Environmental & Water Resources track. He grew up in Mount Airy until moving to Sykesville with his wife in 2023. Nick enjoys playing & watching most major sports (especially soccer), traveling & hiking, lifting, serving at church, completing house projects, and spending time with loved ones. Having lived in Carroll County his whole life, Nick is more than excited to start this role with the county government.

Restoration News

By: Claire Hirt, Watershed Restoration Manager

A busy summer for construction is leading us into a productive fall here in the Watershed Restoration Office. We continue making progress on two active restoration projects, which should wrap up within the next couple of months. Maintenance of existing facilities and design of future projects carries on in the background as well, allowing us to keep the program as a whole moving forward and meeting restoration requirements from the State.

Construction of the submerged gravel wetland at Melstone Valley in Eldersburg is well underway, and our contractor, Magstone, is doing a great job managing a complex project in a tight site. The stream bypass and outfall work is all complete, the old risers have been removed, and the road culvert has been lined and provided with new endwalls. A new gabion weir has been installed, and most storm drain work has been completed. One section of storm drain work remains, which will help alleviate existing drainage issues and repair aging infrastructure. Excavation work for the new facility footprint is also underway, and we look forward to seeing the forebays completed and media installed soon.

The retrofit of the Century High School stormwater facility in Eldersburg is also making great progress, as Kibler Construction Co. has completed the majority of the new storm drain installation, relocation of sanitary lines, and grading of the facility side slopes. The grass swale behind the stadium is nearing completion, and installation of stone on the facility bottom is underway. As the facility is finished out with underdrains, sand filter media, and final stabilization, we will also complete the last piece of storm drain work on the adjacent athletic field with the conclusion of the fall sports season.

Maintenance of existing stormwater Best Management Practices has also kept us busy, which is a continual effort needed ensure that our facilities remain fully functional and meet all maintenance requirements. This season the reoccurring theme has been woody vegetation growth and fallen trees and limbs, and we are grateful for our term contractors for helping us efficiently tackle the maintenance to-do list.

On the design end of things, we held the kickoff meeting for an upcoming retrofit of the Winters Street Pond in Westminster. We are looking to upgrade the existing facility to provide water quality treatment, improve quantity control, improve maintainability, and address existing draining concerns. This collaborative project will work with the City and our design engineer, WRA, to provide restoration in a highly impervious area, meeting the needs of both the restoration program and municipal staff who are responsible for the long-term maintenance of the site.



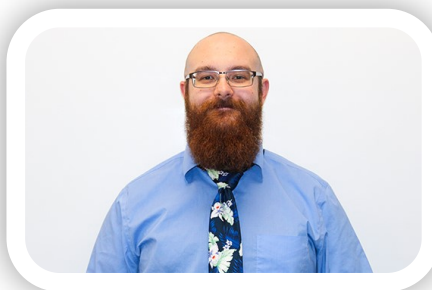
Century High School—funded in part by:



Winters Street

Meet the Staff - Promotion

Gianni Assi
Environmental Engineer
Stormwater Management



This summer, Gianni was promoted from Environmental Engineer, Watershed to Environmental Engineer, Stormwater Management. Gianni grew up in New Oxford, Pennsylvania, and earned his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Shippensburg University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has over 10 years of experience designing stormwater facilities that protect water quality and benefit the community. Gianni has been married for 13 years to his wife, Nicole, and together they are proudly raising their 6-year-old daughter. In his free time, he enjoys painting, playing board games, and on rainy days, he and his daughter enjoy watching the rain to see where the runoff flows.