Appendix D

Western Maryland Task Force & PROJECT IMPACT Information

WESTERN MARYLAND TASK FORCE & PROJECT IMPACT

Previous Flood Mitigation Efforts

Governor's Flood Mitigation Task Force for Western Maryland

As a result of the costs of repairing the damage from these two flood events, the State of Maryland, through the Governor's office, created the Task Force in the late Fall of 1996 to address flooding problems in Western Maryland. Speaker Casper R. Taylor, Jr. was appointed the Chairman of the Task Force and immediately requested various local, state, and federal agency representatives. The Task Force developed a list of recommendations that would aid Western Maryland in their flood recovery and mitigation efforts.

Recommendations included both short-term and long-term work items. Short-term work items for example entailed projects such as: debris removal, acquisition of targeted homes within the 100-year floodplain, and the removal of abandoned railroad structures that caused stream obstructions. Long-term items included comprehensive watershed studies, stabilization and repair of floodwalls, and storm water management improvements.

Ninety-nine percent of the original recommendations of the Task Force have been completed or discharged. A total of $60.64 million in funding has been allocated for flood mitigation projects in Western Maryland as a result of the hard work and dedication of the members of the Task Force.

Although a tremendous amount of work has been completed, Western Maryland's vulnerability to flood damage persists. While it is true that heavy rainfall and rapid runoff are common hazards across the State, vulnerability to flooding varies. Specifically, vulnerability increases in the mountainous area of the State; the risk of flood damage is greater in or near steep drainages on hillsides and at the foot of slopes where drain ways enter floodplains of larger streams. In June of 2001, and again May of 2002, flooding occurred as a result of heavy rainfall in a very short period of time in the Mount Savage/ Jennings Run area. Resulting damage from these two storm events were attributed to storm water conveyance issues on steep slopes. The Task Force developed eleven recommendations found within the Steep Slopes Recommendation Report developed in 2002.

PROJECT IMPACT

Following the creation of the Governor's Flood Mitigation Task Force for Western Maryland, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) selected Allegany County as one of seven communities nationwide to begin a pilot project to work towards the goal of becoming a disaster resistant community. As part of this initiative entitled "PROJECT IMPACT," Allegany County set up a number of workgroups to develop a program to meet its goal of disaster resistance. The workgroups developed objectives, projects and partnerships to aid them in meeting their ultimate goal, Acquisition Projects.

Governor's Flood Mitigation Task Force & PROJECT IMPACT

List of Participating Agencies, Groups and Partners

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S.D.A. Rural Development
National Parks Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Appalachian Regional Commission
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Maryland Emergency Mgt. Agency
Maryland Dept. of the Environment
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Maryland Dept. of Planning
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Maryland Dept. of Business & Economic Development
Maryland Dept. of Housing & Community Development
Allegany County
Town of Barton
City of Cumberland
City of Frostburg
Town of Lonaconing
Town of Luke
Town of Midland
Town of Westernport
Allegany College of Maryland
Allegheny Power
American Trust Bank
Bell Atlantic
BGS&G
Columbia Gas of Maryland
Country Club Mall
CSX Transportation
Davis, Renn & Associates
Highland Engineering
Kelly Springfield
Loiderman & Associates
Lowes Home Center
McClarran & Williams
NAILS Mission Project
PNE Media
The Schwab Company
Garrett County
Washington County
Frederick County

While the PROJECT IMPACT initiative is no longer funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Allegany County has continued to carry-out flood mitigation projects within its jurisdiction. One of the original workgroups developed under the PROJECT IMPACT initiative meets on a biannual basis to provide a forum for discussion and a framework for project development and prioritization. The Deputy Director of Public Works chairs this workgroup. Projects and issues considered by this workgroup include acquisition projects, infrastructure improvements, watershed studies and community concerns.

Watershed Studies

GEORGES CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION ACTION STRATEGIES PLAN

The Georges Creek Watershed Restoration Action Strategies Plan completed in June 2002, was developed through a cooperative effort of federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and the citizens of the Georges Creek Watershed. The planning was funded in part by a Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

For more than a decade Allegany County, Maryland has seen the need for an integrated planning approach to deal with the myriad of problems found within the Georges Creek Watershed. In the past, as one problem was identified and targeted, another problem would occur, barely giving officials and residents alike time to assess, reflect and take action. The two floods of 1996 exemplify this concept. The first flood occurred in January and the second in September. As a result, a system of dealing with problems based upon factors such as: citizen complaint, county official request and difficulty of solving became the standard criteria for project selection. Allegany County residents and officials decided that an alternative existed, a way of breaking the cycle of engaging in site-specific projects without the benefit of analyzing watershed-wide problems and solutions.

The Georges Creek Watershed Restoration Action Strategies Plan was intended to serve local decision-makers as a guide to planning, developing and implementing comprehensive meaningful restoration projects that are a part of a larger watershed-wide approach. The plan was based upon data obtained during the Stream Corridor Assessment Survey, which was a general assessment of problems such as water quality, water quantity and habitat denigration throughout the Georges Creek Watershed. One hundred and five (105) stream miles where assessed, which resulted in over 1,000 problem site locations. Additional background information and data was obtained from various public meetings and the Georges Creek Watershed Characterization produced by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, written by Kenneth Shanks, MD DNR.

Listed within the plan were twelve problem categories divided into two groups; water quantity and water quality. Each problem category contains a brief problem description, associated data, and action examples. In the last section of the plan "What Steps Do We Take To Get There?" the Action Plan may be found. This Action Plan details next step items that the community may implement in an effort to make their vision of the Georges Creek Watershed a reality.

BRADDOCK RUN STREAM CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Braddock Run, a tributary to Wills Creek, flows into the north branch of the Potomac River at Cumberland. The Braddock Run Stream Corridor Assessment (SCA) was part of an effort to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Braddock Run Watershed. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Maryland, in cooperation with the Allegany Soil Conservation District, conducted a Stream Corridor Assessment (SCA) survey in

February, 2001. The SCA survey utilized a rapid assessment protocol developed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Approximately seventy-five (35) stream miles were assessed using SCA survey protocol. The assessment identified 303 problems at a total of more than 271 locations along Braddock Run. Problems included: acid mine drainage, channelized stream sections, debris problems, exposed pipes, streambank erosion, fish migration blockages, floodprone structures, inadequate vegetated stream buffers, pipe outfalls, and trash dumps.

The Braddock Run Stream Corridor Assessment provided a basis for watershed residents and resource managers to establish restoration priorities and to develop comprehensive plans for future restoration work. The priority for the Braddock Run Watershed was increased infiltration into the 500 acres, which is the total area of watershed.

DRY RUN WATERSHED STUDY

The Dry Run Watershed Plan was developed for purposes of flood prevention and watershed protection. Frequent urban flood damage occurred to residences of the Dry Run Watershed. The plan was prepared by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The plan recommended a nonstructural project to address the frequent urban flooding to primarily residential buildings. The plan called for the acquisition of forty-five (45) residences through fee title purchase. Additionally, adjacent streambanks on the acquired properties will be restored to their natural conditions. The plan estimated that the recommended actions would eliminate seventy-five percent of the flood damage costs in the watershed.

Forty-one of the recommended forty-five structures have been acquired and demolished. The recommended stream restoration work began in the Fall of 2005.

WATERSHED PLANS completed prior to 2001 include the following areas:

Wills Creek: Ellerslie & Locust Grove
Braddock Run: Parkside Tributary
Georges Creek: Upper Georges Creek & Mill Run
Town Creek: Murley Branch
North Branch Potomac: Fairgo, Warrior Run & Triple Lakes

FEMA FIRM REMAPPING OF THE GEORGES CREEK MAINSTEM

The remapping of the Georges Creek Watershed was slated to begin in the Fall of 2005. The project was delayed several times due to cooperating technical mapping that needs to be completed prior to the FEMA remapping project.

Non-Acquisition Mitigation Projects

The following table developed and ranked by the PROJECT IMPACT Mitigation Workgroup list non-acquisition projects undertaken or in the planning stage of development.

WATERSHED	EST. COST	STATUS	AGENCY
Braddock Run			
Vocke Road Slope Stabilization	$ 95,000	Complete	SHA
Abandoned RR Fill-Vale Summit	$ 250,000	Complete	MDE-BOM
Stream Stabilization- Toll House to Rt. 36	$ 350,000	Complete	SHA-NRCS
Helman Drive Drainage & Restoration	300,000	Complete	ALCO/SHA/NRCS
Georges Creek			
Barton Reservoir/SWM Conversion	$ 100,000	Complete	Barton/ALCO
Grahamtown/Frostburg SWM Wetland	$ 250,000	Complete	NRCS
Grahamtown RR Culvert Removal	$ 125,000	Complete	ALCO
Midland Ballfield Relocation of Facilities	$ 140,000	Complete	ALCO/FEMA
Pekin Storm Drains	$ 300,00	Complete	ALCO
Georges Creek Wall Repairs	$2,713,000	Complete	ALCO
Koontz Run Wall Repairs	$ 450,000	Planning	ALCO
Jackson Run Wall Repairs	$ 933,000	Complete	ALCO
Neff Run Wall Repair	$ 735,000	Complete	ALCO
Bartlett Run Wall Repair	$ 30,000	Planning	ALCO
Westernport Drainage Improvements	$ 1,600,000	Complete	ALCO
Reynolds Road Drainage Improvements	100,000	Planning	ALCO
Stream Stabilization-Various	N.A.	Planning	NRCS
Greenway Development-Various	N.A.	Planning	NPS
Wills Creek/Jennings Run			
Abandoned RR Bridge	$ 80,000	Complete	CSX Tran.
Haystack Mtn./Fayette Street Drainage	$ 500,000	Complete	Cumberland
Stream Stabilization-Various	N.A.	Planning	ALCO
Greenway Development-Various	N.A.	Planning	ALCO
Potomac River/Other			
Upper Potomac Industrial Park Berm	$ 1,000,000	Complete	ALCO
City of Cumberland Park Repair	$ 71,000	Complete	Cumberland
Cresaptown Drainage Imp. (Meadow St.)	$ 135,000	Complete	ALCO
Bel Air Drainage Imp. (Greenfield Cres.)	$ 500,000	Complete	ALCO
Growden Drive Drainage Imp.	$ 250,000	Complete	ALCO
Greenway Development-Various	N.A.	Planning	NPS
Flintstone Creek-School Protection	N.A.	Planning	Board of Ed.
Dry Run Stabilization	$ 300,000	Complete	NRCS
Warrior Run Stabilization	N.A.	Planning	ALCO
Fairgo Stream Stabilization	$ 150,000	Complete	ALCO
Baltimore Pike Stream Stabilization	N.A.	Planning	SHA/ALCO