

## CHAPTER ONE GOALS, ORGANIZATION AND POLICIES

### A. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

It shall be the intention of this plan to identify, define, and implement the necessary policies, plans, regulations, procedures and provisions for enforcement needed to accomplish or suitably address the following goals and objectives:

1. Protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Talbot County and neighboring jurisdictions by improving and/or maintaining sanitary conditions of water resources.
2. Encourage and direct growth of the County in concentrated centers around existing centers of population that presently have adequate or potentially adequate water and sewer services. Conversely, it is the intent to discourage strip and scattered development.
3. Protect wetlands, waterfront, and critical areas of the Chesapeake Bay and promote development of portions of these areas for recreational and conservational purposes.
4. Promote self-supporting industrial development of the County in conformity with both the Talbot County Comprehensive Land Use and Water and Sewerage Plan.
5. Prepare and adopt such ordinances, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and amendments as may be necessary to implement and maintain the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan.
6. Assist the County Office of Environmental Health in approving all subdivision plats and building permits. Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires that the County Office of Environmental Health's approval of plats and permits be in accordance with the Comprehensive Land Use and Water and Sewerage Plan.
7. Provide for orderly updating, revision, and amending the Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan as directed by changes in needs during a review period.
8. Continue to provide qualified management of water resources in order to control and diminish water pollution and to preserve and maintain the necessary quality standard of streams, estuaries, wetlands, and groundwater for residential, industrial, commercial, recreational, and conservational use.
9. Identify and categorize sources of pollution from urban areas, agricultural areas, industrial wastes and soil erosion.
10. Develop and maintain a mapped database to assist in continued County planning efforts.
11. Administer all matters pertaining to water resources, waste disposal, stormwater management and sediment control.

12. Prepare a Policy Manual for water and sewerage projects planned by the County.
13. Prepare feasibility studies as needed for water and sewerage projects planned by the County.
14. Adopt and enforce legislation regulating pretreatment and discharge of industrial wastes into stream waters and estuaries or into private, community, and public wastewater facilities.
15. Study the waste disposal problems at marinas, and apply measures for assuring public and private compliance with applicable regulatory provisions for proper installation and use of Marine Waste Disposal Facilities.
16. Review the status of Facilities Plans and identify changes needed to meet current regulations.
17. Provide a Groundwater Protection Plan for regulations of new on-site wastewater disposal systems and protection of potable groundwater resources.
18. Identify available funding sources for sewer and water projects.
19. Provide Financial Management Plans for each publicly-owned community sewerage system.
20. Develop a sludge management policy for disposal of wastewater generated solids.
21. Encourage water conservation.
22. Develop a plan for future service extensions in the Region II and Region V Sanitary Districts, including wastewater treatment capacity expansion.
23. Develop a plan for future water supply to Claiborne and Tilghman Villages.
24. Comply with Talbot County Critical Area Land Management Policies.
25. Provide sewer use and billing regulations consistently applied in each County Sanitary District.
26. Provide a regulatory policy and inventory for Shared Sanitary Facilities.
27. Establish inventories for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted wastewater facilities in the jurisdiction of this plan, featuring use, flow allocation, expansion, and available capacity schedules.
28. Develop and implement a plan for septage treatment and disposal, serving active septic systems throughout the County.
29. Coordinate procedures or activities relating to the user of water resources such that wetlands are preserved and protected to the maximum extent possible.
30. Develop a Five Year Capital Improvement Program that identifies the needs for water and wastewater treatment facilities, water storage and distribution systems, wastewater collection systems and equipment for the proper operations and maintenance of these facilities to assure safe and adequate systems for both water and sewer.
31. Develop Watershed-Based approaches that inventories all point and non-point sources discharges and creates an active database on both point and non-point sources discharges.

32. Develop, maintain and integrate water quality and environmental data into a geographical information systems (GIS) program.
33. Protect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and establish objectives to assure no degradation of current water quality by upgrading existing wastewater treatment facilities with the best available biological nutrient removal technologies as the sewer service areas of these facilities are expanded.
34. All water and sewer services providers manage their allocations in a cost effective manner, consistent with the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth – Priority Funding Areas Act of 1997.
35. The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan shall serve as a planning tool that is consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan and implements Smart Growth by encouraging and directing growth of the County in concentrated centers in and around existing centers of population that presently have adequate or potentially adequate water and sewer services as stipulated I the second goal of this Plan.
36. Develop and maintain a GIS overlay that establishes a priority for development within the Towns and County. The areas having the highest priority for development shall be those areas that are determined by the Maryland Department of Planning that conforms to the statutory criteria for delineating PFAs. These will typically be within the Towns and villages where adequate water and sewerage services exist or efforts by either the County or the local government can improve water and/or sewer services.
37. Talbot County will develop policies that are acceptable to the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Planning to extend water and/or sewer systems to areas having failing septic systems and not meeting the statutory criteria of a Priority Funding Area through restricted/denied access water and/or sewer system extensions.

## B. ORGANIZATION

The County Council of Talbot County is the controlling authority for all aspects of water and sewerage facilities owned and/or operated by the County (see Figure No. 1). The Talbot County Department of Public Works is responsible to the County Council for the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance and Financial Management of County owned or operated facilities. These include the Region I wastewater disposal facilities. These include the Region I wastewater disposal facilities, Region II and Region V wastewater collection and treatment systems, and Claiborne Water System (proposed).

Incorporated municipalities have their own governing bodies and/or utility commissions which, are directly responsible for the management of their water and sewerage systems, except the