The Baltimore Watershed Agreement
Introduction to the Baltimore Watershed Agreement

Nicole Stern
Biohabitats
nstern@biohabitats.com
August 3, 2011
Baltimore Watershed Agreement

- Signed in 2002 and 2006
- Joint commitment between Baltimore County & Baltimore City
- Goal: improve water quality
Baltimore Watershed Agreement

• Builds on Reservoir Agreement
• Action Plan in 2009
• Committee of Principals & BWA Workgroup
Baltimore City Sustainability Plan at Planning Commission for adoption (February 2009); Planned adoption by City Council (March 2009)

Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan updated (April 2009)

Anticipated Trash TMDL (2010)

Baltimore City Comprehensive Plan Cycle (2012)

NPDES MS4 permit renewal (2009)

Baltimore County Sustainability Plan due (2009-2010)

Baltimore County Master Plan Update (2009)

Baltimore Watershed Agreement renewal (December 2012)

Baltimore City Tree Canopy Goal of doubling tree canopy from 20% - 40% (2030)

Phase 1 Action Plan

Phase 2 Action Plan

Phase 3 Action Plan
Phase 1 Action Plan Structure

**Overarching Categories**
1. Implementation
2. Policy & Regulation
3. Planning & Collaboration
4. Education
5. Outreach & Awareness

**Topic Areas**
6. Development & Redevelopment
7. Community Greening
8. Stormwater
9. Public Health
10. Trash
Drivers for Achieving Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds

**Federal**
- Clean Water Act
- NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)
- Consent Decree (part of Clean Water Act for accelerated action)
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads)

**State/Local**
- Maryland Water Quality Standards:
  - Water quality certification
  - Surface water quality protection
  - Ground water quality standards
  - Designated use of water body
  - Antidegradation policy
- Stormwater, sediment and erosion control - MD SWM 2007 Act
- Forest conservation, forest buffer, critical area regulations
- Reservoir Agreement
- House Bill 1141
- Tributary Strategies

**Example Actions Tied to Regulatory Drivers**

- Policy & Regulation
  - Action 2.3
- Planning & Collaboration
  - Action 3.1
- Education
  - Action 4.2
- Outreach & Awareness
  - Action 5.3
- Development & Redevelopment
  - Action 6.4
- Community Greening
  - Action 7.1
- Stormwater
  - Action 8.3
- Public Health
  - Action 9.1
- Trash
  - Action 10.1
3. Planning & Collaboration

GOAL:

Improve watershed planning efforts through collaboration across jurisdictions and among agencies.

Better integrate watershed plans into planning and zoning processes, review and permitting, enforcement and implementation.

Current Organization of Agencies Influencing Water Quality
8. Stormwater

GOAL:

Achieve the necessary pollutant reductions and hydrological control to meet water quality standards in City and County streams and tidal waters by 2020
BWA Phase 1 Action Plan Implementation 2009 - 2011

Successes

- Increased communication
- BWA Workgroup meeting quarterly
- Joint monitoring plans
- School & streetscape tree planting
Progress

• Environmental Justice Mapping for County
• NGO round tables
• Joint outreach campaigns
Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Staff & funding constraints
- Difficulty prioritizing actions not related to regulations
- Changing political climate
- Shift of priorities
- Changes in staff
- Engaging executive level
Biennial Watershed Conference

- 4 past conferences
- 2010
- Upcoming 2012
BWA Phase 2 Action Plan

• Planning at the Watershed Conference
• More input from NGOs, citizens

Baltimore Watershed Agreement Timeline

Baltimore City Sustainability Plan at Planning Commission for adoption (February 2009); Planned adoption by City Council (March 2009)
Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan updated (April 2009)
Baltimore City Comprehensive Plan Cycle (2012)
Anticipated Trash TMDL (2010)
Baltimore City Tree Canopy Goal of doubling tree canopy from 20% - 40% (2030)

Phase 1 Action Plan
Phase 2 Action Plan
Phase 3 Action Plan

2010 2012 2015 2020

NPDES MS4 permit renewal (2009)
Baltimore County Sustainability Plan due (2009-2010)
Baltimore County Master Plan Update (2009)
Baltimore Watershed Agreement renewal (December 2012)
For more information, visit the Baltimore County Website:

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/watershedagreement/index.html